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Current Affairs

Day to Day

UNION BUDGET 2017-18



MINISTRY OF
FINANCE

GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA

ECONOMIC

SURVEY

2016-17

QUESTIONS AND RELATED FACTS
1 JANUARY TO 31 JANUARY, 2017

Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 28th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st January to 31st January, 2017) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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NATIONAL

Union Budget 2017-18

Question: What is the limit of exemption on personal income tax for individual assesses (under 60 year age group) in the union budget 2017-18?

- (a) 250000
- (b) 300000
- (c) 500000
- (d) 400000

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :



- On 1st February, 2017 Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Union Budget 2017-18 in the Parliament.
- Below are the main highlights of the Budget.
- CPI-based inflation declined from 6% in July 2016 to 3.4% in December, 2016.
- India's Current Account Deficit declined from about 1% of GDP last year to 0.3% of GDP in the first half of 2016-17.
- FDI grew 36% in H1 2016-17 over H1 2015-16, despite 5% reduction in global FDI inflows. Foreign exchange reserves have reached 361 billion US Dollars as on 20th January, 2017.

CHALLENGES IN 2017-18:

- The US Federal Reserve's , intention to increase policy rates in 2017, may lead to lower capital inflows and higher outflows from the emerging economies.
- Signs of retreat from globalisation of goods, services and people, as pressures for protectionism are building up.

TRANSFORMATIONAL REFORMS IN LAST YEAR:

- Enactment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code; amendment to the RBI Act for inflation targeting; enactment of the Aadhar bill for disbursement of financial subsidies and benefits.
- **Budget 2017-18 contains 3 major reforms:**
 - First, presentation of Budget advanced to 1st February to enable the Ministries to operationalise all activities from the commencement of the financial year.
 - Second, merger of Railways Budget with General Budget to bring Railways to the centre stage of Government's Fiscal Policy.
 - Third, removal of plan and nonplan classification of expenditure to facilitate a holistic view of allocations for sectors and ministries.
- Agenda for 2017-18 is : "Transform, Energise and Clean India" – TEC India
- The budget is focused on Ten distinct themes to foster this broad agenda:
 - Farmers : committed to double the income in 5 years
 - Rural Population : providing employment & basic infrastructure
 - Youth : energising them through education, skills and jobs
 - The Poor and the Underprivileged : strengthening the systems of social security, health care and affordable housing
 - Infrastructure: for efficiency, productivity and quality of life
 - Financial Sector : growth & stability by stronger institutions
 - Digital Economy : for speed, accountability and transparency
 - Public Service : effective governance and efficient service delivery through people's participation
 - Prudent Fiscal Management: to ensure optimal deployment of resources and preserve fiscal stability
 - Tax Administration: honouring the honest
- **Farmers:**
 - Target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of 10 lakh crores.

- Farmers will also benefit from 60 days' interest waiver announced on 31 Dec 2016.
 - To ensure flow of credit to small farmers, Government to support NABARD for computerisation and integration of all 63,000 functional Primary Agriculture Credit Societies with the Core Banking System of District Central Cooperative Banks. This will be done in 3 years at an estimated cost of 1,900 crores.
 - Coverage under Fasal Bima Yojana scheme will be increased from 30% of cropped area in 2016-17 to 40% in 2017-18 and 50% in 2018-19 for which a budget provision of 9000 crore has been made.
 - New mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country for soil sample testing.
 - Long Term Irrigation Fund already set up in NABARD to be augmented by 100% to take the total corpus of this Fund to 40,000 crores.
 - Dedicated Micro Irrigation Fund in NABARD to achieve 'per drop more crop' with an initial corpus of ` 5,000 crores.
 - Coverage of National Agricultural Market (e-NAM) to be expanded from 250 markets to 585. Assistance up to 75 lakhs will be provided to every e-NAM.
 - A model law on contract farming to be prepared and circulated among the States for adoption.
 - Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund to be set up in NABARD with a corpus of 2000 crores and will be increased to 8000 crores over 3 years.
- Rural Population:**
- Over 3 lakh crores spent in rural areas every year, for rural poor from Central Budget, State Budgets, Bank linkage for self-help groups etc.
 - Aim to bring one crore households out of poverty and to make 50,000 Gram Panchayats poverty free by 2019, the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhi ji.
 - Women participation in MGNREGA has increased to 55% from less than 48% MGNREGA allocation to be the highest ever at 48,000 crores in 2017-18.
 - Pace of construction of PMGSY roads accelerated to 133 km roads per day in 2016-17, against an avg. of 73 km during 2011-2014.
 - Government has taken up the task of connecting habitations with more than 100 persons in left wing extremism affected Blocks under PMGSY by 2019. The allocation for PMGSY, including the State's Share is 27,000 crores in 2017-18
 - Allocation for Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin increased from 15,000 crores in BE 2016-17 to 23,000 crores in 2017-18 with a target to complete 1 crore houses by 2019 for the houseless and those living in kutcha houses.
 - 100% village electrification to be achieve by 1st May 2018.
 - Sanitation coverage in rural India has gone up from 42% in Oct 2014 to about 60%. Open Defecation Free villages are now being given priority for piped water supply.
 - As part of a sub mission of the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, it is proposed to provide safe drinking water to over 28,000 arsenic and fluoride affected habitations in the next four years.
- Total allocation for Rural, Agriculture and Allied sectors is 187223 crores
- Youth :**
- SWAYAM platform, leveraging IT, to be launched with at least 350 online courses. This would enable students to virtually attend courses taught by the best faculty
 - National Testing Agency to be set-up as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organisation to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions
 - Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras to be extended to more than 600 districts across the country. 100 India International Skills Centres will be established across the country.
 - Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion programme (SANKALP) to be launched at a cost of 4000 crores. SANKALP will provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth.

- Next phase of Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) will also be launched in 2017-18 at a cost of 2,200 crores.
- A scheme for creating employment in the leather and footwear industries along the lines in Textiles Sector to be launched.
- Incredible India 2.0 Campaign will be launched across the world to promote tourism and employment.
- **The Poor and the Underprivileged:**
- Mahila Shakti Kendra will be set up with an allocation of 500 crores in 14 lakh ICDS Anganwadi Centres. This will provide one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.
- Under Maternity Benefit Scheme 6,000 each will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children.
- National Housing Bank will refinance individual housing loans of about 20,000 crore in 2017-18
- Government has prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018, Measles by 2020 and Tuberculosis by 2025 is also targeted.
- Action plan has been prepared to reduce Infant Mortality Rate from 39 in 2014 to 28 by 2019 and MMR from 167 in 2011-13 to 100 by 2018-2020
- To create additional 5,000 Post Graduate seats per annum to ensure adequate availability of specialist doctors to strengthen Secondary and Tertiary levels of health care.
- Two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences to be set up in Jharkhand and Gujarat
- Legislative reforms will be undertaken to simplify, rationalise and amalgamate the existing labour laws into 4 Codes on (i) wages; (ii) industrial relations; (iii) social security and welfare; and (iv) safety and working conditions.
- Propose to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules to ensure availability of drugs at reasonable prices and promote use of generic medicines
- The allocation for Scheduled Castes has been increased by 35% compared to BE 2016-17. The allocation for Scheduled Tribes has been increased to 31,920 crores and for Minority Affairs to 4,195 crores
- For senior citizens, Aadhar based Smart Cards containing their health details will be introduced
- **Infrastructure:**
- For transportation sector as a whole, including rail, roads, shipping, provision of 2,41,387 crores has been made in 2017-18.
- For 2017-18, the total capital and development expenditure of Railways has been pegged at 1,31,000 crores. This includes 55,000 crores provided by the Government.
- For passenger safety, a Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh will be created with a corpus of 1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years.
- Unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge lines will be eliminated by 2020.
- Railway lines of 3,500 kms will be commissioned in 2017-18. During 2017-18, at least 25 stations are expected to be awarded for station redevelopment.
- 500 stations will be made differently abled friendly by providing lifts and escalators.
- It is proposed to feed about 7,000 stations with solar power in the medium term.
- SMS based Clean My Coach Service has been started
- 'Coach Mitra', a single window interface, to register all coach related complaints and requirements to be launched.
- By 2019, all coaches of Indian Railways will be fitted with bio toilets. Tariffs of Railways would be fixed, taking into consideration costs, quality of service and competition from other forms of transport.

- A new Metro Rail Policy along with new Metro Rail Act will be announced with focus on innovative models of implementation and financing, as well as standardisation and indigenisation of hardware and software.
- In the road sector, Budget allocation for highways increased from 57,976 crores in BE 2016-17 to 64,900 crores in 2017-18.
- 2,000 kms of coastal connectivity roads have been identified for construction and development.
- Total length of roads, including those under PMGSY, built from 2014-15 till the current year is about 1,40,000 kms which is significantly higher than previous three years.
- Selected airports in Tier 2 cities will be taken up for operation and maintenance in the PPP mode.
- By the end of 2017-18, high speed broadband connectivity on optical fibre will be available in more than 1,50,000 gram panchayats, under BharatNet. A DigiGaon initiative will be launched to provide tele-medicine, education and skills through digital technology.
- Proposed to set up strategic crude oil reserves at 2 more locations, namely, Chandikhole in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan. This will take our strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT.
- Second phase of Solar Park development to be taken up for additional 20,000 MW capacity.
- For creating an eco-system to make India a global hub for electronics manufacturing a provision of 745 crores in 2017-18 in incentive schemes like M-SIPS and EDF.
- A new and restructured Central scheme with a focus on export infrastructure, namely, Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) will be launched in 2017-18
- **Financial sector:**
- Foreign Investment Promotion Board to be abolished in 2017-18 and further liberalisation of FDI policy is under consideration.
- Bill relating to curtail the menace of illicit deposit schemes will be introduced. A bill relating to resolution of financial firms will be introduced in the current Budget Session of Parliament. This will contribute to stability and resilience of our financial system.
- A mechanism to streamline institutional arrangements for resolution of disputes in infrastructure related construction contracts, PPP and public utility contracts will be introduced as an amendment to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996.
- A Computer Emergency Response Team for our Financial Sector (CERT-Fin) will be established.
- Government will put in place a revised mechanism and procedure to ensure time bound listing of identified CPSEs on stock exchanges. The shares of Railway PSEs like IRCTC, IRFC and IRCON will be listed in stock exchanges.
- Propose to create an integrated public sector 'oil major' which will be able to match the performance of international and domestic private sector oil and gas companies.
- In line with the 'Indradhanush' roadmap, ` 10,000 crores for recapitalisation of Banks provided in 2017-18.
- Lending target under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana to be set at 2.44 lakh crores. Priority will be given to Dalits, Tribals, Backward Classes and Women.
- **Digital Economy:**
- 125 lakh people have adopted the BHIM app so far. The Government will launch two new schemes to promote the usage of BHIM; these are, Referral Bonus Scheme for individuals and a Cashback Scheme for merchants
- Aadhar Pay, a merchant version of Aadhar Enabled Payment System, will be launched shortly
A Mission will be set up with a target of 2,500 crore digital transactions for 2017-18 through UPI, USSD, Aadhar Pay, IMPS and debit cards
- Banks have targeted to introduce additional 10 lakh new POS terminals by March 2017. They will be encouraged to introduce 20 lakh Aadhar based POS by September 2017

- Proposed to create a Payments Regulatory Board in the Reserve Bank of India by replacing the existing Board for Regulation and Supervision of Payment and Settlement Systems Public Service:
- To utilise the Head Post Offices as front offices for rendering passport services
- A Centralised Defence Travel System has been developed through which travel tickets can be booked online by soldiers and officers
- Commemorate both Champaran and Khordha revolts appropriately
- Prudent Fiscal Management:
- Stepped up allocation for Capital expenditure by 25.4% over the previous year.
- Total resources being transferred to the States and the Union Territories with Legislatures is 4.11 lakh crores, against 3.60 lakh crores in BE 2016-17.
- For the first time, a consolidated Outcome Budget, covering all Ministries and Departments, is being laid along with the other Budget documents.
- FRBM Committee has recommended 3% fiscal deficit for the next three years, keeping in mind the sustainable debt target and need for public investment, fiscal deficit for 2017-18 is targeted at 3.2% of GDP and Government remains committed to achieve 3% in the following year.
- Net market borrowing of Government restricted to 3.48 lakh crores after buyback in 2017-18, much lower than 4.25 lakh crores of the previous year.
- Revenue Deficit of 2.3% in BE 2016-17 stands reduced to 2.1% in the Revised Estimates. The Revenue Deficit for next year is pegged at 1.9% , against 2% mandated by the FRBM Act.
- **AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE SECTOR :**
- Between 8th November and 30th December 2016, deposits between 2 lakh Rupees and 80 lakh Rupees were made in about 1.09 crore accounts with an average deposit size of 5.03 lakh. Deposits of more than 80 lakh were made in 1.48 lakh accounts with average deposit size of 3.31 crores.
- Under the scheme for profit-linked income tax deduction for promotion of affordable housing, carpet area instead of built up area of 30 and 60 Sq.mtr. will be counted.
- The 30 Sq.mtr. limit will apply only in case of municipal limits of 4 metropolitan cities
- **MEASURES FOR STIMULATING GROWTH:**
- Concessional withholding rate of 5% charged on interest earned by foreign entities in external commercial borrowings or in bonds and Government securities is extended to 30.6.2020. This benefit is also extended to Rupee Denominated (Masala) Bonds
- For the purpose of carry forward of losses in respect of start-ups, the condition of continuous holding of 51% of voting rights has been relaxed subject to the condition that the holding of the original promoter/promoters continues. Also the profit (linked deduction) exemption available to the start-ups for 3 years out of 5 years is changed to 3 years out of 7 years.
- MAT credit is allowed to be carried forward up to a period of 15 years instead of 10 years at present
- In order to make MSME companies more viable, income tax for companies with annual turnover upto 50 crore is reduced to 25%.
- Allowable provision for Non-Performing Asset of Banks increased from 7.5% to 8.5%.
- Basic customs duty on LNG reduced from 5% to 2.5%.
- **PROMOTING DIGITAL ECONOMY:**
- Under scheme of presumptive income for small and medium tax payers whose turnover is upto 2 crores, the present, 8% of their turnover which is counted as presumptive income is reduced to 6% in respect of turnover which is by non-cash means.
- No transaction above 3 lakh would be permitted in cash subject to certain exceptions.
- **TRANSPARENCY IN ELECTORAL FUNDING:**
- Maximum amount of cash donation, a political party can receive, will be ` 2000/- from one person.

- Political parties will be entitled to receive donations by cheque or digital mode from their donors.
- Every political party would have to file its return within the time prescribed in accordance with the provision of the Income-tax Act.
- Existing exemption to the political parties from payment of income-tax would be available only subject to the fulfillment of these conditions.
- **EASE OF DOING BUSINESS:**
- Threshold limit for audit of business entities who opt for presumptive income scheme increased from 1 crore to 2 crores. Similarly, the threshold for maintenance of books for individuals and HUF increased from turnover of 10 lakhs to 25 lakhs or income from 1.2 lakhs to 2.5 lakhs
- Foreign Portfolio Investor (FPI) Category I & II exempted from indirect transfer provision.
- Indirect transfer provision shall not apply in case of redemption of shares or interests outside India.
- Commission payable to individual insurance agents exempt from the requirement of TDS subject to their filing a self-declaration that their income is below taxable limit.
- Under scheme for presumptive taxation for professionals with receipt upto 50 lakhs p.a. advance tax can be paid in one installment instead of four.
- Time period for revising a tax return is being reduced to 12 months from completion of financial year, at par with the time period for filing of return.
- **PERSONAL INCOME-TAX:**
- Existing rate of taxation for individual assesses between income of 2.5 lakhs to 5 lakhs reduced to 5% from the present rate of 10%.
- In the case of every individual, being a resident in India, who is of the age of sixty years or more but less than eighty years at any time during the previous year will be entitled to tax exemption upto personal income of 3 lakhs.
- Similarly every individual, being a resident in India, who is of the age of eighty years or more at anytime during the previous year will enjoy tax exemption up to personal income of 5 lakhs.
- Surcharge of 10% of tax payable on categories of individuals whose annual taxable income is between `50 lakhs and 1 crore.
- Simple one-page form to be filed as Income Tax Return for the category of individuals having taxable income upto 5 lakhs other than business income.
- **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX:**
- The GST Council has finalised its recommendations on almost all the issues based on consensus on the basis of 9 meetings held.
- Preparation of IT system for GST is also on schedule.
- The extensive reach-out efforts to trade and industry for GST will start from 1st April, 2017 to make them aware of the new taxation system.
- **RAPID (Revenue, Accountability, Probity, Information and Digitisation):**
- Maximise efforts for e-assessment in the coming year.
- Enforcing greater accountability of officers of Tax Department for specific act of commission and omission

Reference:

<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2017-18/bh/bh1.pdf>

Economic Survey 2016-17

Question: As per the Economic Survey 2016-17, the current account deficit narrowed in the first half of 2016-17 toper cent of GDP from 1.1 per cent in 2015-16 full year.

(a) 0.3 (b) 0.5 (c) 0.75 (d) 0.85

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :



**Economic
Survey 2016-17**

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Presented Economic Survey 2016-17 in the Parliament on 31st January, 2017.
- As per the advance estimates released by the Central Statistics Office, the growth rate of GDP at constant market prices for the year 2016-17 is placed at 7.1 per cent, as against 7.6 per cent in 2015-16. Government final consumption expenditure is the major driver of GDP growth in the current year.
- Fixed investment (gross fixed capital formation) to GDP ratio (at current prices) is estimated to be 26.6 per cent in 2016-17, vis-à-vis 29.3 per cent in 2015-16.
- For 2017-18, it is expected that the growth would return to normal as the new currency notes in required quantities come back into circulation and as follow-up actions to demonetisation are taken. On balance, there is a likelihood that Indian economy may recover back to 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in 2017-18.
- **Fiscal**
- Indirect taxes grew by 26.9 per cent during April-November 2016.
- The strong growth in revenue expenditure during April-November 2016 was boosted mainly by a 23.2 per cent increase in salaries due to the implementation of the Seventh Pay Commission and a 39.5 per cent increase in the grants for creation of capital assets.
- **Prices**
- The headline inflation as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained under control for the third successive financial year. The average CPI inflation declined to 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 from 5.9 per cent in 2014-15 and stood at 4.8 per cent during April-December 2015.
- Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) declined to (-) 2.5 per cent in 2015-16 from 2.0 per cent in 2014-15 and averaged 2.9 per cent during April-December 2016.
- Inflation is repeatedly being driven by narrow group of food items, of these pulses continued to be the major contributor of food inflation.
- The CPI based core inflation has remained sticky in the current fiscal year averaging around 5 per cent.
- **Trade**
- The trend of negative export growth was reversed somewhat during 2016-17 (April-December), with exports growing at 0.7 per cent to US\$ 198.8 billion. During 2016-17 (April-December) imports declined by 7.4 per cent to US\$ 275.4 billion.
- Trade deficit declined to US\$ 76.5 billion in 2016-17 (April-December) as compared to US\$ 100.1 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The current account deficit (CAD) narrowed in the first half (H1) of 2016-17 to 0.3 per cent of GDP from 1.5 per cent in H1 of 2015-16 and 1.1 per cent in 2015-16 full year.
- Robust inflows of foreign direct investment and net positive inflow of foreign portfolio investment were sufficient to finance CAD leading to an accretion in foreign exchange reserves in H1 of 2016-17.
- In H1 of 2016-17, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$ 15.5 billion on Balance of Payment basis.
- During 2016-17 so far, the rupee has performed better than most of the other emerging market economies.
- **External Debt**

- At end-September 2016, India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 484.3 billion, recording a decline of US\$ 0.8 billion over the level at end-March 2016.
- Most of the key external debt indicators showed an improvement in September 2016 vis-à-vis March 2016. The share of short-term debt in total external debt declined to 16.8 per cent at end-September 2016 and foreign exchange reserves provided a cover of 76.8 per cent to the total external debt stock.
- India's key debt indicators compare well with other indebted developing countries and India continues to be among the less vulnerable countries.
- **Agriculture**
- Agriculture sector is estimated to grow at 4.1 per cent in 2016-17 as opposed to 1.2 per cent in 2015-16; the higher growth in agriculture sector is not surprising as the monsoon rains were much better in the current year than the previous two years.
- The total area coverage under Rabi crops as on 13.01.2017 for 2016-17 is 616.2 lakh hectares which is 5.9 per cent higher than that in the corresponding week of last year.
- The area coverage under wheat as on 13.01.2017 for 2016-17 is 7.1 percent higher than that in the corresponding week of last year. The area coverage under gram as on 13.01.2017 for 2016-17 is 10.6 percent higher than that in the corresponding week of last year.
- **Industry**
- Growth rate of the industrial sector is estimated to moderate to 5.2 per cent in 2016-17 from 7.4 per cent in 2015-16. During April-November 2016-17, a modest growth of 0.4 per cent has been observed in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight core infrastructure supportive industries, viz. coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity registered a cumulative growth of 4.9 per cent during April-November 2016-17 as compared to 2.5 per cent during April-November 2015-16. The production of refinery products, fertilizers, steel, electricity and cement increased substantially, while the production of crude oil, natural gas fell during April-November 2016-17. Coal production attained lower growth during the same period.
- The performance of corporate sector (Reserve Bank of India, January 2017) highlighted that the growth of sales grew by 1.9 per cent in Q2 of 2016-17 as compared to near stagnant growth of 0.1 per cent in Q1 of 2016-17. Growth in net profit registered a remarkable growth of 16.0 per cent in Q2 of 2016-17 as compared to 11.2 per cent in Q1 of 2016-17.
- **Services**
- Service sector is estimated to grow at 8.9 per cent in 2016-17, almost the same as in 2015-16. It is the significant pick-up in public administration, defence and other services, boosted by the payouts of the Seventh Pay Commission that is estimated to push up the growth in services.
- **Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development**
- The Parliament has passed the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016". The Act aims at securing and enhancing the rights and entitlements of Persons with Disabilities. The Act has proposed to increase the reservation in vacancies in government establishments from 3 per cent to 4 per cent for those persons with benchmark disability and high support needs.
- **Importance Evaluation, observation and suggestion of Economic Survey:**
- As per the survey report demonetisation has had short-term costs but holds the potential for long-term benefits. Follow-up actions to minimize the costs and maximize the benefits include: fast, demand-driven, remonetisation; further tax reforms, including bringing land and real estate into the GST, reducing tax rates and stamp duties; and acting to allay anxieties about over-zealous tax administration.
- The Constitutional Amendment on GST will create a common Indian market, improve tax compliance and governance and boost investment and growth.

- The Economic Survey 2016-17 highlights the need for fiscal prudence both by the Centre as well as the States in order to maintain overall fiscal health of the economy. It also recommends incentivizing states to keep the overall performance on track.
- As per the survey, gross NPA has climbed to almost 12 per cent of gross advances for public sector banks at end-September 2016. At this level, India's NPA ratio is higher than any other major emerging market, with the exception of Russia.
- Economic Survey 2016-17 suggests setting up of a centralised Public Sector Asset Rehabilitation Agency with responsibility of looking after the largest, most difficult Cases, and make politically tough decisions to reduce Debt.
- The Economic Survey 2016-17 has advocated the concept of Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an alternative to the various social welfare schemes in an effort to reduce poverty however expresses doubts that it may become an add-on to, rather than a replacement of, current anti-poverty and social programmes.
- The Survey lists some of the challenges that might impede India's progress. These challenges are classified by the Survey as follows: ambivalence about property rights and the private sector, deficiencies in State capacity, especially in delivering essential services and inefficient redistribution.
- The Survey points towards the need to further privatize the Civil Aviation, Banking and Fertilizer sectors.
- The Economic Survey suggests that real per capita Gross state domestic product between 1983 and 2014, shows across-the-board improvement. For example, between 1984 and 2014, the poorest state (Tripura, with a per capita income of INR 11,537 in 1984 to INR 64,712 in 2014) increased its per capita GDP 5.6 fold.
- The survey shows that property tax potential is large and can be tapped to generate additional revenue at city level.
- According to the Survey, in both apparel and footwear sectors, tax and tariff policies create distortions that impede India gaining export competitiveness. India imposes a 10 percent tariff on man-made fibers vis- a-vis 6 percent on cotton fibres. However the global demand for apparel is moving from cotton fibre products to manmade fibre.
- The new Cohort-based Migration Metric(CMM) shows that inter-state labor mobility averaged 5-6.5 million people between 2001 and 2011, yielding an inter-state migrant population of about 60 million and an inter-district migration as high as 80 million.

Reference:

<http://finmin.nic.in/indiabudget2017-2018/es2016-17/echapter.pdf>

http://finmin.nic.in/indiabudget2017-2018/e_survey.asp

Padma Awards 2017

Question: which one of the below is the fourth highest civilian award conferred by the Government of India?

- (a) Padma Bhushan (b) Padma Vibhushan (c) Padma Shri
(d) Bharat Ratna

Ans: (c)

Related Facts



- Padma Awards – one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service;

‘Padma Bhushan’ for distinguished service of high order and ‘Padma Shri’ for distinguished service in any field.

- The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year and conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.
- This year the President of India has approved conferment of Padma Awards to 89 persons as per the list below.
- The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 5 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and 6 Posthumous awardees.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

1. Shri K J Yesudas, Kerala (Art-Music)
2. Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev- Tamil Nadu (Others-Spiritualism)
3. Shri Sharad Pawar-Maharashtra (Public Affairs)
4. Shri Murli Manohar Joshi-Uttar Pradesh (Public Affairs)
5. Prof. Udipi Ramachandra Rao-Karnataka (Science & Engineering)
6. Late Shri Sunder Lal Patwa (Posthumous) -Madhya Pradesh (Public Affairs)
7. Late Shri PA Sangma (Posthumous)-Meghalaya (Public Affairs)

PADMA BHUSHAN

8. Shri Vishwa Mohan Bhatt-Rajasthan (Art-Music)
9. Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi-Uttar Pradesh (Literature & Education)
10. Shri Tehemton Udadia-Maharashtra (Medicine)
11. Shri Ratna Sundar Maharaj-Gujarat (Others-Spiritualism)
12. Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati-Bihar (Others-Yoga)
13. H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner)-Thailand (Literature & Education)
14. Late Shri Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous)-Tamil Nadu (Literature & Education –Journalism)

PADMA SHRI

15. Smt. Basanti Bisht-Uttarakhand (Art-Music)
16. Shri Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair-Kerala (Art-Dance)
17. Smt. Aruna Mohanty-Odisha (Art-Dance)
18. Smt. Bharathi Vishnuvardhan-Karnataka (Art-Cinema)
19. Shri Sadhu Meher-Odisha (Art-Cinema)
20. Shri T K Murthy-Tamil Nadu (Art-Music)
21. Shri Laishram Birendrakumar Singh-Manipur (Art-Music)
22. Shri Krishna Ram Chaudhary-Uttar Pradesh (Art-Music)
23. Smt. Baoa Devi-Bihar (Art-Painting)
24. Shri Tilak Gitai-Rajasthan (Art-Painting)
25. Dr. Prof. Aekka Yadagiri Rao-Telangana (Art-Sculpture)
26. Shri Jitendra Haripal-Odisha (Art-Music)
27. Shri Kailash Kher-Maharashtra (Art-Music)
28. Smt. Parassala B Ponnammal-Kerala (Art-Music)
29. Smt. Sukri Bommagowda-Karnataka (Art-Music)
30. Shri Mukund Nayak-Jharkhand (Art-Music)
31. Shri Purushottam Upadhyay-Gujarat (Art-Music)
32. Smt. Anuradha Paudwal-Maharashtra (Art-Music)
33. Shri Wareppa Naba Nil-Manipur (Art-Theatre)
34. Shri Tripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary-Telangana (Civil Service)
35. Shri T.K. Viswanathan-Haryana (Civil Service)
36. Shri Kanwal Sibal-Delhi (Civil Service)
37. Shri Birkha Bahadur Limboo Muringla-Sikkim (Literature & Education)
38. Smt. Eli Ahmed-Assam (Literature & Education)
39. Dr. Narendra Kohli-Delhi (Literature & Education)

40. Prof. G. Venkatasubbiah-Karnataka (Literature & Education)
41. Shri Akkitham Achyuthan Namboothiri-Kerala (Literature & Education)
42. Shri Kashi Nath Pandita-Jammu & Kashmir (Literature & Education)
43. Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry-Delhi (Literature & Education)
44. Shri Harihar Kripalu Tripathi-Uttar Pradesh (Literature & Education)
45. Shri Michel Danino-Tamil Nadu (Literature & Education)
46. Shri Punam Suri-Delhi (Literature & Education)
47. Shri VG Patel-Gujarat (Literature & Education)
48. Smt. V Koteswaramma-Andhra Pradesh (Literature & Education)
49. Shri Balbir Dutt-Jharkhand (Literature & Education-Journalism)
50. Smt. Bhawana Somaaya-Maharashtra (Literature & Education-Journalism)
51. Shri Vishnu Pandya-Gujarat (Literature & Education-Journalism)
52. Dr. Subroto Das-Gujarat (Medicine)
53. Dr. (Smt.) Bhakti Yadav-Madhya Pradesh (Medicine)
54. Dr. Mohammed Abdul Waheed-Telangana (Medicine)
55. Dr. Madan Madhav Godbole-Uttar Pradesh (Medicine)
56. Dr. Devendra Dayabhai Patel-Gujarat (Medicine)
57. Prof. Harkishan Singh-Chandigarh (Medicine)
58. Dr. Mukut Minz-Chandigarh (Medicine)
59. Shri Arun Kumar Sharma-Chhattisgarh (Others-Archaeology)
60. Shri Sanjeev Kapoor-Maharashtra (Others-Culinary)
61. Smt. Meenakshi Amma-Kerala (Others-Martial Art)
62. Shri Genabhai Dargabhai Patel-Gujarat (Others-Agriculture)
63. Shri Chandrakant Pithawa-Telangana (Science & Engineering)
64. Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray-West Bengal (Science & Engineering)
65. Shri Chintakindi Mallesham-Andhra Pradesh (Science & Engineering)
66. Shri Jitendra Nath Goswami-Assam (Science & Engineering)
67. Shri Daripalli Ramaiah-Telangana (Social Work)
68. Shri Girish Bhardwaj-Karnataka (Social Work)
69. Shri Karimul Hak-West Bengal (Social Work)
70. Shri Bipin Ganatra-West Bengal (Social Work)
71. Smt. Nivedita Raghunath Bhide-Tamil Nadu (Social work)
72. Shri Appasaheb Dharmadhikari-Maharashtra (Social Work)
73. Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal-Punjab (Social Work)
74. Shri Virat Kohli-Delhi (Sports-Cricket)
75. Shri Shekar Naik-Karnataka (Sports-Cricket)
76. Shri Vikasa Gowda-Karnataka (Sports-Discus Throw)
77. Smt. Deepa Malik-Haryana (Sports-Athletics)
78. Shri Mariyappan Thangavelu-Tamil Nadu (Sports-Athletics)
79. Smt. Dipa Karmakar-Tripura (Sports-Gymnastics)
80. Shri P R Shreejesh-Kerala (Sports-Hockey)
81. Smt. Sakshi Malik-Haryana (Sports-Wrestling)
82. Shri Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu-Telangana (Trade & Industry)
83. Shri Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO)- USA (Art-Music)
84. Shri Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO)-USA (Literature & Education)
85. Shri H.R. Shah (NRI/PIO)-USA (Literature & Education-Journalism)
86. Late (Smt.) Suniti Solomon (Posthumous)-Tamil Nadu (Medicine)
87. Shri Asoke Kumar Bhattacharyya (Posthumous)-West Bengal (Others-Archaeology)
88. Dr. Mapuskar (Posthumous)-Maharashtra (Social Work)
89. Smt. Anuradha Koirala (Foreigner)-Nepal (Social Work)

Reference:

http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/PadmaAwards-2017_25012017.pdf

Ministry of Railways Achievements Report

Question: The First semi-high speed train, Gatimaan Express between Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station and Agra Cantonment, was launched on –

(a) 5 April 2016 (b) 6 April 2016 (c) 7 April 2016 (d) 8 April 2016

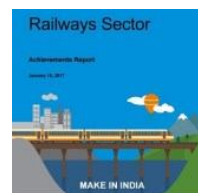
Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released Achievement Report of railway sector under Make in India.
- Indian Railways is the backbone of long distance passenger transport in India with a network that spans more than 66030 km.
- First semi-high speed train, Gatimaan Express between Delhi's Hazrat Nizamuddin station and Agra Cantonment, was launched on April 5, 2016.
- Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail project has been sanctioned at a total cost INR 97,636 crore.
- 100 % FDI is permitted through automatic route for construction, operation and maintenance railway infrastructure since November 2014.
- The sector has witnessed USD 216.77 million FDI equity inflows during April 2014 to September 2016.
- M/s GE Diesel Locomotive Pvt. Ltd. is setting up a Diesel Locomotive Factory (DLF) at Marhaura, Saran district, Bihar.
- M/s ALSTOM is setting up an Electric locomotive factory at Madhepura, Bihar.
- Indian Railways is the world's 8th largest employer in the world with a 1.4 million work force.
- Ministry of Railways have signed MoUs/Protocols during the last two years for technical cooperation in the rail sector with (i) Sweden, (ii) France, (iii) Japan, (iv) Russia (v) United Kingdom (vi) Slovak Republic, (vii) Kazakhstan (viii) Canada, (ix) South Korea, (x) China, (xi) Czech Republic and (xii) Germany.
- Indian Railways generated an investment of INR 15,000 through PPP projects during 2015-16, which is highest till date.
- New freight corridors which have been identified are
 1. East-West Corridor (2328 km) (Kolkata-Mumbai)
 2. North-South Corridor (2343 km) (Delhi-Chennai)
 3. East Coast Corridor (1114 km) (Kharagpur Vijaywada)

Reference:

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2017/jan/p201711801.pdf>



Chemicals & Petrochemicals sector Achievements Report

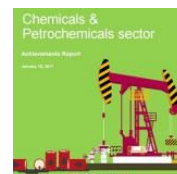
Question: In Asia Indian chemical industry is ranked –

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

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released Achievement Report for Make in India, Chemicals & Petrochemicals sector.
- The Indian chemicals industry with a market size of USD 145 billion.
- It is the seventh largest producer of chemicals worldwide and the third largest producer in Asia after China and Japan.



- India exports around 50% of its agro-chemicals production.
- The share of chemical products in the overall exports for April-September 2016 stood at 12.07%.
- Exports of Chemical products was at INR 1,06,652.75 crore (Provisional) up by 2.86% in April-September 2016, as compared to INR 1,03,687.29 crore in April-September 2015.
- The FDI equity inflows in the sector increased by 107% to USD 2.2 billion during the two year period from April 2014-March 2016 as compared to USD 1.08 billion during same period in 2012-14.
- During April-September 2016 the sector attracted inflow worth USD 532.48 million.
- The Assam Gas Cracker Project (AGCP), which is the biggest and the first ever petrochemical project in the North East region was commissioned on January 2, 2016 and is expected to produce about 2.8 lakh MT polymers per annum.

Reference:

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2017/jan/p201711803.pdf>

Biotechnology Sector Achievements Report

Question: Currently, India's biotech industry holds what percent of the global market share?

(a) 2% (b) 3% (c) 4% (d) 5%

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released Achievement Report of Biotechnology Sector under in Make in India.
- The sector in India, which is currently growing at 20%, is expected to go up to USD 11.6 Billion by 2017.
- The focus is on making the Indian biotechnology sector reach USD 100 billion by 2025.
- Currently, India's biotech industry holds 2% of the global market share and is the third largest in the Asia-Pacific region.
- India's first cellulosic ethanol technology demonstration plant developed through indigenous technology was inaugurated on April 22, 2016.
- First indigenously developed and manufactured Rotavirus vaccine 'Rotavac' launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on March 9, 2015.
- 100% FDI is allowed under automatic route for Greenfield projects for pharmaceuticals; for Brownfield projects, 74% FDI is permitted under the automatic route.
- The National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2015-2020 was launched on December 30, 2015.
- Andhra Pradesh launched its Biotechnology Policy 2015-2020, Gujarat launched its draft Biotechnology Policy of the State for 2016-2021, Rajasthan launched Biotechnology Policy 2015 with an aim to establish world class research institutes and bio-manufacturing infrastructure and Telangana launched the Life Sciences Policy (2015-2020).
- The Government aims to scale-up the number of start-ups in biotechnology sector to 2,000 over next three years.



Reference:

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2017/jan/p201711802.pdf>

The State visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India

Question: what is the name of Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of United Arab Emirates who is visiting India as the Chief Guest for the 2017-Republic Day celebrations?

- (a) Sheikh Sultan bin Zayed Al Nahyan,
- (b) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan
- (c) Sheikh Sultan bin Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan
- (d) Sheikha Ousha bint Shakhbut bin Sultan Al Nahyan

Ans: (b)



Related Fact

- His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of United Arab Emirates is visiting India as the Chief Guest for the 2017-Republic Day celebrations from 24-26 January 2017.
- India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) today signed as many as 14 bilateral pacts, including defence and strategic partnership as well as on the issue of prevention, recovery and repatriation related to human trafficking, especially of women and children.
- The agreements between two sides have fructified after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan held delegation-level talks today.

Name of Agreement/MoU

1. Agreement on Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the Republic of India and the UAE
2. MoU between the Ministry of Defence of the Government of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Defence of the Government of UAE on cooperation in the field of Defence Industry
3. MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the UAE on Institutional Cooperation on Maritime Transport
4. MOU between the Directorate General of Shipping, Republic of India and the Federal Transport Authority- Land and Maritime in the UAE on Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Competency as per the provisions of the Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping Convention (STCW78) and amendments thereof
5. MoU between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways of the Republic of India and the Federal Transport Authority, Land and Maritime of the UAE on Bilateral Cooperation in the Road Transport and Highways Sector
6. MOU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of UAE on cooperation in prevention and combating of human trafficking
7. MoU for the cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises and innovation between the Ministry of Economy of United Arab Emirates and Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of India
8. MoU between the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Climate Change & Environment of UAE in agriculture and Allied sectors
9. MOU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of UAE on mutual exemption of entry visa requirements to the holders of Diplomatic, special and Official Passports
10. MoU between Prasar Bharati, India and Emirates News Agency (WAM), UAE for cooperation in programme exchange
11. MoU between the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of India and the Ministry of Economy of United Arab Emirates on trade remedial measures to promote

cooperation in areas of mutual interest

12. Agreement on Oil Storage And Management

between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

13. MOU between National Productivity Council and Al Etihad Energy Services Co. LLC

14. MOU between National Security Council Secretariat of India & National Electronic Security Authority of the UAE

- This is the second visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India since February 2016.
- Following the landmark visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to UAE in August 2015, the two countries have agreed to elevate the mutually beneficial relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- India and UAE enjoy warm, close and multi-faceted relations underpinned by cultural, religious and economic linkages. The two countries have been amongst each other's top trading partners with a well-balanced bilateral trade of about US\$ 50 billion in 2015-16.
- UAE is among the top investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments. It contributes significantly to India's energy security and is the fifth largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2015-16.
- About 2.6 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in UAE.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157522>

[https://mea.gov.in/press-](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/27956/State+visit+of+Crown+Prince+of+Abu+Dhabi+to+India+as+the+Chief+Guest+for+the+Republic+Day+2017+2426+January+2017)

[releases.htm?dtl/27956/State+visit+of+Crown+Prince+of+Abu+Dhabi+to+India+as+the+Chief+Guest+for+the+Republic+Day+2017+2426+January+2017](https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/27956/State+visit+of+Crown+Prince+of+Abu+Dhabi+to+India+as+the+Chief+Guest+for+the+Republic+Day+2017+2426+January+2017)

<http://www.uniindia.com/india-uae-sign-14-pacts-on-enhancing-ties-an-mou-to-check-human-trafficking/india/news/760430.html>

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

Year End Review-2016 of Ministry of Defence (Indian Air force)

Question: Desert Eagle is the bilateral exercises between Indian air force and air force of which of the following country?

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

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 31 December 2016 Ministry of Defence released its Year End Review-2016 (Indian Airforce).
- Following are the major highlights:
- The much awaited Rafale deal with France was signed on 23 September in New Delhi under which France will provide 36 Rafale fighter jets to India.
- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) 'Tejas' was inducted into No. 45 Squadron of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 1 July.
- Mirage-2000s and Su-30s successfully carried out 'touch and go' operations on a portion of the newly constructed Lucknow-Agra Expressway on 21 Nov 2016.
- A day-night exercise demonstrating the combat and fire power of the IAF was conducted on 18 March 2016 at Rajasthan's Pokhran firing range in the presence of the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Stranded Indian nationals were evacuated from Juba, the capital of war-torn South Sudan on 14 July.



- The Minister of State for External Affairs, General VK Singh, flew to Juba in one of the two C-17 Globemaster aircraft in the operation which was named 'Operation SankatMochan'
- As part of International Defence Cooperation, Red Flag Alaska 16-1, an advanced aerial combat training exercise was hosted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, USA from 28 April.
- As part of International Defence Cooperation, Red Flag Alaska 16-1, an advanced aerial combat training exercise was hosted at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, USA from 28 April 2016.
- Exercise Desert Eagle II was the second in the series of bilateral exercises between the IAF and the United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAE AF) held in May-June 2016.
- History was created as the first three women fighter pilots of the IAF were commissioned at the Combined Graduation Parade at Air Force Academy, Dundigal on 18 Jun 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156049>

Year End Review-2016 of Ministry of Defence (Indian Navy)

Question: Konkan-16, the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy was conducted from 5-16 Dec at which of the following place?

(a) Mumbai and Goa (b) Visakhapatnam (c) Chennai (d) None of the above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 31 December 2016 Ministry of Defence released its Year End Review-2016 (Indian Navy).
- Following are the major highlights:
- 'Kalvari', the first of the Scorpene class submarines, being built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd Mumbai (MDL), went to sea on 1 May 2016.
- The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman conducted the 10th bilateral maritime exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr from 22-27 Jan 2016.
- The International Fleet Review 2016, conducted at Visakhapatnam from 4-8 Feb, culminated with Indian and foreign Naval ships undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Bay of Bengal on 9 Feb 2016.
- In consonance with India's 'Act East Policy' and growing relations among India, US and Japan, IN ships Satpura, Sahyadri, Shakti and Kirch participated in the 20th edition of Ex MALABAR-16 with the US Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF).
- Harbour phase of 20th edition of the exercise was conducted from 10-13 June at Sasebo and the sea phase in the Pacific Ocean from 14-17 June.
- INS Satpura participated in the 25th edition of Exercise RIMPAC off Hawaii from 30 June-4 Aug.
- The exercise was attended by 27 countries. Exercise RIMPAC is the largest multilateral naval exercise in the world and is held biennially in the Western Pacific Ocean.
- INS Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette based at the Andaman and Nicobar Command, along with a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, participated in the 22nd Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) from 19-27 Apr in the Andaman Sea.
- ADMM Plus (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus) Exercise on Maritime Security and Counter Terrorism is a multinational exercise under the aegis of ADMM Plus consortium.
- INS Airavat participated in the latest edition conducted in Brunei and Singapore from 1-9 May 2016.
- In a demonstration of India's commitment to its ties with Indonesia and to the maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region.



- INS Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette, based under the Andaman and Nicobar Command, alongwith a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, participated in the 28th India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol and Second Bilateral Maritime Exercise, from 10-27 Oct in the Andaman Sea.
- Konkan-16, the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy was conducted from 5-16 Dec at Mumbai and Goa.
- Exercise Konkan was institutionalised in 2004.
- The exercise hosted in rotation by both Navies, has grown in complexity, scale and intensity.
- The 9th edition of exercise INDRA NAVY, an annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was conducted in the Bay of Bengal from 14-21 Dec.
- The Fourth Edition of India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) was undertaken from 13-16 Feb along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Andaman Sea.
- INS Saryu and INS Bitra along with Union of Myanmar Ships Aung Zeya and FAC 563 participated.
- INS Beas visited Doha, Qatar from 28 Mar to 2 Apr to participate in the fifth edition of biennial Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (DIMDEX).
- Western Fleet ships INS Vikramaditya, INS Mysore and INS Deepak undertook deployment to Male for a routine visit from 15 – 18 Feb.
- INS Tabar, a stealth frigate visited Port Louis, Mauritius from 10-13 Mar.
- INS Tir, INS Sujata, Sail Training Ship (STS) SudarshinialongwithICGSVaruna, comprising the 1st Training Squadron (with under trainee officers/cadets) visited Phuket, Thailand and Colombo, Sri Lanka from 4-8 Apr and 15-19 Apr respectively as part of Overseas Deployment during Spring Term 16.
- INS Delhi, INS Tarkash and INS Deepak visited Muscat from 21-24 May.
- The visit coincided with the visit of Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar from 20- 22 May.
- In a demonstration of India's 'Act East' policy and Indian Navy's increasing footprint and operational reach, INS Satpura and INS Kirch visited CamRanh Bay, Vietnam on a four day visit from 30 May to 3 Jun, as part of deployment of the Eastern Fleet to the South China Sea and the Western Pacific.
- INS Sahyadri, INS Shakti and INS Kirch visited Port Kelang on 15 Jul on a four day visit.
- INS Satpura visited Port Majuro on a two day visit from 13 – 15 Aug.
- INS Kolkata, INS Trikand and INS Aditya visited Port Victoria on a two day visit from 26-28 Aug.
- INS Kolkata and INS Aditya visited Port Louis on a three day visit from 1-4 Sep and Mombasa, Kenya from 10- 13 Sep.
- INS Kolkata, INS Trikand and INS Aditya visited Durban on 20 Sep on a three day visit.
- Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Sumitra visited Auckland, New Zealand on a six day visit from 16-22 Nov.
- The ship represented the Indian Navy at the Royal New Zealand Navy International Naval Review 2016.
- INS Kadmat, second ship of Project 28 (P-28) class Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes was commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on 7 Jan 2016.
- The Indian Navy commissioned the highly maneuverable Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli at a ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam on 23 May 2016.
- INS Chennai, a P 15A Guided Missile Destroyer, was commissioned into the Navy by the Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 21 Nov 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156049>

Year End Review-2016 of Ministry of Defence (Defence Research and Development Organisation)

Question: Agni-V, the Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile was successfully flight tested by DRDO on-

- (a) 26 December 2016 (b) 27 December 2016
(c) 28 December 2016 (d) 25 December 2016

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 31 December 2016; Ministry of Defence released its Year End Review-2016 (Defence Research and Development Organisation).
- Following are the major highlights:
- Agni-V, the Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile was successfully flight tested by DRDO on 26 December from Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
- DRDO also successfully carried out the maiden flight of Rustom-II from Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurgain November 2016.
- The medium range surface-to-air missile 'Akash' has been developed and inducted into IAF and Indian Army.
- Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) is a joint development programme of DRDO, Indian Navy and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel successfully tested in September 2016.
- Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) is being developed for the IAF for protecting our territory and ground forces from air attacks by intercepting aerial targets like fighter aircraft and guided weapons.
The system is jointly developed by DRDO, IAF and IAI, Israel.
- During the year 2016, three flight trials were successfully carried out in June and July to evaluate target detection and tracking by Long Range Detection and Tracking Radar (LBMFSTAR), missile launch and homing on target and radar tracking and ASP generation.
- DRDO is involved in the design and development of New Generation Anti-Radiation Missile (NGARM).
- On 24th December, DRDO successfully tested Smart Anti Air Field Weapon (SAAW), indigenously designed and developed 120 Kg class smart weapon from an IAF aircraft.
- It is capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to a range of 100 kms.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156049>



Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana – 2017

Question: The recently approved Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana – 2017 will be implemented thorough...

- (a) Life Insurance Corporation. (b) MetLife Insurance
(c) Axa Health Insurance (d) ICICI prudential life insurance

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24th January, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi provided its post-facto approval for launching of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 (VPBY 2017).
- It is a part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security.



- The scheme will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) during the current financial year to provide social security during old age.
- It will also protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.
- The scheme will provide an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly / quarterly / half yearly and annual basis.
- The differential return, i.e., the difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis.
- VPBY-2017 is proposed to be open for subscription for a period of one year from the date of launch

Reference:

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

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/varishtha-pension-bima-yojana-2017/

Year End review: Ministry of Home Affairs

Question: The 4th Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) was at-

(a) New Delhi (b) Bhutan (c) Dhaka (d) Colombo

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 3 January 2017 Ministry of Home Affairs released its Year End review.
- **Following are the highlights:**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the Inter-State Council meeting in New Delhi on 16.7.2016 in which Union Ministers participated in the meeting along with the Chief Ministers and Administrators of States and Union Territories.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the three-day conclave of DGPs at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA) in Hyderabad from November 25-27, 2016 and discussed issues ranging from terrorism to cyber crime
- On 3 November 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016, held in New Delhi.
- This was the first major inter-governmental event after the adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).
- On 1 June 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi released National Disaster Management Plan, 2016 in New Delhi.
- The Vision of the Plan is to "Make India disaster resilient, achieve substantial disaster risk reduction, and significantly decrease the losses of life, livelihoods, and assets – economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental – by maximizing the ability to cope with disasters at all levels of administration as well as among communities.
- On 12 August 2016 The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh approved that the civilian victims of cross border firing along the border will be given a compensation of Rs 5 lakh.
- On 21 January 2016 Union Home Minister approved New Prison Manual 2016.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh had approved the 33% posts at Constable Level for being filled up by women.
- On 13 July 2016 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had approved the following facilities being extended to persons from Minority communities of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan, namely Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians staying on Long Term Visa (LTV) in India



- The move is aimed at easing out the difficulties being faced by them and includes the following benefits:- opening of bank account, permission for purchase of property for self-occupation and suitable accommodation for carrying out self-employment, permission to take self-employment, issue of driving licence, PAN card and Aadhaar number, allowing free movement within the State /UT where they are staying, transfer of LTV papers from one state to other etc.
- On 10 March 2016 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing and ratification of the Bay of Bengal Initiative on Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.
- On 4 August 2016 Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 7th Meeting of SAARC Ministers of Interior/Home, held in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- On 8 July 2016 2nd Anti-Drug Working Group meeting of Heads of Drug Control Agencies of BRICS countries, held in New Delhi.
- On 11 May 2016 the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh addressed the 4th Ministerial Meeting of the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) in New Delhi.
- The President of India promulgated the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016 on January 07, 2016.
- On 31 August 2016 Cabinet approved grant of Permanent Residency Status to Foreign Investors.
- Visa on Arrival for Japanese nationals launched from 1st March, 2016.
- On 26 July 2016 Expert Committee for exploring other possible alternatives to Pellet Guns as Non-lethal Weapons constituted.
- **Important Agreements:**
- MoU between India and United Arab Emirates on cooperation in preventing and combating of Human Trafficking.
- Three agreements between India and Switzerland on Mutual Visa Exemption, Return of Illegal Migrants and Arrangement for Dependent Persons of Diplomatic and Consular Mission to Perform Gainful Employment signed.
- Exchange of terrorist screening information Arrangement between India and USA signed.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156088>

Year End Review: Ministry of AYUSH

Question: When did the Ministry of AYUSH celebrated the First National Ayurveda Day?

- (a) 28 October 2016 (b) 29 October 2016
(c) 30 October 2016 (d) 31 October 2016

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 3 January 2017 Ministry of AYUSH published its Year End Review for 2016.
- Important Highlights:
- 191 United Nations (UN) Member-States celebrated the 2nd International Day of Yoga spread across an entire week from June 18-26, 2016.
- The second International Day of Yoga was celebrated by organising various events concerning Yoga including Mass Yoga Demonstration at National and International level.
- The main event of Mass Yoga Demonstration was organized at Capital Complex, Chandigarh on 21st June, 2016.
- The Ministry of AYUSH celebrated the First National Ayurveda Day on 28th October, 2016 by organizing the daylong Seminar on Ayurveda & Diabetes.



- On this occasion Seminar on theme “Ayurveda for Prevention and Control of Diabetes” was organized during the celebration of National Ayurveda Day at Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.
- The Government of India has approved and notified National AYUSH Mission (NAM) on 29.09.2014.
- A two-day India-US Workshop on Traditional Medicine was organized at New Delhi on 3-4 March, 2016.
- The Ministry of AYUSH supported the organization of ‘International Convention on World Homoeopathy Day’, on 9-10 April, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi .
- It was organized jointly by the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) and Liga Medicorum Homoeopathica Internationalis (LMHI).
- The Ministry of AYUSH signed a Project Collaboration Agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO), Hqs, Geneva on 13th May, 2016.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has signed an MoU on cooperation in field of Traditional Medicine with the Ministry of Health & Sports of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 29th August 2016.
- Ministry of AYUSH organized the 9th Annual meeting of the International Regulatory Cooperation for Herbal Medicines (IRCH) during 8-10 November 2016 at New Delhi.
- Yoga has been inscribed in the UNESCO’s representative list as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on 1st December, 2016.
- The Ministry of AYUSH organized the “BRICS High Level Meeting on Traditional Medicinal Knowledge” on 16th December 2016 at New Delhi as part of the 6th BRICS Health Minister’s Meeting.
- During the year 2016-17, two State Level Arogya fairs have been organized at Shillong & Shimla and two National Level Arogya fairs at Bangalore and Kolkata in collaboration with the State Government and the collaborative Trade Promotion Organizations like FICCI, CII, World Ayurveda Foundation, ASSOCHAM etc.
- The Ministry of AYUSH has also planned to establish an All India Institute of Homoeopathy at Narela, Delhi, All India Institute of Unani Medicine at Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) and an All India Institute of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy each at Goa and Panchkula (Haryana).
- In the collaboration with CDAC- Hyderabad, NMPB has launched an online virtual platform ‘www.e-charak.in’ and a mobile application ‘e-charak’.
- The National Research Development Corporation has licensed Ayurvedic formulation ‘AYUSH-82’ for management of Diabetes and Ayurvedic Drug ‘Ayush-64’ for treatment of Malaria.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156093>

Year End Review – 2016 of Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Question: How much percentage FDI is allowed by Government of India for trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India?

(a) 100% (b) 49% (c) 26% (d) None of the above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2017 Ministry of Food Processing Industries published its Year End Review – 2016.
- **Following are the major highlights:**



- Government has allowed 100% FDI for trading including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India.
- 100% FDI is already permitted in manufacturing of food products through automatic route.
- Reduction in Excise Duty on Refrigerated Containers from 12.5% to 6%.
- Reduction in Basic Custom Duty on Refrigerated Containers from 10% to 5%.
- The Indus Mega Food Park, Khargone (Madhya Pradesh); Jharkhand Mega Food Park Ranchi (Jharkhand), and Jangipur Bengal Mega Food Park, Murshidabad (West Bengal) were made operational and inaugurated.
- Foundation Stone of Punjab Agro Industries Corporation (PAIC) Mega Food Park Project in Ludhiana was laid.
- As such, 8 Mega Food Parks have been made operational so far.
- The Mega Food Park projects at Satara (Maharashtra), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Rayagada (Odisha) and Agartala (Tripura) are at advanced stage for operationalisation by the end of current financial year.
- 20 projects have been operationalised in 2016. With their operationalisation, Ministry has created an additional capacity of 0.63 lakh metric tonnes of cold storage, 15 metric tonnes per hour of individual Quick Freezing (IQF), 10.65 lakh litres per day of Milk of processing/ storage and 99 reefer vans during 2016.
- The National Institute of Food Technology, Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM) at Kundli, Sonapat, Haryana and Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology (IICPT) at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu are being developed by the Government as the Centres of Excellence.
- The pass-outs of these institutes have got 100% placements.
- The Ministry is also taking steps to implement a new scheme namely Scheme for Agro-Marine produce Processing and Development of Agro-clusters (SAMPADA) for overall development of food processing sector, for providing enabling infrastructure, expanding processing and preservation capacities, controlled temperature logistics and backward and forward linkages.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156058>

Saksham – 2017

Question: Consider the following statement regarding the Saksham-2017.

(1) Saksham-2017 was organized by Ministry of Finance.

(2) It is aimed to create digital awareness

Which of the following statement is/ are correct

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan will inaugurate a month long awareness programme “Saksham – 2017” on 16th January, 2016 at Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi
- Saksham – 2017 (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is aimed to create awareness amongst masses towards judicious utilization and conservation of petroleum products along with use of energy efficient appliances and switching to cleaner fuels.



- The programme is being organized by PCRA (Petroleum Conservation Research Association) and other Oil & Gas PSUs under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
- Saksham – 2017 is aimed to educate on various steps for fuel conservation through activities like Quiz Show, Saksham Asian Cycling Championship, Walkathons, concerts and other activities across the country.
- On the occasion, Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said-
 1. Draft fuel efficiency norms for heavy duty vehicles to be released on 1st April, 2017 says Pradhan
 2. He urges everyone to turn off vehicle engine at traffic signal; could save 2% of fuel translating to Rs 14000 cr.
 3. The BS IV fuel will be available across the country from April, 2017 and that the Ministry is already planning and working on bringing in BS VI fuel by 2020.
 4. Drawing a parallel to the PMUY which has an allocation of Rs 8000 Cr to distribute LPG cylinders to 5 Cr BPL families across the country.
- Bharat stage emission standards' are emission standards instituted by the Government of India to regulate the output of air pollutants from internal combustion engine equipment, including motor vehicles.
- The standards and the timeline for implementation are set by the Central Pollution Control Board under the Ministry of Environment & Forests and climate change.
- The first emission norms were introduced in India in 1991 for petrol and 1992 for diesel vehicles.
- The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of India is a statutory organization under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- It was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act, 1974.

Reference:

<http://45.114.141.129/saksham/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157342>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157379>

TN to issue ordinance to ensure conduct of Jallikattu

Question: Jallikattu is typically practiced in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu as a part of ... celebrations on Mattu Pongal day.

(a) Pongal (b) Navratri (c) Onam (d) Holi

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- In a bid to defuse the swelling street protests, Tamil Nadu government on 20th January, 2017 said it will issue an ordinance to ensure the conduct of Jallikattu sport.
- After discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and consultations with legal experts, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister O Panneerselvam announced today that the state government will amend a Central act on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960) to allow conduct of Jallikattu in the state with Centre's backing.
- The Centre would be supportive of steps taken by the State Government as a result of the meeting between Mr. Panneerselvam and Mr. Modi..



- He urged protestors across the state to withdraw their agitation following the likelihood of the bull taming sport to be held in a day or two.
- Mr. Panneerselvam, who stayed back in Delhi yesterday to discuss the matter with legal experts and government officials, said the draft ordinance has been prepared and sent to the Union Home Ministry today, and after Centre's approval, it will be sent for Presidential assent.
- It was also decided to issue an ordinance to make this amendment. Under the Constitution of India, this draft ordinance has to be sent to Union Home Ministry and on Centre's recommendation it has to be sent to the President for his approval.
- After securing a Presidential order, Tamil Nadu Governor can issue an ordinance on the matter.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8311499_TN-to-issue-ordinance-to-ensure-conduct-of-Jallikattu.html

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/tn-to-issue-ordinance-to-ensure-conduct-of-jallikattu/1/861959.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jallikattu>

Adoption Regulations, 2017

Question: Adoption Regulations, 2017 framed by 'Central Adoption Resource Authority' (CARA) is effective from-

- (a) 15 January 2017 (b) 4 January 2017
(c) 16 January 2017 (d) 10 January 2017

Ans : (c)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017; the Adoption Regulations, 2017 came into effect.
- The Adoption Regulations, 2017 replace the Adoption Guidelines, 2015.
- Adoption Regulations, 2017 is framed by 'Central Adoption Resource Authority' (CARA).
- The Adoption Regulations have been framed keeping in mind the issues and challenges faced by CARA and other stake holders including the Adoption Agencies & Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs).
- This will further strengthen adoption programme in the country by streamlining the adoption process.
- Transparency, early deinstitutionalisation of children, informed choice for the parents, ethical practices and strictly defined timelines in the adoption process are the salient aspects of the Adoption Regulations.
- Salient features of the Adoption Regulations, 2017:
 1. Procedures related to adoption by relatives both within the country and abroad have been defined in the Regulations.
 2. Validity of Home Study Report has been increased from two to three years.
 3. The time period available to the domestic PAPs for matching and acceptance, after reserving the child referred, has been increased to twenty days from the existing fifteen days.
 4. District Child protection Unit (DCPU) shall maintain a panel of professionally qualified or trained social workers.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157354>



Raisina Dialogue 2017

Question: The 2nd Edition of Raisina Dialogue was held from 17-19 January, 2017 in which of the following city?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- The 2nd Edition of Raisina Dialogue was held from 17-19 January, 2017.
- The venue of the dialogue was Taj Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.
- It was organised by Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with Observer Research Foundation. The Theme of the Dialogue, this year, is "The New Normal: Multilateralism with Multi-Polarity".
- It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The 2nd edition has seen the participation from about 65 countries and more than 250 foreign participants. Many of these will participate in a number of Panels, including some concurrent ones, organized across a range of sub-themes and include political leaders, diplomats, senior Generals and Admirals, strategic experts and thinkers.
- Among the foreign dignitaries who addressed the Dialogue are Mr. Boris Johnson, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, UK, Field Marshal Sarath Fonseka, Minister for Regional Development, Sri Lanka, Mr. Stephen Harper, former Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Jacques Audibert, Diplomatic Advisor to the President of France, Mr. Shunsuke Takei, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr, Commander, Pacific Command and Admiral Michelle Howard, Commander, US Naval Forces, Europe and Africa.
- The Dialogue featured an Inaugural Panel with the participation of Shri M.J. Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of India, Shri Prakash Sharan Mahat, Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Hamid Karzai, former President of Afghanistan, Mr. Kevin Rudd, former Prime Minister of Australia and Mr. Gowher Rizvi, International Affairs Advisor to Prime Minister of Bangladesh.
- The Dialogue is India's flagship geo-political conference to be held annually and within a short span has emerged as a much awaited global conference in the international calendar.

Reference:

<http://www.orfonline.org/2nd-raisina-dialogue-2017-the-new-normal-multilateralism-with-multipolarity/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157417>

8th Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017

Question: The eighth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2017 from January 10-13, 2017; was inaugurated at –

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

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 8th Vibrant Gujarat Summit in Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar.
- The central focus of the summit is "Sustainable Economic and Social Development".
- US participated as a Partner Country in the 2017 Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.
- World leaders including Presidents, State heads and representatives of the governments from over 20 countries were present at the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017 including the Presidents of Kenya and Rwanda, Prime Ministers from Portugal and Serbia and Deputy Prime Ministers of Russia and Poland along with senior foreign ministers from other countries.



- As a part of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, the Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani addressed the 'Make in Gujarat' theme seminar on Trends and Innovation impacting the Textile Value Chain on January 12, 2017.
- The minister also witnessed signing of MoUs worth Rs. 8,835 crore in textile sector. The MoUs were signed in different sectors such as textile parks, textile processing, machinery, carpet development, etc.
- A joint state was issued between Rwanda President Paul Kagame and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 10, 2017 at the Gujarat Global Investors Summit to raise the level of bilateral cooperation to a strategic partnership.
- The summit was started in 2003 with the aim to attract investment in Gujarat by the then state Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Reference:

<https://vibrantgujarat.com/>

<https://vibrantgujarat.com/vg-2017.htm>

<https://vibrantgujarat.com/newsdetail.htm?324/US+to+be+a+partner+country+for+Vibrant+Gujarat+Summit+2017>

Visit of President of Rwanda to India

Question: Name the President of Rwanda who was on a working visit to India from 9-11 January 2017?

- (a) Paul Mugabe (b) Paul Kagame (c) Charles Murigande
(d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- From 9-11 January 2017; President of Rwanda Paul Kagame paid a working visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister of India Mr Narendra Modi.
- This was his first official visit to India.
- India-Rwanda relations are marked by cordiality, convergence of views and cooperation on major international issues, an increasing trend in bilateral trade and investments, greater people to people contact and a deep sense of mutual respect.
- Bilateral relations between India and Rwanda have been cordial and have grown steadily over the years.
- The bilateral trade between India and Rwanda has been gradually increasing over the last few years, even though in terms of value the total trade remains very modest at US\$ 78.10 million for 2012-13.
- He also attended the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit-2017.
- **Following agreement / declaration were released:**
 1. MoU on forensic sciences cooperation between the two nations.
 2. MoU for Rwanda's accession to the International Solar Alliance.
 3. Declaration on strategic partnership between India and Rwanda.
 4. Joint Statement.
- Prime Minister Modi further announced gifting of US\$ 2 million of medicines and a cash grant of US\$ 1 million for sourcing medical equipment from India.



Reference:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-](https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?27915/DECLARATION+ON+STRATEGIC+PARTNERSHIP+BETWEEN+INDIA+AND+RWANDA)

[detail.htm?27915/DECLARATION+ON+STRATEGIC+PARTNERSHIP+BETWEEN+INDIA+AND+RWANDA](https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?27915/DECLARATION+ON+STRATEGIC+PARTNERSHIP+BETWEEN+INDIA+AND+RWANDA)

[http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-](http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/27914/IndiaRwanda+Joint+Statement+during+the+visit+of+President+of+Rwanda+to+India+January+9+11+2017)

[documents.htm?dtl/27914/IndiaRwanda+Joint+Statement+during+the+visit+of+President+of+Rwanda+to+India+January+9+11+2017](http://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/27914/IndiaRwanda+Joint+Statement+during+the+visit+of+President+of+Rwanda+to+India+January+9+11+2017)

14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017

Question: The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017 Convention was held from 7 to 9 January, 2017 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Who was the Chief Guest for this year's convention?

(a) Donald Ramotar (b) Dr. Antonio Costa (c) Priti Patel (d) None of these

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- From 7 to 9 January, 2017; The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017 Convention was held in Bengaluru in partnership with Karnataka.
- The theme of this year is "Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora."
- It's organized by the Ministry of External affairs and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Karnataka government.
- In PBD -2017 about 8,000 delegates from 30 countries have participated.
- Prime Minister of Portugal Dr. Antonio Costa was the Chief Guest for 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017.
- While the Vice President of Suriname, Shri Michael Ashwin Adhin participated as special guest.
- The first day of convention January 7 was celebrated as the Youth PBD-2017.
- The inaugural session has theme "Role of Diaspora Youth in the Transformation of India."
- Youth PBD saw the participation of 160 Indian origin youth visiting under four of our "Know India" programs, 250 graduate and postgraduate students from the National Service Scheme and 200 students from Bengaluru College.
- On 8 January, the PBD Convention was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- On this occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi also launched Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- It is skill development program targeted at Indian youth seeking overseas employment to make India the Skill Capital of the World.
- On 9 January 2017 President Pranab Mukherjee conferred "Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award -2017" to 30 NRIs/organizations, these are:
 1. Dr. Gorur Krishna Harinath(Australia)-Community Service
 2. Mr. Rajasekharan Pillai Valavoor Kizhakkathil(Bahrain)-Business
 3. Antwerp Indian Association(Belgium)-Community Service
 4. Mr. Nazeer Ahamed Mohamed Zackiriah(Brunei)-Community Service
 5. Mr. Mukund Bhikhubhai Purohit(Canada)-Business
 6. Mr. Nalinkumar Sumanlal Kothari(Djibouti)-Community Service
 7. Mr. Vinod Chandra Patel(Fiji)-Social Service
 8. Mr. Raghunath Marie Antonin Manet(France)-Arts & Culture
 9. Dr. Lael Anson E. Best(Israel)-Medical Science
 10. Dr. Sandip Kumar Tagore(Japan)-Arts & Culture
 11. Mr. Ariful Islam(Libya)Community -Service
 12. Tan Sri Dato Dr. Muniandy Thambirajah(Malaysia)-Education and Community Service
 13. Hon'ble Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth(Mauritius)-Public Service
 14. H.E. Mr. Antonio Luis Santos da Costa(Portugal) Public Service
 15. Dr. Raghavan Seetharaman(Qatar)-Business Management
 16. Ms. Zeenat Musarrat Jafri(Saudi Arabia)-Education
 17. Singapore Indian Association(Singapore)-Community Service
 18. Dr. Carani Balaraman Sanjeevi(Sweden)-Medicine



19. Mr. Susheel Kumar Saraff(Thailand)-Business
 20. Mr. Winston Chandarbhan Dookeran(Trinidad & Tobago)-Public Service
 21. Mr. Vasudev Shamdas Shroff(United Arab Emirates)-Community Service
 22. India Social and Cultural Centre, Abu Dhabi(United Arab Emirates)-Philanthropy and Community Service
 23. Rt. Hon'ble Ms. Priti Patel(United Kingdom)-Public Service
 24. Ms. Neena Gill(United Kingdom)-Public Service
 25. Mr. Hari Babu Bindal(USA)-Environmental Engineering
 26. Dr. Bharat Haridas Barai(USA)-Community Service
 27. Ms. Nisha Desai Biswal(USA)-Public Affairs
 28. Dr. Mahesh Mehta(USA)-Community Service
 29. Mr. Ramesh Shah(USA)-Community Service
 30. Dr. Sampatkumar Shidramapa Shivangi(USA)-Community Leadership
- PBD has been held traditionally on 9th January every year to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi as a Pravasi from South Africa to India on 9 January 1915.
 - The Day was established in 2003.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156091>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156225>

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-the-inauguration-of-the-14th-pravasi-bharatiya-divas-convention-in-bengaluru/?comment=disable

104th Indian Science Congress-2017

Question: The 104th Indian Science Congress-2017 was held in which of the following state?

- (a) Tamil Nadu (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- The 104th Indian Science Congress-2017; was held from 3-7 January at the Sri Venkateswara University Campus, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.
- It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- He also inaugurated "Pride of India-Science Expo-2017" which coincided with the event.
- The theme of this edition of Congress is "Science and Technology for National Development".
- It has been organised by the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), a premier scientific organisation of India.
- It is for the second time Tirupati is hosting the ISC, as for the first time it was hosted in 1983.
- Contingent of 200 scientists from foreign nations, 10,000 scientists representing various national laboratories, faculty and research scholars from Indian universities and several others participated in the congress.
- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) participated in "Pride of India-Science Expo-2017".
- 40 DRDO laboratories have participated at the expo to showcase state-of-the-art military systems and technologies at the DRDO Pavilion which narrate the saga of Self-reliance & National Pride with the "Make in India" spirit.
- Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) is a premier scientific organisation of India with headquarters at Kolkata, West Bengal

- The association started in the year 1914 in Kolkata and it meets annually in the first week of January.
- It has a membership of more than 30,000 scientists.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/104th-Indian-Science-Congress-from-Jan.-3/article16071916.ece>

<http://www.isc104.com/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/drdo-at-104th-indian-science-congress-2017-in-tirupati-117010700661_1.html

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

Announcement of poll schedule for five states

Question: Recently Election Commission announced the dates for Assembly polls of five states. Among these five states which of the following North East state is included?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Manipur (c) Assam (d) Tripura

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2016 the Election Commission announced the poll dates for Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.
- UP will have a seven phase election, with polling on February 11, 15, 19, 23, 27, March 4 and 8.
- Phase-1 (11 February 2017)- 67 constituencies of 11 districts
- Phase-2 (15 February 2017)- 67 constituencies of 11 districts
- Phase-3 (19 February 2017)- 69 constituencies of 12 districts
- Phase-4 (23 February 2017)- 53 constituencies of 12 districts
- Phase-5 (27 February 2017)- 52 constituencies of 11 districts
- Phase-6 (4 March 2017)- 49 constituencies of 07 districts
- Phase-7 (8 March 2017)- 40 constituencies of 07 districts
- Uttar Pradesh will vote for 403 Legislative Assemblies seats out of which 84 are reserved for Scheduled Castes and 2 for Scheduled Tribes 2.
- Election for total of 70 assembly seats in Uttarakhand will be concluded in one phase on 15 February 2017.
- Goa has 40 seats and the election will be held in one phase on 4 February 2016.
- Punjab has 117 seats and state will exercise its voting rights on 4 February.
- The only state in the northeast, Manipur will go for election for 60 assembly seats in two phases i.e. on 4 March and 8 March 2017.
- Counting will be held on 11 March 2017.
- The maximum limit for expenses for each candidate in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand is Rs 28 lakh, while that in Goa and Manipur is Rs 20 lakh.
- Over 16 crore voters will exercise their democratic rights for a total of 690 constituencies in five states, for which the Commission has set up 1.85 lakh polling stations.



Reference:

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN1_04012017.pdf

http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN2Corrigendum_04012017.pdf

<http://www.firstpost.com/politics/election-commission-announces-dates-for-up-go-uttarakhand-punjab-manipur-polls-3187370.html>

<http://www.abplive.in/india-news/uttar-pradesh-assembly-election-2017-dates-voting-in-7-phases-from-feb-11-to-march-8-counting-on-march-11-475039>

INTERNATIONAL

Corruption Perceptions Index 2016

Question: What is India's ranking in the Corruption Perception Index 2016 released by the Transparency International organisation on 25th January 2017?

(a) 76th (b) 79th (c) 38th (d) 92nd

Ans: (b)

Related Fact:

- India has been ranked 79th among 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index 2016 released by the Transparency International organisation on 25th January 2017.
- India's score marginally improved from 38 in 2015 to 40 in 2016.
- A country's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0-100, where 0 means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt and a 100 means that a country is perceived as very clean.
- Belarus, Brazil, & China shared the same ranks as India in the Corruption Perception Index 2016.
- The list was topped by New Zealand and Denmark with a score of 90 each.
- Somalia was ranked the most corrupt country with a score of 10.
- Among India's neighbors Pakistan ranked 116th (score-32), Nepal 131 (score 29), Sri Lanka 95th (score 36) and Bangladesh 145 (score 26).
- The biggest improvers this year are Suriname, Belarus, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, Guyana, Georgia, Laos, Argentina, North Korea, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Turkmenistan, Sao Tome and Principe and Afghanistan.
- The biggest decliners this year are Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi-Arabia, Cyprus, Lesotho, Jordan, Syria, Macedonia, Mexico, South Sudan, Chile, United Arab Emirates, Mauritania, Central African Republic, Netherlands, Mozambique, Trinidad and Tobago, Ghana, Yemen and Djibouti.
- Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)
- The CPI provides scores and ranks to countries based on how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be. It is a composite index, a combination of surveys and assessments of corruption, collected by a variety of reputable institutions. Since corruption generally comprises illegal activities, which are deliberately hidden and only come to light through scandals, investigations or prosecutions. There is no meaningful way to assess absolute levels of corruption in countries. Hence possible attempts are made by comparing bribes reported, the number of prosecutions and court cases etc. Capturing perceptions of corruption of those in a position to provide assessments of public sector corruption is the most reliable method of comparing relative corruption levels across countries.
- Criterion:
- For a country/territory to be included in the ranking, it must be included in a minimum of three of the CPI's data sources. If a country is not featured in the ranking, then this is solely because of insufficient survey information and not an indication that corruption does not exist in the country. This year 176 countries and territories are included in the index, eight more than in 2015.
- The 2016 CPI draws on data sources from independent institutions specialising in governance and business climate analysis. The sources of information used for the 2016 CPI are based on data gathered in the past 24 months.

Reference:

<http://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/india-ranked-79th-in-the-corruption-perception-index-2016/story/245092.html>



Cabinet ratified the Second Commitment Period of Kyoto Protocol

Question: The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in

(a) 1998 (b) 1997 (c) 2000 (d) 2001

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 24th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval to ratify the Second Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol on containing the emission of Green House Gases (GHGs).
- The second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 2012. So far, 65 countries have ratified the Second Commitment Period.
- In view of the critical role played by India in securing international consensus on climate change issues, this decision further underlines India's leadership in the comity of nations committed to global cause of environmental protection and climate justice.
- Ratification of the Kyoto Protocol by India will encourage other developing countries also to undertake this exercise.
- Implementation of Clean Development Mechanism projects under this commitment period will attract some investments in India as well in accordance with sustainable development priorities.
- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) seeks to stabilise Green House Gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would minimize interference with the climate system.
- Recognizing that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of Greenhouse Gas (GHGs) in the atmosphere, the Kyoto Protocol places commitments on developed nations to undertake mitigation targets and to provide financial resources and transfer of technology to the developing nations.
- Developing countries like India have no mandatory mitigation obligations or targets under the Kyoto Protocol.
- The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in 1997 and the 1st commitment period was from 2008-2012. At Doha in 2012, the amendments to Kyoto Protocol for the 2nd commitment period (the Doha Amendment) were successfully adopted for the period 2013- 2020.
- India has always emphasized the importance of climate actions by developed country Parties in the pre-2020 period. Besides, it has advocated climate actions based on the principles and provisions of the Convention, such as the principle of Equity and Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-ratification-of-the-second-commitment-period-of-kyoto-protocol-to-united-nations-framework-convention-on-climate-change/

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



Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)-2017

Question: What is the rank of India in the recently released in Global Talent

Competitiveness Index (GTCI)-2017?

(a) 89th (b) 92nd (c) 96th (d) 100th

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017 INSEAD, The Business School for the World,



released the fourth edition of Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI)-2017 in partnership with The Adecco Group and the Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore (HCLI).

- The GTCI is an annual benchmarking report that measures the ability of countries to compete for talent.
- The theme of this fourth edition of the GTCI is Talent and Technology: Shaping the Future of Work.
- India has been ranked 92nd out of 118 nations in the 2017 Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI).
- Switzerland topped the overall index, followed by Singapore and the United Kingdom in second and third places.
- Others in the top 10 include the United States (4th), Sweden (5th), Australia (6th), Luxembourg (7th), Denmark (8th), Finland (9th) and Norway (10th).
- Bottom five countries are : Madagascar-118, Burkinafoso -117, Zimbabwe-116, Mozambique-115, Tanzania-114.
- Last year, India came in at 89th on the index.
- India's ranking is worst among the five BRICS countries. While China was ranked at the 54th place, Russian Federation was placed at 56th, followed by South Africa at 67th and Brazil 81st.
- Among India's neighboring country Sri Lanka ranked 82, Pakistan -111, Bhutan-98 and Bangladesh-113.

Reference:

<https://www.insead.edu/news/2017-global-talent-competitiveness-index-davos>

http://www.gtci2017.com/documents/GTCI_2017_web_r3.pdf

China hands over two ships to Pakistan for maritime security

Question: Name the ships that was handed over by China to the Pakistan Navy for joint security along the sea route of the China—Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)?

- (a) Dasht and Zhob (b) Hingol and Basol
(c) Liu and Xing (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 14 January 2017 China handed over the two ships to the Pakistan Navy on Saturday for joint security along the sea route of the China—Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).
- The ships named after two rivers Hingol and Basol near Gwadar.
- They were received by Commander of the Pakistan Fleet Vice Admiral Arifullah Hussaini.
- The CPEC is a collection of highway, railway, pipeline and communications projects, the sum of which create an overland trade route connecting Kashgar in far-western China and Gwadar.
- Security of Gwadar city has been handed over to the army's new division raised during the tenure of former army chief Gen Raheel Sharif.
- The Chinese government will provide two more ships to Pakistan Navy which have been named Dasht and Zhob after two districts in Balochistan.



Reference:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1308491>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/China-hands-over-2-ships-to-Pakistan-Navy-for-Gwadar-security/article17040366.ece>

An economy for the 99%

Question: According to the report “An economy for the 99%” published by rights group Oxfam-

(1) India's richest 1% now holds a huge 58% of the country's total wealth.

(2) Dilip Sanghvi is India's richest man.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017; International non-governmental organization released the report named “An economy for the 99%”.
- Oxfam report presented study on the growing inequality in the economy and its solution.
- New estimates show that just eight men own the same wealth as the poorest half of the world.
- The eight men own wealth worth \$426bn (£350bn), equivalent to the wealth of 3.6 billion people.
- The list is-
 1. Bill Gates (US): Microsoft founder -\$75 billion
 2. Amensio Artega (Spain): The owner of Zara -\$67 billion
 3. Warren Buffett (USA): -CEO of Berkshire Hathaway-\$60.8 billion,
 4. Carlos Slim Helu (Mexico): The owner of Grupo Karaso -\$50 billion
 5. Jeff Bijos (US): Amazon founder -\$45.2 billion
 6. Mark Zuckerberg (US): Facebook co-founder -\$44.6 billion
 7. Larry Ilisn (US): Oracle co-founder -\$43.6 billion
 8. Michael Bloomberg (USA): The founder of Bloomberg -\$40.0 billion
- India's total assets of \$ 3.1 trillion (Rs 68 lakh crore) out of which 58% of the asset belongs to less than 1% of people.
- It shows that 57 billionaires in India now have same wealth (\$216 billion) as that of the bottom 70% population of the country.
Top three in India are:
 1. Mukesh Ambani -\$19.3 billion
 2. Dilip Sanghvi -\$16.7 billion
 3. Azim Premji-\$15.0 billion
- The incomes of the poorest 10% of people increased by less than \$3 a year between 1988 and 2011, while the incomes of the richest 1% increased 182 times as much.
- According to the report in 2010, the 388 richest people owned the same wealth as the poorest 50%.
- This dropped to 80 in 2014 before falling again in 2015 to 62.
- In 2016 just eight people own the same wealth as the poorest half of the world.

Reference:

https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-summ-en.pdf

https://www.oxfam.org/sites/www.oxfam.org/files/file_attachments/bp-economy-for-99-percent-160117-en.pdf



China launches first freight train to London

Question: On 1 January 2017; China launched its first freight train to London, consider the following agreement-

1. This freight train start from Beijing

2. It will pass through 10 countries.

- (a) Both (1) and (2) are correct (b) Only (1) is correct
(c) Only (2) is correct (d) Both (1) and (2) is incorrect

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 1 January 2017; China launched its first freight train to London.
- The train started from Yiwu West Railway Station in eastern Zhejiang Province, the train will travel for about 18 days and more than 12,000 kilometers before reaching its destination in Britain.
- It will pass through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France before arriving in London.
- London is the 15th city in Europe added to China-Europe freight train services.
- The service will improve China-Britain trade ties, strengthen connectivity with Western Europe, while better serving China's Belt and Road Initiative, an infrastructure and trade network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes.
- With 39 routes linking 16 Chinese cities to 15 European ones, it includes a rail network that cuts across Central Asia to Iran, through Turkey to Russia, Poland and Spain.

Reference:

http://www.china-railway.com.cn/xwdt/tlxw/201701/t20170102_62226.html

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-01/02/c_135949632.htm



Hindu Marriage Bill 2016 in Pakistan

Question: Consider the following statements in the context of Pakistan and choose the Correct answer from the options given below:-

1. Sindh is first province of Pakistan, where the minority Hindu community may register their marriages.

2. In September 2016, the National Assembly of Pakistan had passed the Hindu Marriage Bill 2016.

3. Hindu Marriage Bill 2016 was passed by the Senate, the upper house of the Pakistan's Parliament on 1 January 2017.

- (a) Both (1) and(2) are true (b) Both (1) and(3) are true
(c) Both (2) and(3) are true (d) All the statements are true

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2017; Senate Functional Committee on Minority's Human Rights unanimously approved the much-awaited Hindu Marriages Bill 2016.
- The Hindu Marriage Bill 2016 will become a law after it will be passed by the Senate, the upper house of the Parliament.



- The Senate committee under the chair of Muttahida Qaumi Movement Senator Nasreen Jalil took up the bill for discussion and later approved it.
- The bill will enable the Hindu community to get their marriages registered and to appeal in courts of law in cases of separation.
There are penalties for violating the provisions of the bill.
- It also allows Hindus to finally have a proof of marriage document called the shadiparat, similar to the nikahnama for Muslims.
The bill also allows separated Hindu persons to remarry.
- Clause 17 of the bill states that a Hindu widow “shall have the right to re-marry of her own will and consent after the death of her husband provided a period of six months has lapsed after the husband’s death”.
- The bill will be applicable to all Pakistan except Sindh province which on 15 February 2016 separately adopted its own Hindu marriage law.
- Hindus make up approximately 1.6 per cent of Pakistan’s Muslim-majority 190 million population and they are mainly in Sindh province.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-approves-hindu-marriage-bill/article8213284.ece>
<http://www.dawn.com/news/1305970>

ECONOMICS

IMF cuts India’s growth rate

Question: Consider the following statements:

1. In October, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) has projected the Indian economy’s growth rate to be 7.6%
2. In January IMF estimated India’s growth rate to 7.2%

Which of the following statements is/ are correct?

- (a) Only (1) (b) Only (b) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 11 January 2017; in its update to the World Economic Outlook released in October, IMF projected India GDP growth rate at 6.6% for 2016-17 against its earlier estimate of 7.6%. IMF also expects India’s growth to pick up at a slower pace in 2017-18, at 7.2%, against its earlier estimate of 7.6%.
- According to IMF Chinese economy grew by 6.7% in 2016 as against the previously projected 6.6%.
- China’s growth forecast in 2017 was raised to 6.5% from 6.2% projected in October due to “expected policy stimulus”.

Reference:

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2017/update/01/>



Wave N Pay -Contactless Card launched

Question: Which of the following bank has launched a Contactless Credit Card named “Wave N Pay”?

(a) HDFC Bank (b) Punjab National Bank (c) Vijaya Bank (d) Corporation Bank

Ans: (b)

Related Fact:

- On 21 January 2017 Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a Contactless Credit Card.
- This new credit card, which has been named PNB Wave N Pay –Contactless Card, was launched by Usha Ananthasubramanian, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.
- This card could be used by just waving it across the terminal and the transaction will be through.
- There is no need to enter any PIN for transactions up to Rs. 2,000.
- The cardholder has full charge back rights on the misuse.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/pnb-launches-contactless-credit-card/article9495568.ece>



Cabinet approves Listing of Government owned General Insurance Companies at the stock exchanges

Question: Which of the following company is not included among the list of five Government owned General Insurance Companies which were given ‘in principle’ approval for listing in the stock exchanges by cabinet?

- (a) The New India Assurance Company Ltd.
(b) United India Insurance Company Ltd.
(c) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.
(d) Bajaj Allianz General Insurance

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ‘in principle’ approval for listing the following five Government owned General Insurance Companies in the stock exchanges.
- These are:
 1. The New India Assurance Company Ltd.
 2. United India Insurance Company Ltd.,
 3. Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.,
 4. National Insurance Company Ltd. and
 5. General Insurance Corporation of India.
- The shareholding of these Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) will be divested from 100 percent to 75 percent in one or more tranches over a period of time.
- During the process of disinvestment, existing rules and regulations of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will be followed.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157429>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/cabinet-approves-plan-to-list-state-run-general-insurers/articleshow/56642426.cms>



Short term market borrowing by NABARD and Interest waiver

Question: The Union Cabinet also gave its ex-post facto approval for interest waiver for the two months of November and December, 2016 for farmers accessing short term crop loans from Cooperative Banks due to ...

- (a) demonetisation. (b) unfavorable monsoon. (c) abundance of cash.
(d) None of the above.

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 24th January, 2017 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its post-facto approval for the following decisions:
- National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) will make short term borrowings at prevailing market rate of interest for approx. Rs.20,000 crore for on-lending to Cooperative Banks at 4.5% rate of interest.
- Additional capital of Rs.2,000 crore to be provided to NABARD for this purpose through the Union Budget. To start with, additional capital of Rs.500 crore may be released to NABARD during 2016-17 itself.
- Interest Subvention of about 1.8% and NABARD's administrative cost of 0.2% to be provided as per the scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare. The extent of interest subvention may vary depending on the rate at which NABARD raises funds.
- NABARD will coordinate the conversion of operative/live KCCs into RuPay/ATM-enabled Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) by Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in a mission mode.
- The Union Cabinet also gave its ex-post facto approval for interest waiver for the two months of November and December, 2016 for farmers accessing short term crop loans from Cooperative Banks.

Benefit

- In the light of good monsoon and expectation of increased credit demand and in order to boost agricultural production, the farmers need to be supported through Cooperative Banks, which will enable them to scale up their agricultural operation.
- The approval will ensure increased availability of short term crop loans to farmers through Cooperative banks at reduced rate of interest.
- The conversion of operative/live KCCs into RuPay/ATM-enabled KCCs will enable easy and hassle free availability of credit and in keeping with the spirit of 'Digital' India, will facilitate digital and cashless transactions by farmers.

Background

- The Government of India has, since 2006-07, been implementing the Interest Subvention Scheme under which short-term crop loans upto Rs.3 lakh are made available to the farmers at an interest rate of 7 percent per annum by the Public Sector. Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative. Banks. Farmers are provided with 3% interest subvention for short term crop loan upto Rs. 3 lakhs on prompt repayment of the loan. Thus, farmers have to effectively pay only 4% as interest for the said crop loan.
- Due to the demonetization farmers had to face difficulty in en-cashing the cheques received against sale proceeds of their Kharif produce in the mandis; and also the inadequacy of cash in carrying out Rabi operations and servicing the interest of the short term crop loans, an interest waiver is being provided for a period of 2 months i.e. November & December 2016 to farmers who were disbursed crop loan between 01.04.2016 and 30.09.2016.
- The provision of additional financial resource of Rs. 1060.50 crore is on account of (i) meeting the cost of interest waiver for 2 months (November and December, 2016

(ii) Providing interest subvention and administrative cost to NABARD on short term borrowing of about Rs. 20,000 crore for on-lending to Cooperatives Banks in the current financial year.

Reference:

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

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cabinet-approves-interest-waiver-for-the-two-months-of-november-and-117012400505_1.html

Lloyd's gets final approval from IRDAI to open branch in India

Question: Which of the following statements is/ are correct about the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDAI)?

(1) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) was constituted by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

(2) It's headquarters is in New Delhi

(a) Only (1) (b) Only (2) (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19 January 2017; Lloyd's, specialist insurance and reinsurance Company got final regulatory approval from the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India (IRDA) to set up branch in India.
- This will enable Lloyd's syndicates to offer specialist reinsurance in a variety of classes from a Lloyd's India branch in Mumbai.
- Lloyd's is the world's specialist insurance and reinsurance market that offers a unique concentration of expertise and talent, backed by strong financial ratings and international licences.
- It is the first to insure new, unusual or complex risks, providing innovative insurance solutions for local, cross border and global risks.

Reference:

<https://www.lloyds.com/news-and-insight/press-centre/press-releases/2017/01/lloyds-to-open-india-branch-in-advance-of-april-reinsurance-renewals>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/business-others/lloyds-gets-final-irdai-approval-to-open-branch-in-april-this-year-4482632/>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/lloyds-gets-final-approval-from-irdai-to-open-branch-in-india/articleshow/56665640.cms>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/lloyd-s-gets-final-approval-from-irdai-to-open-branch-in-india-117011900776_1.html

Inclusive Development Index

Question: What is the rank of India in 2017 Inclusive Development Index (IDI) released in World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Inclusive Growth and Development Report'?

(a) 65th (b) 61st (c) 55th (d) 60th

Ans:(d)

Related facts:



- On 16 January 2017; Inclusive Development Index (IDI) was released in World Economic Forum's (WEF) 'Inclusive Growth and Development Report'.
- The Inclusive Development Index, measuring the accumulated level as well as the most recent five-year trend of performance for the 109 countries.
- Inclusive Development Index (IDI) listed the 30 developed and 79 developing economies.
- The index is based on 12 performance indicators and countries are ranked on IDI scores based on a scale of 1-7.
- Top 10 advance economies in 2017 Inclusive Development Index (IDI) are Norway (1st), Luxembourg (2nd), Switzerland (3th), Iceland (4th) and Denmark (5th), (6th), Netherlands (7th), Australia (8th), New Zealand (9th) and Austria (10th).
- Other advance economies are ranked as Germany (13th), Canada (15th), France (18th), the UK (21 th), the US (23 th) and Japan (24th) place.
- Top 10 developing economies in 2017 IDI: Lithuania (1st), Azerbaijan (2nd), Hungary (3rd), Poland (4th), Romania (5th), Uruguay (6th), Latvia (7th), Panama (8th), Costa Rica (9th) and Chile (10th).
- India, with a score of only 3.38 has been ranked 60th among 79 developing economies in the inclusive development index.
- Neighboring China is ranked at the 15th position, Nepal (27th), Bangladesh (36th), Sri Lanka (39th) and Pakistan (52nd).
- Other BRICS countries are ranked as Russia (13th), China (15th), Brazil 30th and South Africa (70th).

Reference:

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Forum_IncGrwth_2017.pdf

Cabinet approves the exclusion of States from the NSSF Investments

Question: The National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) was established in the Public Account of India with effect from ...

- (a) 1st April 1999 (b) 31st March 1999
(c) 26th January 1999 (d) 1st April 2000

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th January, 2017 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved to exclude State Governments States/UTs (with Legislature) except Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh from National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) investments from 01.04.2016.
- It also approved providing a one-time loan of Rs. 45,000 crore from NSSF to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to meet its food subsidy requirements.
- A legally binding agreement will be signed between FCI, Department of Food and Public Distribution and Ministry of Finance on behalf of NSSF on the modalities for repayment of interest rate and principal and the restructuring of FCI debt will be made possible within 2-5 years.
- NSSF in the future shall, with the approval of Finance Minister, invest on items the expenditure of which is ultimately borne by Government of India and the repayment of principal and interest thereto would be borne from the Union budget.
- Once states are excluded from NSSF investments, the investible funds of NSSF with the central government will increase. Increased availability of the NSSF loan to government may reduce the it's market borrowings.
- Implementing the decision to exclude states from NSSF investments and extending the loan will entail no additional cost. Instead a reduction in the food subsidy bill of the Gol is anticipated.



- Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh will continue availing of NSSF loans, 26 other States and Puducherry who are eligible to borrow from the market have preferred to stop taking loans from the NSSF.
- It is to be noted that the National Small Savings Fund' (NSSF) was established in the Public Account of India with effect from 1st April 1999.

Background:

The Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC) recommended that State Governments be excluded from the investment operations of the NSSF. The NSSF loans come at an extra cost to the State Government as the market rates are considerably lower. The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 22nd February, 2015, accepted that this recommendation will be examined in due course in consultation with various stake holders.

Barring Arunachal Pradesh, Delhi, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, the other State Governments/UTs expressed a desire to be excluded from NSSF investments. The involvement of States which are excluded from operations of National Small Savings Fund with effect from 1.4.2016 would be limited solely to discharging the outstanding NSSF debt obligations as on 31.3.2016 (FFC Recommendation). The loan contracted by States till 31.3.2016, from the National Small Savings Fund will stand completely repaid by the Financial Year 2038-39.

NSSF shall extend a part of its collections to Food Corporation of India (FCI) to meet its food subsidy requirement.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/cabinet-oks-exclusion-of-states-from-national-small-savings-fund-investments-of-from-apr-1-2016/india/news/753389.html>

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

http://nsiindia.gov.in/InternalPage.aspx?Id_Pk=54

Five General Insurance Companies to be listed at stock exchange

Question: Which one of the below is not among five Government owned General Insurance Companies to be listed in the stock exchanges following a recent decision by The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs?

- (a) The New India Assurance Company Ltd.
- (b) United India Insurance Company Ltd.
- (c) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd
- (d) Life insurance Corporation of India



Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 18th January, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its 'in principle' approval for listing five Government owned General Insurance Companies in the stock exchanges.
- These are:
 - The New India Assurance Company Ltd.
 - United India Insurance Company Ltd.,
 - Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.,
 - National Insurance Company Ltd. and
 - General Insurance Corporation of India.
- The shareholding of these Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) will be divested from 100 percent to 75 percent in one or more tranches over a period of time.

During the process of disinvestment, existing rules and regulations of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) will be followed.

- The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2016-17 had announced that public shareholding in Government-owned companies is a means of ensuring higher levels of transparency and accountability; and to promote this objective, the general insurance companies owned by the Government will be listed on the stock exchanges.

Benefits:

- Listing on the Stock Exchange necessitates compliance with a number of disclosures and accounting requirements of SEBI, which acts as an additional oversight mechanism. The disclosures bring about transparency and equity in the companies functioning.
- Listing is expected to lead to improved corporate governance and risk management practices leading to improved efficiency. A greater focus on growth and earnings can also be expected.
- Listing will open the way for the companies to raise resources from the capital market to meet their fund requirements to expand their businesses, instead of being dependent on the Government for capital infusion.

Reference:

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

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/india/cabinet-approves-listing-of-general-insurance-companies/753165.html>

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: December, 2016

Question: Going by the India's Foreign Trade Data, India's overall trade balance in 2016 has-

(a) worsen (b) improved (c) unchanged (d) None of the above.

Ans:(b)



- In consonance with the revival exhibited by exports in the last three months, during December, 2016 exports continue to show a positive growth of 5.72 per cent (valued at US\$ 23884.97 million) and 7.79 per cent in Rupee terms (valued at Rs. 162179.89 crore) as compared to US\$ 22593.35 million (Rs. 150461.57 crore) during December, 2015.
- Cumulative value of exports for the period April-December 2016-17 was US\$ 198807.75 million (Rs. 1333913.57 crore) as against US\$ 197333.62 million (Rs. 1278004.37 crore) registering a positive growth of 0.75 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 4.37 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.
- Non-petroleum exports in December 2016 were valued at US\$ 21117.73 million against US\$ 20036.19 million in December 2015, an increase of 5.4 %. Non-petroleum exports during April – December 2016-17 were valued at US\$ 176831.24 million as compared to US\$ 172960.12 million for the corresponding period in 2015, an increase of 2.2%.
- The growth in exports is negative for USA (-1.21%), China (-7.45%) and EU (-6.27%) but exhibited positive growth in case of Japan (3.79%) for October 2016 over the corresponding period of previous year as per latest WTO statistics.
- Imports during December 2016 were valued at US\$ 34254.32 million (Rs. 232588.18 crore) which was 0.46 per cent higher in Dollar terms and 2.43 per cent higher in Rupee terms over the level of imports valued at US\$ 34096.49 million (Rs. 227067.28 crore) in December, 2015.
- Cumulative value of imports for the period April-December 2016-17 was US\$ 275355.92 million (Rs. 1848099.10 crore) as against US\$ 297410.85 million (Rs. 1926024.55 crore)

registering a negative growth of 7.42 per cent in Dollar terms and 4.05 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

- Oil imports during December, 2016 were valued at US\$ 7645.42 million which was 14.61 percent higher than oil imports valued at US\$ 6670.61 million in December 2015.
- Oil imports during April-December, 2016-17 were valued at US\$ 60921.83 million which was 10.76 per cent lower than the oil imports of US\$ 68267.37 million in the corresponding period last year.
- Non-oil imports during December, 2016 were estimated at US\$ 26608.90 million which was 2.98 per cent lower than non-oil imports of US\$ 27425.88 million in December, 2015.
- Non-oil imports during April-December 2016-17 were valued at US\$ 214434.09 million which was 6.42 per cent lower than the level of such imports valued at US\$ 229143.48 million in April-December, 2015-16.
- TRADE IN SERVICES (for November, 2016, as per the RBI)
- EXPORTS (Receipts)
- Exports during November 2016 were valued at US\$ 13338 Million (Rs. 90199.16 Crore) registering a positive growth of 1.72 per cent in dollar terms as compared to negative growth of 4.79 per cent during October 2016.
- IMPORTS (Payments)
- Imports during November 2016 were valued at US\$ 8323 Million (Rs. 56284.87 Crore) registering a positive growth of 8.37 per cent in dollar terms as compared to negative growth of 7.51 per cent during October 2016.
- TRADE BALANCE
- The trade deficit for April-December, 2016-17 was estimated at US\$ 76548.17 million which was 23.51% lower than the deficit of US\$ 100077.23 million during April-December, 2015-16.
- As per RBI's Press Release dated 13th January 2017, the trade balance in Services (i.e. net export of Services) for November, 2016 was estimated at US\$ 5015 million.
- The net export of services for April- November, 2016-17 was estimated at US\$ 42806 million which is lower than net export of services of US\$ 46706 million during April-November, 2015-16.
- Overall the trade balance has improved. Taking merchandise and services together, overall trade deficit for April- December 2016-17 is estimated at US\$ 33742.17 million which is 36.78 percent lower in Dollar terms than the level of US\$ 53371.23 million during April-December 2015-16.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157333>

<https://www.rbi.org.in/>

First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17

Question: According to the first advance estimate the growth in GDP during 2016-17 is estimated at-

(a) 7.6% (b) 7.1% (c) 7.2% (d) 7.3%

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 6 January 2016 The Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have released the First Advance estimates of national income at constant (2011-12) and current prices, for the financial year 2016-17.
- **Estimates at Constant (2011-12) Prices:**



- Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in the year 2016-17 is likely to attain a level of Rs 121.55 lakh crore.
- The above estimate is more than the Provisional Estimate of GDP for the year 2015-16 of Rs 113.50 lakh crore, released on 31st May 2016.
- The growth in GDP during 2016-17 is estimated at 7.1 per cent as compared to the growth rate of 7.6 per cent in 2015-16.
- Real GVA, i.e, GVA at basic constant prices (2011-12) is estimated to increase from Rs 104.27 lakh crore in 2015-16 to Rs 111.53 lakh crore in 2016-17.
- Estimated growth of real GVA at basic prices in 2016-17 is 7.0 percent against 7.2 percent in 2015-16.
- The sectors which registered growth rate of over 7.0 percent are, 'public administration, defence and other services', 'financial, real estate and professional services' and 'manufacturing'.
- The growth in the 'agriculture, forestry and fishing', 'mining and quarrying', 'electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services', 'construction' and 'Trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting' is estimated to be 4.1 per cent, (-)1.8 per cent, 6.5 percent, 2.9 per cent and 6.0 percent respectively.
- The 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector is likely to show a growth of 4.1 per cent in its GVA during 2016-17, as against the 2015-16 growth rate of 1.2 per cent.
- GVA at basic prices for 2016-17 from 'mining and quarrying' sector is estimated to decline by 1.8 percent as compared to growth of 7.4 percent in 2015-16.
- GVA at basic prices for 2016-17 from 'manufacturing' sector is estimated to grow by 7.4 percent as compared to growth of 9.3 percent in 2015-16.
- GVA at basic prices for 2016-17 from 'Electricity, Gas, water supply and other utility services' sector is expected to grow by 6.5 percent as compared to growth of 6.6 percent in 2015-16.
- GVA at basic prices for 2016-17 from 'Construction' sector is expected to grow by 2.9 percent as compared to growth of 3.9 percent in 2015-16.
- The estimated growth in GVA for the trade, hotels, transport and communication and services related to broadcasting services during 2016-17 is placed at 6.0 per cent as against growth of 9.0 percent in the previous year.
- The estimated growth in GVA for this sector during 2016-17 is placed at 9.0 percent as compared to growth of 10.3 percent in 2015-16.
- GVA at basic prices for 2016-17 from this sector is expected to grow by 12.8 percent as compared to growth of 6.6 percent in 2015-16
- The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2016-17 is likely to attain a level of Rs 81805 as compared to Rs 77,435 for the year 2015-16.
- The growth rate in per capita income is estimated at 5.6 per cent during 2016-17, as against 6.2 per cent in the previous year.
- **Estimates at current prices:**
- The wholesale price index (WPI), in respect of the groups – food articles, manufactured products, electricity and all commodities, has risen by 6.9 per cent, 2.0 per cent, (-)1.4 per cent and 2.8 percent, respectively during April-November 2016-17.
- The consumer price index has shown a rise of 5.0 per cent during April-November, 2016-17.
- GDP is derived by adding taxes on products net of subsidies on products to GVA at basic prices.
- GDP at current prices in the year 2016-17 is likely to attain a level of Rs151.93 lakh crore, as against Rs 135.76 lakh crore in 2015-16 showing a growth rate of 11.9 per cent.
- The nominal Net National Income (NNI), also known as national income (at current prices) is likely to be Rs 133.81 lakh crore during 2016-17, as against Rs 119.69 lakh crore for the year 2015-16.

- In terms of growth rates, the national income registered a growth rate of 11.8 per cent in 2016-17 as against the 2015-16 growth rate of 8.7 per cent.
- The per capita net national income during 2016-17 is estimated to be Rs103,007 showing a rise of 10.4 per cent as compared to Rs 93,293 during 2015-16 with the growth rate of 7.4 percent.
- Along with the First Advance Estimates of GVA at basic prices by economic activity, the First Advance Estimates of expenditures of the GDP at current and constant (2011-12) prices are also released.
- Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) at current prices is estimated at Rs 89.72 lakh crore in 2016-17 as against Rs 80.78 lakh crore in 2015-16.
- At constant (2011-12) prices, the PFCE is estimated at Rs 67.13 lakh crore in 2016-17 as against Rs 63.01 lakh crore in 2015-16.
- Government Final Consumption Expenditure (GFCE) at current prices is estimated at Rs 18.61 lakh crore in 2016-17 as against Rs 14.39 lakh crore in 2015-16.
- At constant (2011-12) prices, the GFCE is estimated at Rs 13.95 lakh crore in 2016-17 as against Rs 11.27 lakh crore in 2015-16.
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) at current prices is estimated at Rs 40.39 lakh crore in 2016-17 as against Rs 39.72 lakh crore in 2015-16.
- At constant (2011-12) prices, the GFCF is estimated at Rs 35.35 lakh crore in 2016-17 as against Rs 35.41 lakh crore in 2015-16.
- The next release of second advance estimates of national income for the year 2016-17 and quarterly GDP estimate for the quarter October-December, 2016 (Q3 of 2016-17) will be on 28.02.2017.

Reference:

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

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/economy/indian-economys-growth-estimated-at-7-1-in-2016-17-government/>

Rabi Crops Sowing Crosses 602 Lakh Hectares

Question: Rabi crops or Rabi harvests are agricultural crops sown in

(a) Winter (b) Spring (c) Rainy season (d) Autumn

Ans:(a)

- As per preliminary reports received from the States, the total area sown under Rabi crops as on 6th January 2017 stands at 602.75 lakh hectares as compared to 565.89 lakh hectare this time in 2016.
- Wheat has been sown/transplanted in 303.16 lakh hectares, rice in 12.74 lakh hectares, pulses in 152.63 lakh hectares, coarse cereals in 53.60 lakh hectares and area sown under oilseeds is 80.63 lakh hectares.
- The area under pulses also moved up 13.4% to 152.63 lakh hectares, while that under oil seeds also increased 8% to 80.63 lakh hectares.
- However, the area under rice has declined 27.4% to 12.74 lakh hectares, while that under coarse cereals also fell 6.6% to 53.60 lakh hectares as on 06 January 2017 over a year ago.
- Rabi crops or Rabi harvests are agricultural crops sown in winter and harvested in the spring in South Asia.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/rabi-crops-sowing-crosses-602-lakh-hactare-117010600898_1.html

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156184>

ICICI Bank

Question: Recently ICICI Bank announced a partnership with which of the following social networking site to provide customer care support features to benefit customers?

(a) Flok (b) Facebook (c) Whatsapp (d) Twitter

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016; Twitter and ICICI Bank announced a partnership that is aimed at integrating additional digital customer care support features to benefit the customers. It will provide direct online response to their queries and feedback in real-time, Twitter said in a statement.
- ICICI Bank is the first bank in India to implement this new features by Twitter account @ICICIBank_Care for social customer care.
- ICICI Bank (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) is an Indian multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, India, with its registered office in Vadodara.
- In 2014, it was the second largest bank in India in terms of assets and third in term of market capitalisation.
- Twitter has introduced the following new customer care features for businesses: Display a 'Message' button on their profile for customers to send a Direct Message, Indicate to customers that the business provides support on Twitter, Guide users from a public conversation to a private message with one button, Get instant Customer Feedback after a service interaction.
- To avail the above facility one should have twitter account.



Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/twitter-partners-with-icici-bank-for-advanced-customer-care/articleshow/56218076.cms>

President of India approves the Promulgation of the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Ordinance, 2016

Question: When did the President of India has approved the promulgation of the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Ordinance, 2016?

(a) 31 December 2016 (b) 30 December 2016
(c) 28 December 2016 (d) 26 December 2016

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; President of India has approved the promulgation of the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Ordinance, 2016.
- As per the ordinance, a person holding more than 10 old notes after the grace period will face a penalty of Rs. 10,000, or five times the amount in excess of the allowance.
- The main objectives of the Ordinance are :
 - (i) to provide clarity and finality to the liability of the Reserve Bank of India and the Government of India for the SBNs;
 - (ii) to provide an opportunity to those persons who were unable to deposit the SBNs within the time provided; and
 - (iii) To declare holding, transferring or receiving SBNs as illegal, with provisions for penalty for contravention of any of the provisions of the Ordinance.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156025>

SCIENTIFIC TROPEX 17

Question: The last edition of the exercise was conducted in ...

(a) January 2015. (b) January 2016 (c) March 2016 (d) December 2016

Ans: (a)

Related Fact:

- The Indian Navy's Annual Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX) went underway on 24th January 2017.
- The month long exercise will have ships and aircraft of both the Western and Eastern Naval Commands, and also assets from the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard exercising together.
- The exercise is being conducted off the Western Seaboard. The last edition of the exercise was conducted in January 2015.
- TROPEX has grown in scale and complexity over the years and will see participation of major surface combatants and air assets of the Indian Navy including the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya, nuclear submarine Chakra, Landing Platform Dock (LPD) Jalashwa, the recently commissioned destroyer Chennai, the P-8I long range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft operating alongside SU-30 MKI, Jaguars, AWACS, IL-78 Flight Refueling Aircraft of the Indian Air Force and Infantry units of the Indian Army.
- TROPEX 17 assumes special significance in the backdrop of the current security scenario. The exercise is aimed at testing combat readiness of the combined fleets of the Indian Navy, and the assets of the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard.
- It will also strengthen inter-operability and joint operations in a complex environment.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157717>



Unconventional laser based on 'bound states in the continuum' (BIC)

Question: scientists of which country demonstrated the world's first laser based on an unconventional wave physics phenomenon called bound states in the continuum.

(a) USA (b) BRITAIN (c) CHINA (d) JAPAN

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Researchers Yeshaiahu Fainman, Boubacar Kante, Ashok Kodigla and Babak Bahari at the University of California San Diego (USA) have demonstrated the world's first laser based on an unconventional wave physics phenomenon called Bound states In the Continuum (BIC).
- Bound states in the continuum (BICs) are phenomena that have been predicted to exist since 1929.



- BICs are waves that remain perfectly confined, or bound, in an open system.
- Conventional waves in an open system escape, but BICs defy this norm — they stay localized and do not escape despite having open pathways to do so.
- The BIC laser in this work is constructed from a thin semiconductor membrane made of indium, gallium, arsenic and phosphorus (indium gallium arsenide phosphide (InGaAsP)).
- The membrane is structured as an array of nano-sized cylinders suspended in air. The cylinders are interconnected by a network of supporting bridges, which provide mechanical stability to the device. Surface lasing occurred for geometries with nanoresonator arrays as small as 8 x 8 particles.
- By powering the membrane with a high frequency laser beam, researchers induced the BIC system to emit its own lower frequency laser beam (at telecommunication frequency).
- The popular VCSEL [vertical-cavity surface-emitting laser] may one day be replaced by the 'BICSEL'— bound state in the continuum surface-emitting laser, which could lead to smaller devices that consume less power,
- The technology could revolutionize the development of surface lasers, making them more compact and energy-efficient for communications and computing applications.
- The new BIC lasers could also be developed as high-power lasers for industrial and defense applications.
- BIC lasers can be readily tuned to emit beams of different wavelengths, a useful feature for medical lasers made to precisely target cancer cells without damaging normal tissue.
- BIC lasers can also be made to emit beams with specially engineered shapes (spiral, donut or bell curve) — called vector beams — which could enable increasingly powerful computers and optical communication systems that can carry up to 10 times more information than existing ones.

Reference:

www.laserfocusworld.com/.../unconventional-laser

www.sciencenewsline.com/.../2017011208000030.ht

Two per cent reduction in Water level of 91 major Reservoirs

Question: When was the fourth edition of India Water Week observed?

- (a) 04 to 08 April, 2016. (b) 12-17 March, 2016
(c) 22-28 February, 2016 (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The Water storage available in 91 major reservoirs of the country for the week ending on January 19, 2017 was 82.915 BCM, which is 53% of total storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- This was 126% of the storage of corresponding period of last year and 99% of storage of average of last ten years.
- The total storage capacity of these 91 reservoirs is 157.799 BCM which is about 62% of the total storage capacity of 253.388 BCM which is estimated to have been created in the country. 37 Reservoirs out of these 91 have hydropower benefit with installed capacity of more than 60 MW.
- The northern region which includes States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan has 6 reservoirs having total live storage capacity of 18.01 BCM.
- The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 14.00 BCM which is 74% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- The Western region includes States of Gujarat and Maharashtra. There are 27 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 27.07 BCM. The total live



storage available in these reservoirs is 17.55 BCM which is 65% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.

- The Central region includes States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. There are 12 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 42.30 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 28.50 BCM which is 67% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- The Southern region includes States of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, AP&TG (Two combined projects in both states) Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. There are 31 reservoirs under CWC monitoring having total live storage capacity of 51.59 BCM. The total live storage available in these reservoirs is 15.59 BCM which is 30% of total live storage capacity of these reservoirs.
- States having better storage than last year for corresponding period are Punjab, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, AP&TG (Two combined projects in both states), Telangana and Karnataka.
- States having lesser storage than last year for corresponding period are Himachal Pradesh, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Its notable that Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India has been organising India Water Week since 2012 as an annual international event. The fourth edition of India Water Week was organised during 4th to 8th April, 2016.
- Many reputed national and international organizations, research institutes and NGOs from water resources sector, agriculture, power etc. participate in the event to share their knowledge and experience in the water management and water governance sector.

Reference:

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

<http://wrmin.nic.in/forms/list.aspx?lid=642>

Cabinet apprised of the MoU between the JAXA

Question: JAXA is an aerospace exploration agency of ...

(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) Australia (d) Sri Lanka

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th January, 2017 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding signed on November 11, 2016 at Tokyo, Japan between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for cooperation in the field of outer space.
- The purpose of this MoU is to pursue future cooperative activities in the exploration and use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable in each country and their international obligations.
- This MoU provides scope for pursuing cooperation in various areas of space science technology and applications including: earth observation, satellite communication and navigation; exploration and space sciences; Research and development and Space industry promotion.
- ISRO and JAXA will bear the costs of their respective activities under this Memorandum, unless they decide otherwise in writing.
- Ability to fulfil their respective roles and activities under this Memorandum and its relevant separate Implementation Arrangement is subject to their respective funding procedures, the availability of appropriated funds and their respective national laws.

Background:



- India and Japan pursue space cooperation for more than 5 decades and carried out studies in the field of atmospheric study, observation of universe and scientific investigation in remote sensing. With the formation of JAXA in 2003, an “arrangement concerning the considerations of potential future cooperation in the field of outer space” was signed in October 2005 between ISRO/ Department of Space (DOS) and JAXA. Subsequently both agencies have signed cooperative documents addressing lunar exploration, satellite navigation, X-ray astronomy and Asia Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum (APRSAF).
- During the ISRO-JAXA bilateral meeting held at New Delhi on April 05, 2016, both sides stressed the need for updating the contents of ‘2005 Arrangement’ with enhanced scope of cooperation. Accordingly, both sides have arrived at the draft of new ‘Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between ISRO and JAXA concerning cooperation in the field of outer space’ and got it signed on November 11, 2016 at Tokyo during the visit of Prime Minister of India to Japan.

Reference:

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

http://global.jaxa.jp/press/2016/11/20161111_isro.html

Successful Test Firing of Guided Pinaka rocket

Question: India successfully test-fired the Guided Pinaka rocket from Integrated Test Range (ITR) launch pad at which of the following place?

(a) Sriharikota (b) Chandipur (c) Jaisalmer (d) Visakhapatnam

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 12 January 2017; India on successfully test-fired the Guided Pinaka rocket from Integrated Test Range (ITR) launch pad at Chandipur in Odisha. This was the Mark-II version of Pinaka rocket was test fired from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR). The Guided Pinaka is a modified version of the Pinaka rocket, equipped with a navigation, guidance and control kit.
- This conversion has considerably enhanced the range and accuracy of Pinaka.
- The radars, electro-optical and telemetry systems at Chandipur tracked and monitored the vehicle all through the flight-path.
- The guided Pinaka has been combined developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL).



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157308>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/jan/12/guided-rocket-pinaka-mark-ii-test-fired-successfully-1558974.html>

Submarine ‘Khanderi’ Launched

Question: Khanderi, the second of Indian Navy’s Scorpene’ class stealth submarine was launched on 12th January, 2017. The Scorpene submarines are being progressed with transfer of Technology from ...

(a) M/s DCNS, France (b) Siebe Gorman, Britain
(c) Achidatex, Isreal (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- On 12th January, 2017 Khanderi, the second of Indian Navy's Scorpene' class stealth submarine, was launched by Minister of state for Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre paving the way for her sea trials.
- As per the traditions of Indian Navy the submarine has been christened after her illustrious predecessor, an erstwhile 'Foxtrot' class submarine decommissioned in 1989.
- The construction of six Scorpene submarines is presently being progressed at Mazagon Dock Shipyard Limited under Project 75 with Transfer of Technology from M/s DCNS, France as the Collaborator. The first of the class submarine, Kalvari is presently undergoing sea trials and likely to be commissioned into Navy by Mid 2017. The submarine is expected to be delivered to Navy by the year end.
- These submarines would form the core of Navy's conventional Submarine Arm after induction. The launching of Khanderi also marks a critical milestone event for the Shipyard which earlier has delivered two Shishumar class submarines in the 90's and has now strengthened its position as a submarine building yard for Indian Navy.
- Started as a small dry dock facility for East India Company, MDL today has established itself as a forefront Defence Public Sector Undertaking, with indigenous construction of several ships and submarines for Navy such as P 15 B Destroyers and P 17 A class stealth Frigates being the latest.
- Indian Navy celebrates Golden Jubilee of the submarine arm in 2017. The induction of Project 75 submarines would mark the beginning of a new chapter in our submarine capabilities.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Khanderi-second-indigenous-Scorpene-submarine-launched/article17027309.ece>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157289>

ICGS AYUSH

Question: Recently Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered ICGS AYUSH, the 20th Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) to the Indian Coast Guard. It will be operated from which of the following coast guard station?

- (a) ICGS Karaikal (b) ICGS Kakinada (c) ICGS Nizampatnam
(d) ICGS Krishnapatnam



Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has delivered ICGS AYUSH, the 20th Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) to the Indian Coast Guard.
- With this, CSL has completed construction of 20 FPVs for the Indian Coast Guard.
- It should be known that CSL was awarded the work of constructing 20 Fast Patrol Vessels for the Indian Coast Guard on 20th Oct 2010. CSL delivered the first vessel on 25th Sept 2013 and subsequently delivered vessels in about two months interval.
- CSL started delivering vessels ahead of schedule from the 13th vessel onwards.
- ICGS AYUSH, the 20th Fast Patrol Vessel, the last in the series (CSL Yard No BY 520).
- ICGS Ayush will be operated from the Coast Guard Station at Krishnapatnam.

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India, including its contiguous zone and exclusive economic zone.
- The Indian Coast Guard was formally established on 18 August 1978 by the Coast Guard Act, 1978 of the Parliament of India as an independent Armed force of India.
- It operates under the Ministry of Defence.
- **The Indian Coast Guard operates in following five regions:**
 1. Western Region (W)-Mumbai
 2. Eastern Region (E)-Chennai
 3. North-East Region (NE)-Kolkata
 4. Andaman & Nicobar Region (A&N)-Port Blair
 5. North-West Region (NW)-Gandhinagar
- **Indian Coast guard is responsible for following work :**
 1. EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) security
 2. Coastal and Offshore Security
 3. Marine Environment Protection
 4. Scientific Support
 5. Defence

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/csl-completes-construction-of-20-fpv-series-for-indian-coast-guard/article9451540.ece>

<http://cochinshipyard.com/press/PRESS%20RELEASE%20DELIVERY%20OF%20SHIP%20520.pdf>

<http://www.newsexperts.in/2017/01/csl-completes-construction-of-of-20-fpv-series-vessel/>

http://www.indiancoastguard.gov.in/content/442_1_HistoryICG.aspx

Agni-IV missile successfully test fired

Question: Recently Agni-IV missile was successfully test fired from a road-mobile launcher on Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha coast, it has strike range of-

(a) 3000 Km (b) 2500 Km (c) 4000 Km (d) 3500 Km

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2017; India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable strategic ballistic missile Agni-IV from a road-mobile launcher on Abdul Kalam Island, off Odisha coast.
- Agni-IV is a two-stage, surface-to-surface missile with the strike range of 4,000 km.
- It can carry a nuclear warhead weighing one tone.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed the missile.
- It is 20 meters long and weighs 17 tonnes.
- Both its stages are powered by solid propellants.
- The last trial conducted by the specially formed strategic force command (SFC) of Indian Army on November 9, 2015 was also successful.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Agni-IV-missile-successfully-test-fired/article16977450.ece>

Sports

TENNIS

Brisbane International- 2017

Question: Recently Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza won the 2017 Brisbane International women's doubles title with-

- (a) Martina Hingis (b) Bethanie Mattek-Sands
(c) Simona Halep (d) Jelena Jankovic

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- The 2017 Brisbane International was a tournament of the 2017 ATP World Tour and 2017 WTA Tour.
- It was played on outdoor hard courts in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.
- It was the ninth edition of the tournament and took place at the Queensland Tennis Centre in Tennyson.
- It was held from 1 to 8 January 2017 as part of the Australian Open Series.
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner : Grigor Dimitrov(Bulgaria)
- Runner Up: Kei Nishikori(Japan)
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner : Karolína Plíšková(Czech Republic)
- Runner Up: Alizé Cornet(France)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner : Thanasi Kokkinakis and Jordan Thompson(Both are of Australia)
- Runner Up: Gilles Müller(Luxembourg) and Sam Querrey(United States)
- **Women's Doubles**
- Winner : Bethanie Mattek-Sands(United States) and Sania Mirza(India)
- Runner Up: Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (Both are of Russia)

Reference:

<http://www.brisbaneinternational.com.au/draws>

<http://www.brisbaneinternational.com.au/2017/01/dimitrov-clinches-maiden-brisbane-crown>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/video/dimitrov-captures-brisbane-2017-crown>



CRICKET

Irani Cup, 2016-17

Question: Which of the following team won the Irani Cup-2016-17?

- (a) Gujarat (b) Rest of India (c) UP (d) Karnataka

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- From 20 January to 24 January 2017; Irani Cup(2016-17) was played at Cricket Club of India, Mumbai
- It was the 55th season of the Irani Cup a first-class cricket competition in India
- Winner-Rest of India (6 wickets)
- Runner-Gujarat
- Man of the Match (Final)- Wriddhiman Saha (Rest of India)
- Wriddhiman Saha scored unbeaten 203.



- Saha also became the first wicketkeeper to score a double-hundred in the Irani Cup and the first batsman to do so in the fourth innings in the competition.
- Cheteshwar Pujara was captain of the Rest of India team and Parthiv Patel was the captain of Gujarat.
- Rest of India won the Irani Cup for 26 times which is most by any team.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/z-r-irani-cup-2016-17/match/01>

<http://www.bcci.tv/news/2017/domestic-updates/15444/saha-pujara-help-rest-of-india-to-irani-cup-win>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/irani-cup-2016-17/content/story/1079220.html>

ICC Desert T20 Challenge-2017

Question: Which of the following team won the 2017 Desert T20 Challenge?

(a) Ireland (b) Hong Kong (c) Scotland (d) Afghanistan

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- The 2017 Desert T20 Challenge was an international Twenty20 International (T20I) cricket tournament that was held in Dubai and Abu Dhabi from 14 to 20 January 2017
- The eight Associate Members that have T20I status participated in the tournament.
- Papua New Guinea declined to participate and was replaced by Namibia (who does not have T20I status).
- Final- Dubai International Cricket Stadium, Dubai
- Winner-Afghanistan (10 wickets)
- Runner Up-Ireland
- Player of the Series- Mohammad Nabi (Afghanistan)
- During this tournament Mohammad Shahzad Afghanistan's wicketkeeper-batsman become the first player to score two T20I fifties on the same day.
- He scored 80 runs in the semi-final win over Oman, and 52 in finals against Ireland.
- Coach of Afghanistan cricket team is Lalchand Rajput and Captain is Asghar Stanikzai (ODI & T20I).
- Nawroz Mangal captained the team in Finals.
- Recently Nawroz Mangal declared his retirement from the cricket.



Reference:

https://twitter.com/Desert_T20

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/desert-t20-challenge/content/series/1074956.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_Desert_T20_Challenge

<http://www.indiatimes.com/sports/afghanistan-s-mohammad-shahzad-sets-new-t20-record-for-most-50s-in-an-icc-tournament-goes-past-virat-kohli-269996.html>

U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy

Question: Which of the following team won the Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy 2016-17?

(a) Bengal (b) Delhi (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- India's domestic cricket competition, the U-19 Cooch Behar Trophy 2016-17 was held from November 5, 2016 to January 22, 2017.



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

- The Final was played at the Feroz Shah Kotla Stadium, Delhi.
- Winner: Bengal
- Runner Up: Delhi
- Bengal captain : Mohammad Irfan Ansari
- Delhi captain: Jonty Sidhu.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/cooch-behar-trophy-under-19-2016-17/news/2017/domestic-updates/15424/bengal-lift-u-19-cooch-behar-trophy>
<http://www.bcci.tv/cooch-behar-trophy-under-19-2016-17/results>

Senior Women's T20 league 2017

Question: Which of the following team won the Women's T20 League, 2016-17?

(a) Delhi (b) Baroda (c) Mumbai (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- Senior Women's T20 Plate league 2016-17 was held in Nagpur.
- Final-PCA ground, Nagpur
- Winner: Delhi women's team
- Runner Up: Women's team of Baroda
- Captain of Delhi was Reema Malhotra and Baroda was captained by P. A Patel.



Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/cooch-behar-trophy-under-19-2016-17/news/2017/domestic-updates/15384/delhi-clinch-senior-womens-t20-plate-league>

HOCKEY

All India Beighton Cup

Question: Which of the following team won the All India Beighton Cup title?

(a) Indian Oil (b) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)
 (c) Punjab National Bank (d) None of the Above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- The 121st All India Beighton Cup Hockey Tournament was held between December 16-27 at SAI Centre in Salt Lake.
- It was organised by Bengal Hockey Association (BHA).
- Indian Oil won their fifth All India Beighton Cup title by edging past Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) 5-3 in the final.
- Indian Oil's Kothajit Singh was adjudged the man of the tournament.
- Bharat Petroleum, led by Sukhwinder Singh while Indian Oil was led by Deepak Thakur.



Reference:

<http://www.sportskeeda.com/general-sports/indian-oil-beat-bharat-petroleum-to-win-5th-beighton-cup-crown>
http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/indian-oil-beat-bharat-petroleum-to-win-5th-beighton-cup-crown-116122700816_1.html
<http://sportsteamofindia.com/indian-oil-wins-the-121st-all-india-beighton-cup/>

FOOTBALL

SAFF Women's Championship

Question: Which of the following country won the 2016 SAFF Women's Championship?

(a) Maldives (b) Afghanistan (c) Pakistan (d) India

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The 2016 SAFF Women's Championship was the fourth edition of the SAFF Women's Championship, the biennial international women's football championship contested by the national teams of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- The tournament began in India from 26 December 2016 and held upto 4 January 2017.
- This was the first time India had hosted the SAFF Women's Championship.
- The participating teams (7) are India (host), Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.
- Competition Results:
- Winner: India (3-1)
- Runner Up: Bangladesh
- Sabitra Bhandari of Nepal is top goal scorer in the tournament (12).
- This was India's fourth consecutive SAFF Championship title.
- The tournament saw no participation from Pakistan.



Reference:

<http://www.womenssoccerunited.com/saff-womens-championship-2016/>

<http://www.goal.com/en-india/news/136/india/2017/01/04/31150322/saff-womens-championship-2016-india-3-1-bangladesh-india-make-it->

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_SAFF_Women's_Championship

Italian Supercup-2016

Question: Who won the recently held Italian Supercup-2016?

(a) Juventus FC (b) AC Milan (c) Roma FC (d) Torento

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Supercoppa Italiana was the 29th edition of the Supercoppa Italiana, Italian football supercup.
- It was played on 23 December 2016 at Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar.
- Winner: AC Milan
- Runners Up: Juventus FC
- It is the first title of AC Milan since 2011.



Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2016/dec/23/milan-juventus-supercoppa-italiana-match-report>

<http://theworldgame.sbs.com.au/article/2016/12/24/milan-claim-supercoppa-italiana-after-shootout>

CHES

15th Parsvnath Delhi International Chess tournament-2017

Question: Who won the title of “Group-A” in recently held 15th Parsvnath Delhi International chess tournament -2017?

- (a) Sairaj Chittal (b) Diptayan Ghosh (c) Farrukh Amonatov
(d) Murali Karthikeyan

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- The 15th Parsvnath Delhi International chess tournament -2017 was held on 09-16 January 2017 in New Delhi.
- Result of the tournament:
- Group-A:
- Winner: Farrukh Amonatov of Tajikistan
- Runner Up: Diptayan Ghosh(India) and Dzhumayev Marat (Uzbekistan)
- Winner Group 'B' -Sairaj Chittal (Maharashtra)
- Winner Group 'C' -Suhaib Ahmed (UP)

Reference:

<http://ww2.delhichess.com/2017/01/16/live-games-delhi-international-open-2017/>



9th Chennai Open International Grandmaster Chess Tournament 2017

Question: Tukhaev Adam, the winner of 9th Chennai Open International Grandmaster Chess Tournament 2017 belongs to which of the following country?

- (a) Belgium (b) Russia (c) Ukraine (d) Italy

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- The 9th Chennai Open Grandmaster Chess tournament 2017 for the Sakthi Group Dr N Mahalingam Trophy was held at Nehru Stadium, Chennai.
- Ukraine Grandmaster Tukhaev Adam (8.5) won the tournament.
- The second spot was shared by top seed GM David Alberto (Ita), GM Czebe Attila (Hun), GM Malakhov Vadim (Bel) and IM Nitin S (Ind) at 8.0 points.

Reference:

<http://tamilchess.com/tukhaev-adam-of-ukraine-emerges-9th-chennai-open-2017-champion/>

<http://aicf.in/calendar/9th-chennai-open-gm-chess-tmt-2017-for-sakthi-group-dr-n-mahalingam-trophy-145912-tn-2017/>

<http://aicf.in/blog/2017/01/25/tukhaev-adam-emerges-9th-chennai-open-2017-champion/>



BADMINTON

Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold-2017

Question: Saina Nehwal became the second Indian to win Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title earlier, it was won by which of the following player?

- (a) Saina Nehwal (2011) (b) Saina Nehwal (2012)
(c) Pusarla Venkata Sindhu(2013) (d) Pusarla Venkata Sindhu(2014)

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- The 2017 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold was the first grand prix's badminton tournament of the 2017 BWF Grand Prix Gold and Grand Prix.
- The tournament was held at the Sibu Indoor Stadium in Sarawak, Malaysia from 17–22 January 2017.
- Result of the tournament:
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner: Ng Ka Long (Hong Kong)
- Runner Up: Lee Hyun-il(South Korea)
- **Women's Singles**
- Winner: Saina Nehwal (India)
- Runner Up: Fitriani(Indonesia)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner: Berry Angriawan and Hardianto(Both are of Indonesia)
- Runner Up: Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin(Both are of Malaysia)
- **Women's Doubles**
- Winner: Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai(Both are of Thailand)
- Runner Up: Poon Lok Yan and Tse Ying Suet(Both are of Hong Kong)
- **Mixed Doubles:**
- Winner: Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing(Both are of Malaysia)
- Runner Up: Goh Soon Huat and Shevon Jemie Lai(Both are of Malaysia)
- This was Saina Nehwal's 23rd title overall and the first after last year's Australian Open.
- Earlier, Pusarla Venkata Sindhu (2013) won the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title.

Reference:

<http://bwfbadminton.com/events/2646/malaysia-masters-2017>

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/2646/victor-far-east-malaysia-masters-2017/podium>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/badminton/fit-again-saina-nehwal-lifts-malaysia-masters-grand-prix-gold/articleshow/56715851.cms>



BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

Kolkata Open National Snooker Championship

Question: Who won the 3rd Kolkata Open National Invitation Snooker Championship 2017?

- (a) Brijesh Damani (b) Laxman Rawat



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

(c) Aditya Mehta (d) Pankaj Advani

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 3-8 January 2017; the 3rd Kolkata Open National Invitation Snooker Championship 2017 held in Kolkata.
- It was organised by the West Bengal Billiards Association at the Bengal Rowing Club.
- **Open Competition Results:**
- Winner-Pankaj Advani (ONGC)
- Runner Up-Aditya Mehta (IoC)
- **Pro-Am Competition Results:**
- Winner-Market Kolkata (Aditya Mehta and Ravi Goenka,)
- Runner-Natural Products (Dharminder Lilly and Sunil Saraogi)

Reference:

<http://www.cuesportsindia.com/myweb/tournament17/results/kolkataopen-proam.htm>

<http://www.cuesportsindia.com/myweb/tournament17/results/kolkataopen-main.htm>

ATHLETICS

Fifth Wipro Chennai Marathon

Question: Who won the women's full marathon title in the recently held fifth Wipro Chennai Marathon?

- (a) Simta Sharma (b) Tirfi Tsegaye (c) Jyoti Shankar Gavte
(d) Meenakshi Thakur

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 8 January 2016; the fifth Wipro Chennai Marathon was organised by the Chennai Runners Sponsor-Wipro
- Results:
- **Full marathon(42.195km)-**
- Winner of Men's category: Isaac Kemboi (02:37.39s)
- Winner of Women's category: Simta Sharma (03:34.27)
- **Half marathon(21.0975)-**
- Winner of Men's category: S. Karthik (01:09.25)
- Winner of Women's category: Geetha (01:27.39)
- **10km run-**
- Winner of Men's category: Naresh Kumar (00:32.41)
- Winner of Women's category: Kavita Tungar (00:39.58)



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/Kemboi-and-Simta-finish-on-top/article17010939.ece>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2017/jan/09/fitness-charity-go-hand-in-hand-at-this-marathon-1557544.html>

<http://www.newsnation.in/sports-news/other-sports/kenyas-isaac-kemboi-and-mumbais-simta-sharma-clinch-full-marathon-titles-in-chennai-marathon-article-157031.html>

SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

Khelo India

Question: On 15 January 2017; Khelo India National level Competitions under aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports was inaugurated. Which of following sports will be played in this competition?

- (a) Hockey, Wrestling, Swimming (b) Football, Wrestling, Cycling
(c) Wrestling, Swimming, Cycling (d) Volleyball, Swimming, Wrestling



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 15 January 2017; Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs & Sports Vijay Goel inaugurated the Khelo India National level Competitions at Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee Swimming Pool Complex, New Delhi.
- Khelo India National level Competitions under aegis of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports were organized from 15th to 21st Jan, 2017.
- This will held in Swimming, Cycling and Wrestling.
- More than 25 states/Union territories participated in the National Competitions.
- Approximately 1000 participants participated in the Khelo India National Competitions being organized by SAI.
- Entry for spectators to watch the events was free at all venues.
- The intention to conduct Khelo India Competitions was not only to promote sports at grass-root level but also to provide a platform to the budding talents to compete at national level.
- Talent identification was also done in the process for grooming them to achieve excellence at international level.
- Khelo India national level competitions will be conducted in different disciplines in January and February in 2017.
- Kabbadi, kho-kho and wushu would be held in Nellore; weightlifting, boxing and table tennis in Guwahati; athletics hand ball and hockey in Gandhi Nagar; taekwondo, volleyball and football in Chennai; badminton, gymnastics, basketball and lawn tennis in Hyderabad and archery and Judo in Jaipur.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157345>

Senior National weightlifting championship

Question: Who won the title of men's and women's senior National weightlifting championship respectively?

- (a) Jaypreet Singh and Monica (b) Vipin Kumar and PM Kanchan
(c) Sivalingam Sathish and S. Mirabai Chanu (d) None of the above



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- The 69th men's and the 32nd women's senior National weightlifting championship held at the Ponjesly Engineering College, Tamil Nadu.
- The State last hosted the senior Nationals in Chennai in 1996.
- Men's National weightlifting championship-
- Winner :Services men (621 points)
- Runner Up: Railways (615)
- Women's National weightlifting championship-
- Winner: Railways women (544)
- Runner up: Andhra Pradesh (429)

- Inter-state team championship:
- Winner: Maharashtra (159 points)
- Runner Up: Tamil Nadu (141)
- Best lifter(Men): Sivalingam Sathish
- Best lifter(Women): S. Mirabai Chanu

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/Services-and-Railways-lifters-reign-supreme/article16966567.ece>

<http://www.sportstarlive.com/other-sports/national-weightlifting-services-and-railways-reign-supreme/article9451544.ece>

http://www.sportstarlive.com/other-sports/senior-nationals-from-today/article9443430.ece?hbt=cm&utm_source=cheetahMobileApp&utm_medium=Referral&utm_campaign

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Younis Khan

Question: Who became the first player in the history of Test cricket to score centuries in 11 countries?

(a) Azhar Ali (b) Hashim Amla (c) Younis Khan (d) Steve Smith

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- Younis Khan became the first player in the history of Test cricket to score centuries in 11 countries, including the United Arab Emirates.
- The 39-year-old Pakistani smashed his 34th century at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Australia.
- With this he joined the list of players who made 34 century namely Sunil Gavaskar, Mahela Jayawardene and Brian Lara at 6th place.
- Rahul Dravid and Younis are only two players with centuries in all ten Full Member nations (excluding the UAE).
- It should be known that Dravid never played in the UAE, Mohammad Yousuf,, Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene also had centuries in ten countries.
- Sachin Tendulkar holds the world record for most centuries (51 century) in Test cricket.

Reference:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2017/01/05/pakistans-younus-khan-becomes-first-batsman-score-test-hundreds/>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1306567>

<http://www.espnricricinfo.com/australia-v-pakistan-2016-17/content/story/1075647.html>



Rachael Heyhoe Flint

Question: Recently Rachael Heyhoe Flint, the former England women's cricket captain passed away, she played her first ODI against which of the following team?

(a) Jamaica Women (b) Australia Women (c) International XI
(d) New Zealand Women

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017 Rachael Heyhoe Flint, the former England women's cricket captain, has died aged 77.



- Heyhoe Flint was captain when her team won the inaugural 1973 Women's Cricket World Cup.
- She also hit the first six in a women's Test match in 1963, also at the Oval against Australia.
- She was best known for being captain of England from 1966 to 1978.
- She was one of the first ten women admitted to the MCC in 1999.
- In 2004, she was the first woman elected to the full committee of the MCC and latterly became a Trustee.
- In October 2010 was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, the first woman to achieve this accolade.
- Rachel played 22 Tests (1594 runs) and 23 ODIs (643 runs) for England.
- She played first Test against Africa (1960) and the first one-day against international XI (1973).

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-birmingham-38664893>

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/england/content/player/53887.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachael_Heyhoe_Flint,_Baroness_Heyhoe_Flint

Kapil Dev

Question: Recently who was inducted into Legends Club 'Hall of Fame' at the Cricket Club of India?

(a) Vijay Merchant (b) Vinoo Mankad (c) Vijay Hazare (d) Kapil Dev

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- On 17 January 2017 Cricket icon Kapil Dev was inducted into Legends Club 'Hall of Fame' in presence of former India captains Ajit Wadekar, Sunil Gavaskar and Nari Contractor at the Cricket Club of India.
- Kapil led India to the emphatic World Cup victory in 1983, is considered as the country's greatest all-rounder.
- He was the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket.
- He was already inducted into the club's Hall of Fame on July 11, 2013.
- He is the first Indian to take 400 Test wickets.
- Nari Contractor is the only non-cricketer inducted in Cricket Club of India.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/kapil-dev-inducted-into-legends-club-hall-of-fame/articleshow/56630909.cms>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kapil-dev-sunil-gavaskar-nari-contractor-madhav-apte-legends-club-hall-of-fame-cricket-club-of-india/1/859940.html>



Shakib Al Hasan

Question: Name the Bangladeshi cricket player who recently struck the highest individual score for Bangladesh and combined with Mushfiquir Rahim in a record partnership on the second day of the first Test against New Zealand?

(a) Tamim Iqbal (b) Shakib Al Hasan (c) Imrul Kaium (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 13 January 2017; Shakib Al Hasan struck 217 runs, the highest individual score for Bangladesh and combined with Mushfiquir Rahim in a record partnership on the second day of the first Test against New



Zealand at Wellington (Basin Reserve).

- They scored a 359-run for fifth-wicket partnership.
- This is the highest partnership for any wicket for Bangladesh.
- The previous highest partnership for any wicket for Bangladesh was the 312 by Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes for the first wicket against Pakistan at Khulna in April, 2015.
- Shakib and Mushfiquir's partnership was also the fourth highest fifth-wicket stand by anyone in Test history, the fourth highest for any wicket against the Kiwis, and the third highest in the Basin Reserve's 87 years as a Test venue.

Reference:

<http://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/records-galore-for-bangladesh-shakib-al-hasan-mushfiquir-rahim-566385>

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/38609122>

Virat Kohli

Question: Name the Smartphone maker which has signed Indian Cricket Captain Virat Kohli as their new brand ambassador?

(a) Nokia (b) Gionee (c) Samsung (d) HTC

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 9 January 2016 Gionee has signed Indian Cricket Captain Virat Kohli as their new brand ambassador.
- Chinese Smartphone maker Gionee had \$1.4 billion (₹9,500 crore) of revenue in India in 2016.
- The announcement of Kohli's appointment was made alongside the announcement of Gionee clocking 1.2 crore customers in India.
- Arvind R Vohra is currently CEO & MD of Gionee India.



Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/advertising/gionee-signs-up-virat-kohli-as-brand-ambassador/articleshow/56423739.cms>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/off-the-field/gionee-signs-virat-kohli-as-brand-ambassador/articleshow/56423478.cms>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/gionee-signs-virat-kohli-as-brand-ambassador-117010900936_1.html

David Warner

Question: Recently who become the fifth batsmen in the history of Test cricket to score a hundred before Lunch on Day 1 of Test?

(a) Matt Renshaw (b) David Warner (c) Usman Khawaja (d) Steve Smith

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- David Warner became the first cricketer to score a century before Lunch on Day 1 of Test in Australia.
- He made a 100 off just 78 balls against Pakistan in the third Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.



- Also. Warner becomes the fifth and fourth Australian batsmen in the history of Test cricket to score a hundred before Lunch on Day 1.
- Other four who have achieved this feat are:
 1. Victor Trumper (1902) against England (Manchester)
 2. Charles Macartney (1926) against England (Leeds)
 3. Don Bradman (1930) against England (Leeds)
 4. Majid Khan (1976) against New Zealand (Karachi)

Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2017/jan/03/david-warner-smashes-century-before-lunch-at-the-scg-third-test>
<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/australia-vs-pakistan-3rd-test-david-warner-becomes-first-to-score-hundred-before-lunch-in-australia-4456535/>
<http://www.cricket.com.au/news/david-warner-innings-day-one-scg-sydney-third-test-australia-pakistan-video-highlights/2017-01-03>

Short Notes

PERSONALITIES

Dr. Vijay Bhatkar

Question: Recently Dr. Vijay Bhatkar was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of which of the following university?

- (a) Nalanda University (b) Banaras Hindu University
 (c) Rajiv Gandhi Proudयोगiki Vishwavidyalaya (d) None of the above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 25 January 2017; President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed Dr Vijay Bhatkar Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir, in Bihar.
- Dr. Bhatkar will hold the office for a term of three years from the date of his appointment as provided under Section 11 (3) of the Nalanda University Act.
- Dr Vijay Bhatkar is one of the most acclaimed scientists and IT leaders of India. He is best known as the architect of India's first supercomputer and as the founder Executive Director of C-DAC, India's national initiative in supercomputing.
- He is credited with the creation of several national institutions, notably amongst them being C-DAC, ER&DC, IIITM-K, I2IT, ETH Research Lab, MKCL and India International Multiversity.
- Dr Bhatkar has authored and edited 12 books and 80 research & technical papers.
- Bhatkar received the Padma Bhushan Award in the area of Science and Technology by the Honourable President of India at ceremonial function held on April 8, 2015 at Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- He also received the Padmashri Award in 2000 from the Government of India and the Maharashtra Bhushan Award of 1999-2000, the highest recognition of the Government of Maharashtra.
- Established in November 2010 as a Central University, Nalanda University is spread over a 443-acres campus and started offering academic programmes in 2014.



Reference:

<http://www.nalandauniv.edu.in/news-and-events/updates/dr-vijay-bhatkar-appointed-chancellor/>

New Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, United States

Question: Recently who has been appointed as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, United States of America?

(a) Ajit Pai (b) Nikki Haley (c) Mike Pompeo (d) Mike Pence

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 23 January 2017; American Senate appointed Mike Pompeo as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.
- 66 senators backed Pompeo and 32 voted against.
- Pompeo was sworn in by US Vice President Mike Pence.
- Previously, he was the US Representative for Kansas's 4th congressional district from 2011 to 2017.
- He is a member of the Tea Party movement within the Republican Party.
- He replaced John Brennan who retired on 20 January 2017.
- The Central Intelligence Agency was formed on 18 September 1947.

Reference:

<https://greatagain.gov/president-elect-donald-j-3e652b8d0d07#.nlpi00zhx>

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/50/3036>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/mike-pompeo-is-confirmed-as-donald-trumps-cia-director-1485220999>



Anshu Sinha

Question: On 24 January 2017 Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Anshu Sinha to the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (JS level), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), headquarter of KVIC is located at-

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Anshu Sinha to the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (JS level), Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC).
- He will replace Arun Kuma Jha.
- He has been appointed for a period upto 29.01.2019.
- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is a statutory body formed by the Government of India, under the Act of Parliament, 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956'.
- It is an apex organization under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- Its head office is based in Mumbai.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157638>

<http://www.kvic.org.in/kvicres/aboutkvic.html>



Naqsh Lyallpuri

Question: Recently Naqsh Lyallpuri passed away, He was a-

(a) Hindi poet (b) Urdu poet (c) Urdu poet and lyricist (d) Painter

Ans:(b)

Related facts:



- On 22 January 2017; Renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri passed away. He was 88.
- He was born on 24 February 1928 in Lallpur in the part of Punjab now in Pakistan.
- His real name is Jaswant Rai Sharma, known to the world by his pen name Naqsh Lyallpuri.
- He got his first ever break in the 1952 film 'Jaggu' where he gave lyrics to the song "Agar Teri Aakhon Se Aakhein Mila Doon".
- He worked for films like "Chetna", "Aahista Aahista", "Tumhare Liye" and "Gharonda" amongst many others.

Reference:

http://bhasha.ptinews.com/news/1538711_bhasha

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/urdu-poet-lyricist-jaswant-rai-sharma-aka-naqsh-lyallpuri-dead-4486367/>

Mario Soares

Question: Recently Mário Soares passed away; he was the president of which of the following country?

(a) Argentina (b) Portugal (c) Brazil (d) Venezuela

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 7 January 2017 Mario Soares, Portugal's former president and prime minister passed away. He was 92.
- He was the founder of Socialist Party of Portugal.
- He served as Prime Minister of Portugal from 1976 to 1978 and from 1983 to 1985, and subsequently as the 17th President of Portugal from 1986 to 1996.
- He was widely regarded as the father of the Portugal democracy.



Reference:

<http://www.euronews.com/2017/01/08/portugal-mourns-father-of-liberty-and-democracy-mario-soares>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/07/mario-soares-former-prime-minister-of-portugal-dies-aged-92>

<http://www.politico.eu/article/portugal-mourns-father-of-democracy-mario-soares/>

Adama Barrow

Question: Recently Adama Barrow sworn in as president of which of the following country?

(a) Ghana (b) Gambia (c) Guyana (d) Kenya

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 January 2017 Adama Barrow, the member of the United Democratic Party (UDP) sworn in as the 3rd President of the Gambia.
- He will replace Yahya Jammeh.
- Troops from a bloc of West African countries have entered Gambia in support of Adama Barrow.
- United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution backing Barrow and called for a peaceful transfer of power.
- Longtime ruler Yahya Jammeh has refused to step down despite losing a disputed December 1 presidential election to Barrow, deepening a political crisis.



Reference:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/gambia-president-adama-barrow-takes-oath-senegal-170119170745954.html>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-38185428>
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/19/new-gambian-leader-adama-barrow-sworn-in-at-ceremony-in-senegal>

New Chairman of Tata Sons

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new Chairman Tata Sons?

- (a) N. Chandrasekaran (b) Venu Srinivasan (c) Amit Chandra
(d) Kumar Bhattacharya

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- On 12 January 2017 Tata Sons named Natarajan Chandrasekaran as its new chairman.
- He will take the helm of the group from February 21, 2017.
- He will replace Cyrus Mistry.
- It may be recalled that in a sudden decision, Tata Sons on October 24, 2016 replaced Mr. Mistry as chairman and named Mr. Ratan Tata as interim Chairman.
- Tata Sons constituted a selection committee comprising Mr. Ratan Tata, Mr. Venu Srinivasan, Mr. Amit Chandra, Mr. Ronen Sen and Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya to select a new chairman.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/TCS-Chandrasekaran-named-Tata-Sons-Chairman/article17029247.ece>
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/naazneenkarmali/2017/01/12/tata-chooses-marathon-man-n-chandrasekaran-as-next-chairman/#1ce867a414c8>

Clare Hollingworth

Question: Recently Clare Hollingworth passed away, she was a-

- (a) Journalist (b) Astronomer (c) Actress (d) Environmentalist

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- On 10 January 2017 Clare Hollingworth, an English journalist and author passed away. He was 105 years old.
- She was the first war correspondent to report the outbreak of World War II,
- The report was described as “the scoop of the century”.
- She was the first to report the German invasion of Poland.
- She worked as a reporter for The Daily Telegraph and New Statesman.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-13960347>
<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/10/us/clare-hollingworth-obituary/>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clare_Hollingworth

45th President of the US to swear-in at 58th presidential inauguration ceremony

Question: Who was the first president of the USA?

- (a) George Washington (b) Franklin Roosevelt (c) Brooker T Washington
(d) George Bush Sr.

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- President-elect Donald Trump will swear- in as the 45th President of the US on 20th January, 2017. This will be the 58th formal presidential inaugural ceremony since 1789.
- In all, US Presidents have been sworn into office 70 times – usually in public, sometimes in private following the death or resignation of a President, or because Inauguration Day fell on a Sunday.
- The Senate and House of Representatives then appointed members to create the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies on February 5, 1901. Since then, all Inaugural Ceremonies at the US Capitol have been organized by the JCCIC.
- The military also plays a role with the Joint Task Force-National Capital Region, which coordinates all military participation and support for the Inaugural Ceremonies.
- Although the US Constitution specified the oath to be taken by the President, the Framers of the Constitution provided that Congress would determine when and where the inauguration would take place.
- America's interest in inauguration has grown over the decades. By late 1820s, what had typically been a small, indoor ceremony moved outdoors, allowing more people to witness this important event first hand.
- By the end of the 19th century, the Presidential Inauguration had evolved into an elaborate day-long event, marked by parades, fireworks, luncheons, and glamorous Inaugural Balls.
- Approximately 200 guests including members of their families, the Supreme Court, Cabinet designees, and members of Congressional leadership are expected to attend the event in Statuary Hall.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8311677_Trump-s-swearing-in-at-58th-presidential-inauguration-ceremony-.html

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-38668834>



Professor C.V. Vishveshwara

Question: Recently Professor C.V. Vishveshwara passed away, he was a-

- (a) Scientist (b) Singer (c) Journalist (d) None of the above

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 17 January 2017: Indian veteran scientist C.V. Vishveshwara who is known as a pioneer in Black holes research in India passed away late on Monday. He was 78.
- He is also known as the 'Black Hole Man of India'.
- In the 1970s, while at University of Maryland, he was among the first to study "black holes" even before they had been so named.



- He made an important calculation that was used in the discovery of gravitational waves by LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory) detectors in 2015, from the merger of black holes.
- Prof. Vishveshwara was the founding director of the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/C.V.-Vishveshwara-the-%E2%80%99black-hole-man-of-India%E2%80%99-is-no-more/article17049343.ece>
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/black-hole-man-of-india-c-v-vishveshwara-dead/articleshow/56627342.cms>
<http://www.newsnation.in/science-news/cv-vishveshwara-known-as-pioneer-in-black-hole-research-passes-away-at-78-article-158152.html>

Antonio Tajani

Question: Recently Antonio Tajani has been elected the new president of the European Parliament; he belongs to which of the following country?

Portugal (b) Italy (c) US (d) Germany

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 17 January 2017; Antonio Tajani has been elected the new president of the European Parliament.
- Antonio Tajani is an Italian politician.
- He will take over from Germany's Martin Schulz.
- Earlier, he was one of the 14 vice presidents of European Parliament.
- He also served as president of the European Commission.

Reference:

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170113IPR58026/antonio-tajani-elected-new-president-of-the-european-parliament>
http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/2187/ANTONIO_TAJANI_cv.html
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-38656248>



(a)

Eugene A. Cernan

Question: Eugene A. Cernan, a famous astronaut passed away, he belongs to which of the following country?

(a) Russia (b) Japan (c) US (d) United Kingdom

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017 Eugene A. Cernan, famous American astronaut passed away. He was 82.
- He was the last astronaut to leave his footprints on the surface of the moon.



- Eugene A. Cernan was the commander of the Apollo 17 lunar-landing mission in 1972.
- Earlier, he had been in space in 1969 and 1966.

Reference:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/16/us/eugene-cernan-dies/>

<https://www.jsc.nasa.gov/Bios/htmlbios/cernan-ea.html>

Gita Sen

Question: Recently Gita Sen passed away, She was a-

(a) Tabla player (b) Kathakali dancer (c) Actress (d) Violinist

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017 Veteran film and stage actor Gita Sen passed away. She was 86.
- She was born on 30 October 1930.
- She was the wife of film maker Mrinal Sen.
- She had acted in several films including Kolkata 71 (1971) and Akaler Sandhane (1980)



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/gita-sen-passes-away/1/859080.html>

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0784005/>

New CBI Director

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new CBI Director?

(a) Alok Kumar Verma (b) Rakesh Asthana (c) A. P Singh (d) None

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19 January 2017; appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Alok Kumar Verma as the new CBI Director.
- His appointment will be for a period of two years from the date of assumption of charge of his office.
- Alok Kumar Verma, currently Delhi Police commissioner.
- He is a 1979 batch Indian Police Service officer of the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre.
- He has been selected by three-member selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar and Congress leader in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge as members.
- At present, Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana is the interim director of the investigating agency.



Reference:

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

Surjit Singh Barnala

Question: Recently Surjit Singh Barnala passed away, he was the former chief minister of which of the following state?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 14 January 2016; Former Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala passed away. He was 91.
- He was born on October 21, 1925 in Ateli village in Gurgaon district of Haryana.
- He served as Chief Minister from 1985 to 1987.
- He was also a former Governor of Tamilnadu, Uttarakhand and Andhra Pradesh besides being Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- In 1996, Barnala authored a book Story of an Escape and in December 2007 he authored book titled My Other Two Daughters.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Surjit-Singh-Barnala-passes-away/article17040243.ece>

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

Rajesh Gopinathan

Question: Recently Rajesh Gopinathan has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of which of the following company?

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

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 12 January 2017; Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), a leading IT services, consulting and business solutions firm has been appointed Rajesh Gopinathan as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director.
- He takes over from Mr. N Chandrasekaran who has been appointed as the Chairman of Tata Sons Ltd, effective February 21, 2017.
- Rajesh Gopinathan started his professional career with Tata Consultancy Services in 2001
- He was appointed as Chief Financial Officer of the Company in February 2013.
- Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organization that delivers real results to global business.
- Tata Consultancy Service Limited was founded in 1968 by J.R.D. Tata and F.C. Kohli.



Reference:

http://www.tcs.com/news_events/press_releases/Pages/Rajesh-Gopinathan-appointed-Chief-Executive-Officer.aspx

New Vice Chief of Army Staff

Question: Who among the below has been appointed as new Vice Chief of Army Staff recently?

(a) Lieutenant General Sarath Chand (b) General Bipin Rawat
(c) Lieutenant General A K Bhatt (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)



- On 13th January, 2017 Lieutenant General Sarath Chand took over as Vice Chief of Army Staff and paid homage at Amar Jawan Jyoti.
- Before taking over as Vice Chief of Army Staff, he was commanding South Western Command.
- The General Officer was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in June 1979. During career spanning over 38 years, he has served in all operational theatres and has participated in many active combat leadership roles at every stage of command.
- He actively participated in Operation PAWAN as part of the IPKF in Sri Lanka. He commanded battalion in Operation RHINO and Operation FALCON.
- The General Officer has served at the United Nations Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM-II).
- He will head the General Staff Branch at the Army Headquarters in his capacity as Vice Chief and will provide crucial support to the Army Chief in discharge of his duties.
- He will be responsible for ensuring the operational effectiveness of the Army by directly overseeing the functioning of the military operations, intelligence and logistics directorates. He will coordinate and facilitate decision making on critical issues involving multiple stakeholders within and outside Army.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157332>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/lt-general-sarath-chand-appointed-new-vice-chief-of-army-staff/>

Roman Herzog

Question: Recently Roman Herzog passed away, he was the former president of which of the following country?

(a) Japan (b) Italy (c) Germany (d) Canada

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 10 January 2017; Former German President Roman Herzog passed away. He was 82.
- He was president from 1994 to 1999.
- He was the first German President to be elected into office following Germany's reunification.
- He was also the judge at Germany's Constitutional Court, serving from 1983 to 1987.

Reference:

<http://www.dw.com/en/former-german-president-roman-herzog-dies/a-37072019>

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2017/01/10/former-german-president-roman-herzog-dies/96383574/>

Dr. Ausaf Sayeed

Question: Dr. Ausaf Sayeed has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which of the following country?

(a) Australia (b) Sri Lanka (c) Seychelles (d) Bangladesh

Ans: (c)

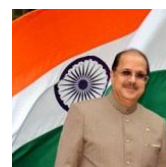
Related facts:

- On 10 January 2017 Ausaf Sayeed has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles.
- He is a 1989 batch IFS officer.
- Presently he is Consul General at Consulate General of India, Chicago.

Reference:

[http://mea.gov.in/press-](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/27921/Dr_Ausaf_Sayeed_appointed_as_the_next_High_Commissioner_o)

[releases.htm?dtl/27921/Dr_Ausaf_Sayeed_appointed_as_the_next_High_Commissioner_o](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/27921/Dr_Ausaf_Sayeed_appointed_as_the_next_High_Commissioner_o)



Amitabh Bachchan

Question: Amitabh Bachchan was given an award by the US Embassy in appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the US-India partnership on –

(a) Polio (b) T.B (c) Bird flu (d) Chicken Pox

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 8 January 2017; Amitabh Bachchan was given an award by the US Embassy in appreciation for his invaluable contributions to the US-India partnership on tuberculosis.
- The award was presented to Amitabh Bachchan by the US Ambassador to India Richard R. Verma.
- Amitabh Bachchan is also a tuberculosis survivor and brand ambassador for the initiative.



Reference:

<https://in.usembassy.gov/amitabh-bachchan-ambassador-richard-verma-go-live-talk-tb/>
<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/amitabh-bachchan-tuberculosis-us-embassy-award-tb-video-pics-4466151/>

Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

Question: Recently Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani passed away; he was former president of which of the following Islamic country?

(a) Bahrain (b) Iran (c) Iraq (d) Yemen

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 8 January 2017; former president of Iran, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died at the age of 82.
- He was a founding father of the Iranian revolution.
- He served as the country's president between 1989 and 1997.
- He was speaker in the Majlis (Iran's parliament) from 1980 to 1989.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-22494982>
<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/09/middleeast/rafsanjani-profile/>
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/obituaries/2017/01/08/ali-akbar-hashemi-rafsanjani-former-president-iran-obituary/>

Prof. Gangmumei Kamei

Question: Recently Prof. Gangmumei Kamei passed away; he was related to which of the following Indian state?

(a) Assam (b) Tripura (c) Manipur (d) West Bengal

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 5 January 2017; Manipur's distinguished academician-turned-politician Prof. Gangmumei Kamei, who was a member of North Eastern Council (NEC), passed away. He was 77.
- He was a Professor of History, Manipur University (MU).
- He was born in Imphal, Manipur on 21st October, 1939.



- In 2015 Prof. Gangmumei Kamei had been appointed as members of the North Eastern Council (NEC), the nodal agency for economic and social development of eight north eastern states.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156152>

<http://www.easternmirrornagaland.com/nec-member-prof-gangmumei-kamei-passes-away-at-77/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/chandra-kanta-das-gangmumei-kamei-appointed-nec-members-115070100888_1.html

Amitabh Bachchan honoured by US Embassy

Question: The World Health Organisation has set up target of reducing new TB cases by 2030 by

(a) 80% (b) 50% (c) 90% (d) 100%

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured by the US Embassy to acknowledge his immense contribution to the India-US ties on tuberculosis.
- The award was presented on January 8 by US Ambassador to India Richard R Verma to the 74-year-old actor, who himself is a TB survivor and brand ambassador for the cause.
- After receiving the award, Bachchan went live on Facebook with Verma to discuss the cooperation between the two nations to spread awareness about the much-feared disease.
- The US ambassador also said that the US government has been working with the Indian government for over 20 years on tuberculosis.
- Over USD 100 million have been invested and over 15 million people have been treated with US assistance.
- It is notable that The World Health Organisation has set up target of reducing new TB cases by 2030 by 80%.



Reference:

[http://ddinews.gov.in/Home%20-](http://ddinews.gov.in/Home%20-%20Other%20Stories/Pages/AmitabhBachchanhonouredbyUSEmbassyforTBawareness.aspx)

[%20Other%20Stories/Pages/AmitabhBachchanhonouredbyUSEmbassyforTBawareness.aspx](http://ddinews.gov.in/Home%20-%20Other%20Stories/Pages/AmitabhBachchanhonouredbyUSEmbassyforTBawareness.aspx)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ Amitabh-bachchan-honoured-by-us-embassy-for-tb-awareness/1/852973.html>

<http://www.who.int/tb/strategy/en/>

Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan

Question: Recently Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan passed away, He was a-

(a) Table player (b) Sitar player (c) Clarinet player (d) Santoor Palyer

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2017; renowned sitar player Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan passed away. He was 88.
- He was born in 1927, in jaora, Madhya Pradesh.
- He was the last survivor of the 'Sitar Trinity' of India along with the late Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan.
- He hailed from the Indore Gharana and is credited for innovating the unique music style of 'Jafferkhani Baaj'.



- He played the sitar for various Bollywood films, including “Mughal-E-Azam”, “Kohinoor”, “Goonj Uthi Shehnai” and “Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje”, among many others.
- In 1976, Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan created the Halim Academy of Sitar in Mumbai, India.
- He received the national awards Padma Shri (1970) and Padma Bhushan (2006) and was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 1987.

Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/sitar-maestro-abdul-halim-jaffer-khan-dead-at-88-1645133>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/a-musicians-musician-abdul-halim-jaffer-khan-death-sitar-maestro-indian-music-system-4460914/>

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

Raheel Sharif

Question: Recently former Pakistan army chief General (retd) Raheel Sharif was made the chief of 39-nation Islamic military coalition formed to combat terrorism. This military coalition is led by which of the following country?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 6 January 2016; General Raheel Sharif, the former Pakistani army chief, will now head the Saudi Arabia-led 39-nation military coalition formed to serve as a platform for security cooperation and combat terrorism.
- In 2015 there were 34 countries in the alliance which has risen to 39.
- The countries include Turkey, UAE, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Sudan, Malaysia, Egypt, Yemen and others.
- The Joint Command Centre, headquarters of the military alliance, is located in Riyadh.



Reference:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1306798>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/jan/08/former-pakistan-army-chief-raheel-sharif-lead-muslim-nato>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/pakistans-ex-army-chief-joins-saudi-arabia-led-military-coalition/articleshow/56391182.cms>

New president of the Rockefeller Foundation

Question: Who has been appointed as the new president of the Rockefeller Foundation?

(a) Rajiv J. Shah (b) Raj Shah (c) Nikki Haley (d) Preet Bharara

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 January 2017; Rajiv Shah, who headed the US government’s foreign aid operations, has been appointed the head of the Rockefeller Foundation, a multi-billion dollar private global charity with programmes in India.
- Shah, who is a medical doctor and was the administrator of USAID, to be its next president.
- He will take over the job from Judith Rodin in March.
- He will be the youngest person and the first Indian-American to lead the organisation.



Reference:

<https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/about-us/news-media/rockefeller-foundation-names-dr-rajiv-shah-next-president/>

Air Marshal Sanjay Sharma

Question: Recently who takes over as Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance at Air Headquarters?

- (a) Air Marshal Nirupam Sharma (b) Air Marshal Sanjay Sharma
(c) Air Marshal Dinesh Pathak (d) Air Marshal Dilip Singh

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- Air Marshal Sanjay Sharma assumed the responsibilities of Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance at Air Headquarters, New Delhi on 01 January 2017.
- The Air Marshal was commissioned in the Aeronautical Engineering (Electronics) branch of IAF on 12 July 1979.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156110>



Veteran actor Om Puri passed away

Question: For which of the film below Om Puri was awarded the National Film Award for Best Actor?

- (a) Ardh satya (b) Jane bhi do Yaron (c) Agneepath (d) Dhoop

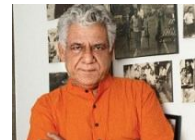
Ans:(a)

- Veteran actor Om Puri passed away on 6th January, 2017. He was 66.
- He was born on October 18, 1950 in Ambala (Haryana).
- Puri, a graduate of Film and Television Institute of India, Pune was also an alumnus of the 1973 class of National School of Drama.
- Puri made his film debut in 1976 Marathi film Ghashiram Kotwal which was based on a play by Vijay Tendulkar.
- Some of his most notable films include Sandgate, Ardh Satya, Mirch Masala, Dharavi, Maachis, Gupt, Dhoop, Yuva, Don, Agneepath, Bajrangi Bhaijaan and others.
- He earned international fame through British films such as My Son the Fanatic, The Parole Officer and East Is East for which he was also nominated for BAFTA Award for Best Actor.
- Puri also appeared in Hollywood films such as City of Joy, Wolf, The Ghost and the Darkness.
- Puri was awarded Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award of India, in 1990; and was made an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2004.
- He received National film Award for Best Actor for Aarohan in 1981 and for Ardh satya in 1983.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/Veteran-actor-Om-Puri-passes-away/article16997790.ece>

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



New managing director of IBM India

Question: Who has been appointed as managing director of IBM India?

- (a) G Mahalingam (b) Karan Bajwa (c) Vanitha Narayanan (d) Dinesh Kumar

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2016; Technology giant IBM has appointed Karan Bajwa



Managing Director of its India operations.

- He succeeds Vanitha Narayana, who has been elevated as Chairman of IBM India.
- Bajwa joined IBM last year as Executive for Strategy and Transformation in the Asia—Pacific region.
- Previously, he was Microsoft India's managing director.
- He was associated with IBM's networking business and was based in Singapore in 2001—05.

Related facts:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/IBM-India-names-Karan-Bajwa-as-MD/article16986859.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/hardware/ibm-india-names-karan-bajwa-as-md/articleshow/56328074.cms>

New chairman of the board of directors of Tata Power

Question: Recently who has been nominated as chairman of the board of directors of Tata Power?

(a) Karan Bajwa (b) Ashok S. Sethi (c) Ashok K. Basu (d) S Padmanabhan

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2016; Tata Power Company has appointed S Padmanabhan as the chairman of the company.
- Presently S Padmanabhan was additional director on the company's board.
- Prior to joining the Tata Power board, he was the Executive Chairman, Tata Business Excellence Group (TBExG), and was recently given the additional responsibility as Head of Group HR for Tata Sons.
- Padmanabhan has been associated with the Tata group for over 34 years.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/S.-Padmanabhan-nominated-as-Chairman-of-Tata-Power/article16986843.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/s-padmanabhan-nominated-as-chairman-of-tata-power/articleshow/56327783.cms>

New Executive Director (ED) of RBI

Question: Recently who has been appointed as Executive Director (ED) by Reserve Bank of India?

(a) M. Rajeshwar Rao (b) G Mahalingam
(c) U.S. Paliwal (d) Surekha Marandi

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 31 December 2016 Reserve Bank of India has appointed Surekha Marandi as Executive Director (ED).
- She succeeds U.S. Paliwal who retired on December 31, 2016.
- Marandi took charge on January 2, 2017.
- As Executive Director Marandi will look after Consumer Education and Protection Department, Financial Inclusion and Development Department and Secretary's Department.
- She has also served on the Boards of United Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.



Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=39135

New Chairman of Union Public Service Commission

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the chairman of Union Public Service Commission?

(a) Deepak Gupta (b) Prof. David R. Syiemlieh (c) Amar Pratap Singh
(d) Alka Sirohi

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2016 President has appointed Prof. David R. Syiemlieh, Member, Union Public Service Commission, to perform the duties of the post of Chairman, Union Public Service Commission.
- He has been appointed with effect from the forenoon of January 4, 2017 till further orders or till completion of his term as member on 21.01.2018, whichever is earlier.
- He will take over from Alka Sirohi, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156057>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/david-r-syiemlieh-appointed-new-upsc-chairman/1/848038.html>

Anurag Thakur and Ajay Shirke

Question: Recently the Supreme Court of India directed the removal of the board president Anurag Thakur and secretary Ajay Shirke from office with immediate effect for not implementing the recommendation of which of the following committee?

(a) Katju committee (b) Lodha Committee
(c) Nariman committee (d) Subramaniam committee

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- The Supreme Court of India in a landmark order, directed the removal of the board president Anurag Thakur and secretary Ajay Shirke from office with immediate effect.
- The order came because the board had resisted implementing the majority of the committee's recommendations despite being told to do so by a Supreme Court order on July 18.
- Court has ordered that the most senior vice-president of the BCCI would perform the duties of president in the interim, and the joint secretary – Amitabh Chaudhary – will perform the secretary's role.
- Committee of administrators would be appointed on January 19 to supervise the functioning of the BCCI through its chief executive officer.
- Fali Nariman, who was former Solicitor General of India, along with Gopal Subramaniam was asked by Supreme Court to assist in selecting an observer for BCCI.



Reference:

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/after-anurag-thakur-s-ouster-sc-brings-in-new-face-to-pick-observer-for-bcci/story-29ZHhk87L4muM1J5rdT9KI.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/justice-rm-lodha-bcci-lodha-panel-anurag-thakur-supreme-court/1/847468.html>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/india/content/story/1075059.html>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/after-anurag-thakur-s-ouster-sc-brings-in-new-face-to-pick-observer-for-bcci/story-29ZHhk87L4muM1J5rdT9KI.html>

John Berger

Question: Recently John Berger passed away, he was a-

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

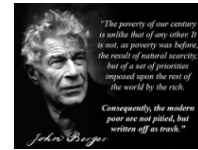
Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2016 John Berger, the Booker-prize-winning novelist and visionary writer passed away at the age of 90.
- He won the Booker Prize in 1972 for his novel G.
- Some of his important novels are "A Painter of Our Time", "The Foot of Clive", "From A to X".

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-38492516>



Vice Chief of the Air Staff of Indian Air Force

Question: Who has been appointed as Vice Chief of the Air Staff of Indian Air Force?

(a) Air Marshal SB Deo (b) Air Marshal C Harikumar
(c) Air Marshal Dinesh Chandra (d) Air Marshal S V Lal

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2016; Air Marshal SB Deo PVSM AVSM VM VSM ADC took over as Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) at Air HQ.
- Air Marshal SB Deo was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the IAF on 15 Jun 1979.
- He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Prior to taking over as VCAS, he was the AOC-in-C of Western Air Command (WAC).



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156062>

<http://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/india/air-marshal-deo-takes-charge-as-vice-chief-of-iaf-1.1624847>

Ratnasiri Wickremanayake

Question: Recently Ratnasiri Wickremanayake passed away, He was the former prime minister of which of the following country?

(a) Malaysia (b) Suriname (c) Sri Lanka (d) Cambodia

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016 Veteran Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake passed away. He was 83.
- He served twice as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, first from 2000 to 2001 and then from 2005 to 2010, was one time general secretary of Sri Lanka Freedom party (SLFP).

Reference:

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_16B/Dec27_1482847217CH.php

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/article16949799.ece>

<http://www.sundaytimes.lk/article/1013624/president-other-take-to-twitter-to-condole-ratnasiri-wickremanayake-s-demise>



New Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu and Kashmir

Question: Recently who has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu and Kashmir?

- (a) K. Rajendra (b) Anil Vyas (c) Shesh Pal Vaid
(d) Mandeep Kumar Bhandari

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016 senior Indian Police Services (IPS) officer Shesh Pal Vaid as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Jammu and Kashmir.
- He will replace K Rajendra Kumar, whose three-month extension in services came to an end on December 31, 2016.
- Shesh Pal Vaid, an IPS officer of 1986 batch of Jammu and Kashmir cadre

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/S.P.-Vaid-to-be-JK%E2%80%99s-new-Director-General-of-Police/article16955159.ece>



Carrie Fisher

Question: Recently Carrie Fisher passed away, she is-

- (a) Astronaut (b) Actress (c) Literaturev (d) Environmentalist

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016 Carrie Fisher, the actress passed away. She was 60.
- She is best-known for playing Princess Leia in the Star Wars franchise.

Reference:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/12/27/star-wars-actress-carrie-fisher-dies-aged-60/>
http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000402/bio?ref=nm_ov_bio_sm



PLACES

National Boxing Academy inaugurated in Haryana

Question: Recently Union minister of state for youth affairs and sports Vijay Goel on inaugurated the National Boxing Academy (NBA) in which of the following district of Haryana?

- (a) Bhiwani (b) Hisar (c) Rohtak (d) Gurugram

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017 Sports Minister Vijay Goel inaugurated the National Boxing Academy in Rohtak, Haryana.
- It is set up under the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- This boxing academy would prove to be a good platform for Indian boxers.
- Facilities like books, badminton court, volleyball court, chess and internet would also be made available at the academy.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/sports-minister-vijay-goel-inaugurates-boxing-academy-in-haryana-4477325/>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/national-boxing-academy-inaugurated-in-rohtak/articleshow/56612715.cms>



Bangladesh

Question: Recently Bangladesh garment manufacturers have sacked over 1600 workers for participating in “illegal” protests in which of the following city?

(a) Mirpur (b) Chittagong (c) Ashulia (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 26 December 2016; Bangladesh garment manufacturers have sacked over 1600 workers for participating in “illegal” protests.
- The workers were demanding three-fold pay hike that resulted in week-long shutdown at nearly 85 factories, supplying ready-made apparels to top Western brands.
- Over 85 apparel units in Dhaka’s suburb Ashulia, the hub of Bangladesh’s nearly 4,500 garment factories.
- These were closed earlier this month after labourers demanded to increase their minimum wage from Tk 5,300 (USD 67) to Tk 16,000 (USD 201), prompting fears of supply shortage during the festive season.
- The garment factories used to supply clothings to brands like Zara, H & M, Benetton, and Gap.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/over-1600-workers-sacked-in-bangladesh-following-labour-unrest-4447373/>

<http://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/2017/01/05/money-valued-life/>

<http://www.thedailystar.net/city/labour-rights-bodies-seek-stop-hr-violations-ashulia-1340074>



Syria

Question: Recently the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2336 (2016) to reduce violence and save civilian lives in Syria through the establishment of a ceasefire, the proposal was presented by which of the following country?

(a) Russia (b) Turkey (c) United States of America (d) Both (a) and (b)

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 31 December 2016 Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2336 (2016) to reduce violence and save civilian lives in Syria through the establishment of a ceasefire.
- The resolution 2336 (2016) was presented by the efforts of the Russian Federation and Turkey.
- The resolution aims to reduce violence and save civilian lives in Syria through the establishment of a ceasefire.

Reference:

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sgsm18397.doc.htm>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/12/adopts-resolution-supporting-syria-ceasefire-161231182457975.html>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/31/russia-syria-ceasefire-un-security-council-damascus-kazakhstan>



Pakistan's Senate passed a resolution for the withdrawal of the country's high denomination currency notes of Rs 5,000

Question: Recently Pakistan's Senate passed a resolution for the withdrawal of the country's high denomination currency notes of Rs 5,000 from circulation in the country. The resolution was moved by-

(a) Fajurrhman (b) Zahid Hamid (c) Osman Saifullah Khan (d) Sartaj Aziz

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 19 December 2016; Pakistan's Senate passed a resolution for the withdrawal of the country's high denomination currency notes of Rs 5,000 from circulation in the country.
- This was done stop the flow of illicit money in the country and to halt money laundering.
- The Rs 5000 note will be withdrawn over a period of three to five years.
- Federal Minister for Law and Justice Senator Zahid Hamid said that such a huge number of currency notes cannot be pulled from circulation without causing monetary crises.
- He said that if such steps are taken, people will lose confidence in the Pakistani Rupee and will instead prefer foreign currency due to the steep drop in supply of local currency notes.
- The 5,000 rupee note accounts for almost one third of the 3.3 trillion rupees of notes in circulation in Pakistan.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/business-38377765>

<https://propakistani.pk/2016/12/19/senate-approves-resolution-demonitise-rs-5000-note/>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/demonetisation-pakistan-senate-passes-resolution-withdraw-rs-5000-notes-circulation-709182>

Meghalaya

Question: Which of the following Northeast will host the 2022 National Games?

(a) Magalaya (b) Assam (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Manipur

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016 Indian Olympic Association (IOA) accepted Meghalaya's bid to host the National Games for 2022.
- The decision was taken in the annual general body meeting of the Indian Olympic Association held in Chennai.
- Meghalaya will be the third states in the North East to host the National Games after Manipur in 1999 and Assam in 2007.
- South Asian Games was co-hosted by Shillong and Guwahati in 2016.
- Goa will be hosting the National Games from November 17 to 28 in 2017.



Reference:

https://www.telegraphindia.com/1161228/jsp/frontpage/story_127187.jsp#.WG7fDVV97IV

<http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2016/12/28/meghalaya-to-host-national-games-2022/>

<http://www.news Bharati.com/Encyc/2016/12/29/Meghalaya-to-host-National-Games-2022>

Sangli

Question: Recently Bank of Maharashtra has made Malangaon village in the state completely cashless by opening Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for its residents, this village is located in which of the following district?

(a) Akola (b) Dhule (c) Kolhapur (d) Sangli

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 27 December 2016; Bank of Maharashtra has made Malangaon village in the state completely cashless by opening Aadhaar-linked bank accounts for its residents.
- Malangaon village is located in Sangli districts of Maharashtra.
- Malangaon, located 3.5 km away from the bank's Shirdhon branch, has a population of about 4,500 and the main source of income is farming, specifically of grape.
- Bank of Maharashtra is a major public sector bank in India. Government of India holds 81.61% of the total shares.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/bank-of-maharashtra-helps-village-go-fully-digital-4447666/>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/bank-of-maharashtra-adopts-a-village-in-sangli-for-digital-transactions/articleshow/56200845.cms>

<http://money.livemint.com/news/company/news/bank-of-maharashtra-assists-malangaon-village-to-go-fully-digital-518105.aspx>



Bank of Maharashtra

AWARDS & HONORS

Hari Krishna Devsare Baalsahitya Award-2016

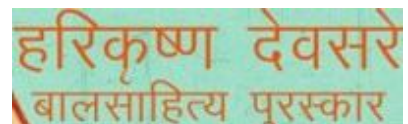
Question: Recently who has been awarded with the Hari Krishna Devsare Baalsahitya Award 2016?

- (a) Pankaj Chaturvedi and Dr. Pradeep Shukla
(b) Neeraj Kumar and Dr. Pradeep Shukla
(c) Deepak Chaturvedi and Deepa Kumari
(d) Narendra Sehgal and Balswarp Rahi

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 27 January 2017; the senior journalist, writer and editor of the National Book Trust, Pankaj Chaturvedi and a doctor by profession Dr. Pradeep Shukla has been awarded with the Hari Krishna Devsare Baalsahitya Award 2016.
- Pankaj Chaturvedi won for his book "Belagaam Ghoda Va Anya Kahaniyan" and Dr. Pradeep Shukla for his book "Gullu Ka Gaon".



- Dr.Hari Krishna Devsare – one of the foremost writers of Hindi Children's Literature devoted his entire life in creating meaningful children's literature in Hindi. His vision was to create & encourage, modern literature with scientific outlook for children that would not only fuel their imagination & creativity but would also prepare them to face the challenges of their future.
- In order to accomplish this vision & to carry forward his legacy; his family, supporters & friends established Hari Krishna Devsare Children's Literature Trust.
- The award is distributed since 2013 by Hari Krishna Devsare Children's Literature Trust.

Reference:

<http://www.outlookhindi.com/art-and-culture/general/pankaj-chaturvedi-awarded-for-belagam-ghoda-14499>

Prime Minister's Shram Awards-2015

Question: Recently Government of India announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2015, the award is given to–

- (a) Workers of PSUs (b) Workers in the private sector
(c) Workers in the public and private sector (d) Only women workers

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; Government of India announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2015.
- This is to be awarded to 56 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units.
- The award is given the Units employing 500 or more workers.
- The award is given in recognition of their distinguished performances, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.
- They are four types of awards:
- Shram Ratna, Shram Bhushan, Shram Vir / Shram Veerangana and Shram Devi / Shram Shree.
- This year, no nomination was found suitable for the prestigious Shram Ratna Award.
- Total number of Shram Bhushan Awardees is four. It carries a cash award of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Four nominations including one female were found suitable for the Shram Bhushan Award.
- Total number of Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awards is twelve. It carries a cash award of Rs. 60,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Total number of Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awardees is twenty four including one female.
- Total number of Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awardees is sixteen. It carries a cash award of Rs. 40,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Total number of Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana Awardees is twenty eight including one female.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157617>

Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards – 2016

Question: Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards are given in ... categories.

- (a) three (b) four (c) two (d) five

Ans: (a)

Related Fact

- On 25th January, 2017, the President of India approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2016 on 36 persons. This includes Sarvottam Jeevan



Raksha Padak to 05, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 08 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 23 persons; 07 awards are posthumous. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak Jeevan Raksha Padak series of awards are given to a person for meritorious act of humane nature in saving the life of a person. The award is given in three categories, namely, Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak and Jeevan Raksha Padak. Persons of either sex in all walks of life are eligible for these awards. The award can also be conferred posthumously. The decoration of the award (medal, certificate signed by the Home Minister and demand draft for lump sum monetary allowance) is presented to the awardee in due course by the respective State Government to which the awardee belongs.

- **The details are as under:-**

- **Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak**

1. Ms. Roluahpuii (Posthumous), Mizoram
2. Shri Shishir Kumar Yadavannavr (Posthumous), Karnataka
3. Shri Vadmitra Choudhary, (Posthumous), Uttar Pradesh
4. Shri Rakesh Kumar CN (Posthumous), Karnataka
5. Shri Suresh NB (Posthumous), Kerala

- **Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak**

1. Shri Mrigesh Narayan Barua, Assam
2. Dr. C. Gopakumar (Posthumous), Kerala
3. Shri Govind Laxman Tupe, Maharashtra
4. Shri Churchill, Mizoram
5. Smt. Roluahpuii, Mizoram
6. Shri Bir Bajrangbali Pandey, West Bengal
7. Master Maurice Yengkhom, Manipur
8. Master Shivansh Singh (Posthumous), Uttar Pradesh

- **Jeevan Raksha Padak**

1. Shri Yashwant Kumar Pisda, Chhattisgarh
2. Shri Dara Singh, Haryana
3. Shri Dinesh Kumar, Himachal Pradesh
4. Shri Ratheeshan Nambolan, Kerala
5. Master Anandhakrishnan A, Kerala
6. Master Akhil K. Shibu, Kerala
7. Shri Tejesh Brijlal Sonawane, Maharashtra
8. Shri Manoj Sudhakar Rao Barahate, Maharashtra
9. Shri Isac Lalrinchhana, Mizoram
10. Shri Lalmohan Mohanta, Odisha
11. Kum. Nazia, Uttar Pradesh
12. Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Tamil Nadu
13. Shri Anoop Mishra, Uttar Pradesh
14. Shri Kapil Kumar Shishodia, Uttar Pradesh
15. Shri Neelkant Ramesh Harikantra, Maharashtra
16. Shri Manohar Mahato, West Bengal
17. Shri Balen Rajbongshi, West Bengal
18. Shri Dharmendra Kumar Yadav, West Bengal
19. Master Kamlesh Pradhan, Chhattisgarh
20. Kum. Angelica Tynsong, Meghalaya
21. Master Sai Krishna Akhil Kilambi, Telangana
22. Shri Tshewana Thinlay Lachungpa, Sikkim
23. Shri Altaf Ahmed Khan, Jammu & Kashmir

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157661>

National Bravery Award-2016

Question: Recently the National Bravery Awards for 2016 has been announced, who among the following has won the Bharat Award ?

- (a) Tarh Peeju (b) Tejasweeta Pradhan
(c) Shivani Gond (d) Tushar Verma

Ans.(a)

Related facts:

- On 17 January 2017 Twenty five children which include 12 girls and 13 boys have been selected for the National Bravery Awards – 2016.
- Four of the Awards have been given posthumously.
- The coveted Bharat Award has been conferred on 8 year old Late Km. Tarh Peeju of Arunachal Pradesh, who sacrificed her life in an attempt to save two of her friends from drowning.
- The prestigious Geeta Chopra Award has been conferred on 18 year old Tejasweeta Pradhan and 17 year old Shivani Gond both from West Bengal, who showed immense courage in fearlessly helping the police and the NGO in uncovering an International sex racket leading to the arrest of the mastermind in Delhi.
- The Sanjay Chopra Award has been given to 15 year old Master Sumit Mamgain of Uttarakhand who displayed outstanding bravery in fighting a leopard to save his cousin.
- Late Km. Roluahpuii (13 years) of Mizoram, Master Tushar Verma (15 years) of Chhattisgarh and Late Km. H Lalhriatpuii (14 years) of Mizoram have been given the Babu Gaidhani Award.
- Late Km. Roluahpuii sacrificed her life in her bold and selfless act of saving two girls from drowning. Master Tushar Verma, risking his own life, extinguished a fire in his neighbour's shed and saved many cattle and Km. Lalhriatpuii sacrificed her life in an effort to save her cousin in a car accident.
- The other recipients are Master Praful Sharma (Himachal Pradesh), Master Sonu Mali (Rajasthan), Km. Akshita Sharma, Master Akshit Sharma, Master Naman (all from Delhi), Km. Anshika Pandey (Uttar Pradesh), Km. Nisha Dilip Patil (Maharashtra), Km. Siya Vamansa Khode (Karnataka), Master Moirangthem Sadananda Singh (Manipur), Master Binil Manjaly, Master Adithyan M.P. Pillai, Master Akhil K. Shibu and Km. Badarunnisa K.P. (all from Kerala), Master Tankeswar Pegu (Assam), Km. Neelam Dhruv (Chhattisgarh), Master Thanghilmang Lunkim (Nagaland), Master Mohan Sethy (Odisha) and Late Km. Payal Devi (Jammu&Kashmir).
- The children will receive their Awards from the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on January 23, 2017 prior to Republic Day and thereafter will participate in the parade. The awardees receive a medal, certificate and cash.
- The National Bravery Award Scheme was initiated by the ICCW to give due recognition to the children who distinguish themselves by performing outstanding deeds of bravery and meritorious service and to inspire other children to emulate their example.
- Since the inception of the scheme in 1957, the ICCW has given awards to 945 brave children which include 669 boys and 276 girls.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157415>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/25-brave-hearts-bag-national-bravery-awards-2016-117011800069_1.html



Presidential Medal of Freedom

Question: Recently who has been awarded with Presidential Medal of Freedom, the United States's highest civilian honor?

(a) Hillary Clinton (b) Joe Biden (c) Indra Nooyi (d) Dalai Lama

Ans: (b)



Related facts:

- On 12 January 2017; President Barack Obama presented Vice President Joe Biden with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- It was established in 1963 by President John F. Kennedy.
- It replaced Medal of Freedom that was established by President Harry S. Truman in 1945 to honor civilian service during World War II.

Reference:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/latest-news/article126184169.html>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/12/politics/biden-awarded-presidential-medal-of-freedom/>

62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017

Question: Who among the following won the title of Best Actor (Male) in 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017?

(a) Akshay Kumar (b) Amitabh Bachchan
(c) Ajay Devgan (d) Aamir Khan

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 14 January 2017; 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017, held at the NSCI Dome in Worli, Mumbai.
- Neerja 6 and Kapoor & Sons with 5 awards were the film winning highest number of awards.
- Complete list of those who won prizes at the 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017:
- Best Actor (Male): Aamir Khan for 'Dangal'
- Best Actor (Female): Alia Bhatt for 'Udta Punjab'
- Best Film: 'Dangal'
- Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari for 'Dangal'
- Filmfare Critics Award for Best Film: 'Neerja'
- Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Male): Shahid Kapoor for 'Udta Punjab' and Manoj Bajpayee for 'Aligarh'
- Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Female): Sonam Kapoor for 'Neerja'
- Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film: Manoj Bajpayee for 'Taandav'
- Best Short Film People's Choice: Khamakha
- Best Short Film (Fiction): 'Chutney'
- Best Short Film (Non-fiction): 'Matitali Kusti'
- Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film: Tisca Chopra for 'Chutney'
- Best Debut Director: Ashwini Iyer Tiwari for 'Nil Battey Sannata'
- Best Male Debut: Diljit Dosanjh for 'Udta Punjab'
- Best Female Debut: Ritika Singh for 'Saala Khadoos'
- Best Dialogue: Ritesh Shah for 'Pink'



- Best Screenplay: Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
- Best Story: Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): Rishi Kapoor for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): Shabana Azmi for 'Neerja'
- Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award: Shatrughan Sinha
- Best Music Album: Pritam for 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
- Best Lyricist: Amitabh Bhattacharya for 'Channa Mereya' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
- Best Playback Singer (Male): Arijit Singh for 'Ae dil hai mushkil' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
- Best Playback Singer (Female): Neha Bhasin for 'Jag Ghoomeya' from 'Sultan'
- Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent: Amit Mishra for 'Bulleya' from 'Ae Dil Hai Mushkil'
- Best Visual Effects: Red Chillies for 'Fan'
- Best Editing: Monisha Baldawa for 'Neerja'
- Best Costume: Payal Saluja for 'Udta Punjab'
- Best Action: Shyam Kaushal for 'Dangal'
- Best Background Score: Sameer Uddin for 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'
- Best Choreography: Adil Shaikh for 'Kar Gayi Chull' in 'Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)'

Reference:

<http://www.filmfare.com/awards/filmfare-awards-2017/winners>

Best FIFA Football Awards 2016

Question: Recently who has been named as the world's best player for the year 2016 at the inaugural Best FIFA Football Awards-2016?

- (a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Lionel Messi
(c) Antoine Griezmann (d) Luis Suarez

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 9 January 2017; The Best FIFA Football Awards 2016 were held in Zurich, Switzerland.
- Cristiano Ronaldo was named the world's best player at the inaugural Best Fifa Football Awards.
- He is a Portuguese professional footballer who plays for Spanish club Real Madrid and the Portugal national team.
- **Other 2016 awardees are:**
 - Best FIFA Women's Player: Carli Lloyd (US).
 - Best FIFA Men's Coach: Claudio Ranieri (Italy).
 - Best FIFA Women's Coach: Silvia Neid (Germany).
 - FIFA Puskas Award: Mohd Faiz Subri (Malaysia).
 - FIFA Fair Play Award: Atletico Nacional
 - FIFA Award for an Outstanding Career: Falcao (Brazil).
 - FIFA Fan Award: Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool supporters.



Reference:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/ballon-d-or-cristiano-ronaldo-best-footballer-2016-12?IR=T>
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/best-fifa-football-awards-2016-9591068>
<http://www.bbc.com/sport/football/38561266>

Scientific and Technical awards-2017

Question: Name the Indian whose name has been announced by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for its 2017 Scientific and Technical awards?

- (a) Shubham Chatterjee (b) Parag Havaladar
(c) Tapan Das (d) C.V Subramaniam

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2016; The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced its annual Scientific and Technical Awards Presentation at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills.
- In this name of 18 scientific and technical achievements represented by 34 individual award recipients, as well as five organizations were announced.
- Indian-American Parag Havaladar, a computer engineer from IIT Kharagpur, is part of the Academy Awards' list of winners for Technical achievement.
- Havaladar is honoured for the development of expression-based facial performance-capture technology at Sony Pictures Imageworks.
- The awards will be handed out on February 11 in Beverly Hills, ahead of the main Oscar ceremony on February 26.
- The award is also known as Technical Oscar.
- Havaladar had done his B.Tech in computer science and engineering in 1991 from IIT.



Reference:

<http://www.oscars.org/news/18-scientific-and-technical-achievements-be-honored-academy-awards-0>

<https://iitkgp.org/content/iit-kgp-alumnus-wins-oscar-sci-tech-award-2017>

<http://www.asianage.com/newsmakers/080117/iit-engineer-to-recieve-technical-award-at-oscars.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/education/iit-kharagpur-alumnus-parag-havaladar-wins-technical-achievement-oscar-4466819/>

74th Golden Globe Awards

Question: Which of the following statement is correct about 74th Golden Globe Awards?

- I. Best Director: Tom Ford II. Best Motion-Damien Chazelle
III. Best Animated Film-Zootopia
IV. Best Foreign Language Film-Neruda (Chile)

Options:

- (a) (I) and (ii) (b) (ii) and (iv) (c) (ii) and (iii) (d) (iii) and (iv)

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 8 January 2016 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony was organized at Beverly Hills, California, United States (US).
- Conferred awards in major categories are:
- Best Motion Picture Drama: Moonlight.
- Best Motion Picture Musical/Comedy: La La Land.
- Best Director in Motion Picture-Drama: Damien Chazelle for La La Land.
- Best Actor in Motion Picture-Drama: Casey Affleck for Manchester by the Sea.
- Best Actress in Motion Picture-Drama: Isabelle Huppert for Elle.
- Best Actor in Motion Picture or Musical or Comedy: Ryan Gosling for La La Land. Best Actress in Motion Picture Musical or Comedy: Emma Stone for La La Land.



- Best Actor in a Supporting role in Motion Picture: Aaron Taylor-Johnson for Nocturnal Animals.
- Best Actress in a Supporting role in Motion Picture: Viola Davis for Fences.
- Best Original Score Motion Picture: Justin Hurwitz for the La La Land.
- Best Original Song: "City of Stars" (Justin Hurwitz, Pasek & Paul) for the La La Land.
- Best Animated Feature Film: Zootopia. Best Foreign Language Film: Elle (France).

Reference:

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

<http://www.goldenglobes.com/articles/golden-globes-2017-it-was-another-day-sun>

12th Navlekhan Award-2016

Question: Name the two new Hindi writers who have been chosen for Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award for the year 2016.

- (a) Shraddha and Vishnu Sagar (b) Shraddha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh
(c) Bhumika Dwivedi and Amiya Bind
(d) Rasmi Bharadwaj and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 29 December 2016; Bharatiya Jnanpith announced the 12th Navlekhan Award for the year 2016.
- Two new Hindi writers Shraddha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh have been chosen for Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award for the year 2016.
- Shraddha was chosen for her short story 'Hawa Mein Phadphadati Chitthi' and Devansh for his poem 'Akash Mein Deh'.
- They were unanimously chosen by a selection panel chaired by eminent poet Vishnu Nagar.
- Navlekhan Award is given to young authors in Hindi for their first creations. It was instituted in 2006 by Bharatiya Jnanpith trust.
- It consists of a statue of Goddess Saraswati, a citation and a Rs 50 thousands cash prize each. Besides Jnanpith publishing their works.



Reference:

<http://jnanpith.net/sites/default/files/Navlekhan%202016%20Declared.pdf>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Pulse Polio Programme for 2017 launched

Question: When did the President launched countrywide Pulse Polio Programme for 2017?

- (a) 28 January 2017 (b) 29 January 2017 (c) 30 January 2017
(d) 31 January 2017

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28 January 2017; President of India Pranab Mukherjee launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2017 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old, at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.
- On 29 January 2017; the National Immunization Day is celebrated.



- Around 17 crore children of less than five years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the drive of Government of India to sustain polio eradication from the country.
- Rotavirus virus vaccine has been introduced as part of the UIP in 2016.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare will soon introduce Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine.
- It will help to reduce the burden of diarrhea, pneumonia and meningitis, and a countrywide campaign with Measles-Rubella vaccine in phased manner.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157734>

Operation 'Sard Hawa'

Question: Which of the following Indian Force has recently launched operation 'Sard Hawa' at the western international border of Rajasthan?

- (a) Border Security Force (b) Central Reserve Police Force
(c) Indian Army (d) Central Industrial Police Force

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 15 January 2017; Border Security Force (BSF) launched operation 'Sard Hawa' at the western international border of Rajasthan.
- The operation will continue till January 28.
- Under this vigil will be beefed-up to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog in the area.
- The purpose of the operation is to keep a hawk's eye on the international border.
- It should be noted that this operation is launched by BSF during severe cold and fog.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/bsf-launches-operation-sard-hawa-at-rajasthan-border/articleshow/56563737.cms>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/bsf-launches-operation-sard-hawa-at-rajasthan-border/508807/>



COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

CMs Committee on Digital Payments presents interim report

Question: The CMs Committee on Digital Payments is led by-

- (a) Chandrashekar Rao (b) Chandrababu Naidu
(c) Prakash Singh Badal (d) Dr. Raman Singh

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; CMs Committee on Digital Payments led by the convener and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, Chandra Babu Naidu submitted the interim report on Digital Payments to the Prime Minister.
Following are the Highlights of the recommendations made in interim report by the CMs Committee on Digital Payments:
- To curb use of cash for large transactions consider levy of banking cash transaction Tax (BCTT) on transactions of Rs. 50,000 & above.



- Provide infrastructure for 1,54,000 post offices by way of interoperable Aadhaar enabled Micro-ATMs.
- All government sections like insurance, educational institutes, fertilisers, PDS, Petroleum etc to switch to digital payments.
- Lower / Zero MDR (Merchant Discount Rate) for all digital payments to Government entities.
- AEPS to be promoted by incentivising & not charging MDR.
- Relief in prospective taxes for encouraging merchants to accept digital payments & no retrospective taxation to Merchants doing digital transactions.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157655>

Target Olympic Podium Committee

Question: Who is the chairman of the Target Olympic Podium Committee recently reconstituted by the ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports?

(a) Abhinav Bindra (b) P T Usha (c) Dr. S.S. Roy (d) Inder Dhamija

Ans: (a)

Related Fact:

- On 27th January, 2017 The Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel has reconstituted Target Olympic Podium committee with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games under the "Target Olympic Podium" scheme.
- Abhinav Bindra is the chairman of the committee along with nine other prominent figures as committee members.
- The committee will select elite athletes to be provided financial assistance for their customized training at Institutes having world class facilities and other necessary support.
- The committee will decide on its procedures and will be competent to invite subject experts as and when required.
- The Initial tenure of the committee will be one year from the date of notification.
- A programme, namely Target Olympic Podium Scheme was formulated within the overall ambit of National Sports Development Fund with the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games.
- Under the scheme the selected athletes are provided financial assistance for their customized training at Institutes having world class facilities and other necessary support which is expected to result in improved performance and a higher position in medals tally for the country.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157711>

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

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee

Question: Who headed the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) committee which has recently presented its Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley?

(a) Dr. Rathin Roy (b) N.K. Singh (c) Arvind Subramanian (d) Sumit Bose

Ans: (b)

Related facts:



- On 23 January 2017; The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee presented its Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- The committee was headed by N.K. Singh, former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary and former Member of Parliament.
- Earlier, the Government had constituted a Committee in May, 2016 to review the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act under the Chairmanship of Shri N.K. Singh, former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary and former Member of Parliament.
- The Committee consisted of Dr. Urjit R. Patel, Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shri Sumit Bose, former Finance Secretary, Dr. Arvind Subramanian, Chief Economic Adviser and Dr. Rathin Roy, Director, National Institute of Public Finance & Policy (NIPFP) as members.
- The Committee had wide ranging Terms of Reference (ToR) to comprehensively review the existing FRBM Act in the light of contemporary changes, past outcomes, global economic developments, best international practices and to recommend the future fiscal framework and roadmap for the country.
- Subsequently, the Terms of Reference were enlarged to seek the Committee's views on certain recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and the Expenditure Management Commission.
- These primarily related to strengthening the institutional framework on fiscal matters as well as certain issues connected with new capital expenditures in the budget.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157603>

Negotiation Committee Constituted on Mahanadi and its Tributaries

Question: Recently Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted a negotiations committee to assess availability and utilisation of waters of Mahanadi and its tributaries. The committee has been set up with reference to complaint of which of the following state?

- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand
(c) Odisha (d) Maharashtra

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 19 January 2017 Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has constituted a negotiations committee to assess availability and utilisation of waters of Mahanadi and its tributaries.
- The committee will also examine existing water sharing agreements on river Mahanadi and will consider claims of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand regarding availability and utilisation of waters of these rivers.
- The committee has been set up with reference to complaint of State of Odisha under section 3 of the ISRWD Act, 1956 regarding utilisation of waters of Mahandi Basin.
- The committee will be chaired by Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission and will have 11 other members comprising representatives from the States of Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand, Union Ministries of Agriculture, Environment Forest and Climate Change, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, India Meteorological Department and Central Water Commission.
- The committee has been asked to submit its report within three months.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157512>



Committee for Improvement in National Sports Development Code and Functioning of National Sports Federations

Question: Recently Government Constituted a Committee for Improvement in National Sports Development Code and Functioning of National Sports Federations, the committee will be headed by-

- (a) Secretary (Sports) (b) Supreme Court Justice
(c) Minister of State for Sports (d) President of Olympic Association

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 2 January 2016 Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel has constituted a Committee headed by Secretary (Sports) to suggest improvements in the National Sports Development Code and functioning of Sports Federations etc.
- The committee will give its report within one month.
- The new Committee will suggest improvements in the present National Sports Development Code on the basis of suggestions and feedback given in these meetings and submit a report within a month so that Sports Bodies work as per the public expectations for the promotion of sports in the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156071>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8246286_Ministry-forms-committee-to-suggest-improvement-in-sports-code

<http://www.dnaindia.com/node/2288660%3C>



PLANNING & PROJECT

Amendment in Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme (PMGKDS), 2016

Question: On 20 January 2017 Government of India amended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme (PMGKDS), 2016, which of the following banks are not authorised banks to accept deposits under PMGKDS, 2016?

- (a) Regional Rural Banks (b) Postal bank (c) Cooperative Banks
(d) Private Bank

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 20 January 2017; Government of India amended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme (PMGKDS), 2016.
- Under this Co-operative Banks are not authorised banks to accept deposits under PMGKDS, 2016.
- Application for the deposit in the form of Bonds Ledger Account shall be received by any banking company, other than Co-operative Banks, to which the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- It may be recalled that Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, had notified Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme (PMGKDS), 2016 on 16 December 2016.
- The deposit under this Scheme shall be made by any person who declared undisclosed income under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016.



- The deposit sum, which shall not be less than twenty-five per cent of the declared undisclosed income, can be deposited at the authorized banks.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157539>

Inauguration of BHEL's solar module and solar cell lines

Question: Recently BHEL's state-of-the-art 200 MW Solar Photovoltaic Module Manufacturing Line and upgraded 105 MW Solar Photovoltaic Cell Manufacturing Line were inaugurated in which of the following city?

(a) Jagdishpur (b) Bengaluru (c) Bhopal (d) Hyderabad

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 20 January 2017; Union Minister for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Sh. Anant Geete inaugurated BHEL's state-of-the-art 200 MW Solar Photovoltaic Module Manufacturing Line and upgraded 105 MW Solar Photovoltaic Cell Manufacturing Line at the company's manufacturing plants in Bengaluru.
- With the commencement of commercial operation of these lines, the annual manufacturing capacity of BHEL has been enhanced to 105 MW of Solar Cells and 226 MW of Solar Modules.



Reference:

http://www.bhel.com/press_release/press_pop.php?press_id=920

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/geete-opens-bhel-s-solar-cell-module-production-lines-117012000698_1.html

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/geete-opens-bhels-solar-cell-module-production-lines/1/862243.html>

New Scheme for promotion of Rural Housing

Question: A new scheme for promotion of Rural Housing in the country has been approve by the Union Cabinet recently. The scheme will be implemented by ...

(a) National Housing Bank (b) Co-operative Bank
(c) Private Lending Agencies. (d) None of the Above.

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved a new scheme for promotion of Rural Housing in the country.
- Under the scheme the Government would provide interest subsidy to every rural household who is not covered under the Pradhan Mantri Aawas Yojana (Grameen), PMAY(G).
- The scheme would enable people in rural areas to construct new houses or add to their existing pucca houses to improve their dwelling units.
- The beneficiary who takes a loan under the scheme would be provided interest subsidy for loan amount up to Rs. 2 Lakhs.



- National Housing Bank would implement the scheme. The Government would provide net present value of the interest subsidy of 3 percent to the National Housing Bank upfront which will, in turn, pass it to the Primary Lending Institutions (Scheduled Commercial Banks, NBFCs etc.). As a result the equated monthly installment (EMI) for the beneficiary would be reduced.
- Under the scheme, the Government would also take necessary steps for proper convergence with PMAY-G including technical support to beneficiary through existing arrangements. The new scheme is expected to improve housing stock in the rural areas, as well as create employment opportunities in rural housing sector.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/cabinet-approves-new-scheme-for-promotion-of-rural-housing/india/news/759276.html>

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

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

World Bank sanctions Rs 1376 crore for modernization of power in Tripura

Question: Tripura power upgradation project is divide into how many phases?

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

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 19 January 2017; World Bank has sanctioned a whopping amount of Rs.1376 crore for total upgradation of the electric supply mechanism in five phases.
- SPML Infra Ltd has got contract of the first phase.
- In the first phase, Rs.461 crore would be spent.
- Large number of 132KV and 33KV substations will be constructed and upgraded under the project.
- The new 132KV substations would be constructed at Belonia, Bagafa, Sabroom and Satchand in South Tripura district, Rabindranagar and Gokulnagar in Sipahijala district, Mohanpur in West district, Amarpur in Gomati district and Manu in Dhalai district.



Reference:

<http://www.tripuraindia.com/SWN/NDet.aspx?WType=1&WhatId=19053>

<http://www.infracircle.in/world-bank-sanctions-rs-1376-crore-tripura-power-upgradation/>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/world-bank-sanctions-rs-1-376-cr-for-tripura-power-upgradation/story-9fhnnlzlxfSQNuxuNJOv6M.html>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/power/world-bank-sanctions-rs-1376-crore-for-tripura-power-upgradation/articleshow/56667360.cms>

Anandam programme

Question: Recently which of the following state launched Anandam programme?

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

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 14 January 2017; Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Anandam programme of the newly-formed Anand Department on the occasion of Makar Sankranti from the local TT Nagar Stadium.



- Madhya Pradesh has become the first State of the country where Aanandam programme has been started to help the needy persons.
- Places have been fixed in each district where the economically sound citizens can donate items for the needy persons under the programme.
- In order to increase happiness percent of the citizens Anandam programme has been initiated.
- CM appealed to the citizens to give such useful items to the needy people which they have in addition to their necessities like clothes, blankets, books, utensils, furniture or other material.
- He urged the women and girls to encourage this initiative.
- Beside, Anand Utsav will be celebrated in the entire state till January 21, 2017.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/CMMadhyaPradesh/status/820147165540532224>

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/cm-launches-aanandam-scheme-to-help-poor.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/slice-of-anandam-for-the-needy-by-the-govt/articleshow/56545744.cms>

Aastha Circuit Tourist Train

Question: Recently North-East Frontier (NF) Railways has announced the launch of Aastha Circuit Tourist Train from Guwahati, the train will be launched on-

- (a) 25 February 2017 (b) 01 February 2017
(c) 10 February 2017 (d) 17 February 2017



Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- On 17 January 2017 North-East Frontier (NF) Railways has announced the launch of Aastha Circuit Tourist Train from Guwahati.
- The new train will take travelers to a mix of popular pilgrimage destinations across the eastern part of the country at affordable rates.
- For the first time, this type of special dedicated tourist train was being originated from NF Railway.
- The all-inclusive special tourist train will start on February 17, 2017.
- The train will take the tourists to various famous religious destinations like Gangasagar, Sri Swamy Narayan Temple, Kalighat, Birla Temple in Kolkata, Sri Jagannath Temple and Konark Temple in Puri and Bhubaneswar – Lingaraj Temple.
- The duration of the tour from Guwahati to Guwahati is six nights and seven days and per person cost for the entire trip is Rs 6,161 only.
- A similar fashioned tourist train is also being planned to run from other parts towards Assam and nearby areas.

Reference:

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/39659>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/aastha-circuit-railways-is-starting-the-first-pilgrim-train-for-northeast-117011601480_1.html

Web-portal 'ShaGun' launched

Question: Which of the following ministry has launched a dedicated web portal 'ShaGun' for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan ?

- (a) Ministry of Rural Development (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare



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

(d) Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a dedicated web portal 'ShaGun' for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan at New Delhi.
- ShaGun' aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in Elementary Education sector of India by continuous monitoring of the flagship scheme – Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).
- ShaGun, which has been coined from the words 'Shala' meaning Schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning Quality, has been developed with a twin track approach.
- The Union HRD Minister also unveiled the 'Toolkit for Master Trainers in Preparing Teachers for Inclusive Education for Children with Special Needs', The SSA ShaGun web portal can be accessed at <http://ssashagun.nic.in>. It has been prepared by World Bank in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157488>

“SEZ India” application

Question: Consider the following statement –

- 1.'SEZ-India' application has been launched by the Reserve Bank of India.
- 2.The app has four sections.

Which of the above statements is/are true-

- (a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both (1) and (2) (d) None of the above

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 6 January 2017 A Mobile app named “SEZ India” has been launched by the Commerce Secretary on 06.1.2017.
- SEZ Division, Department of Commerce under its broader e-Governance initiative i.e. SEZ Online System, has developed mobile app for Special Economic Zones (SEZs).
- The app is available on Android Platform for use by SEZ Developers, Units, officials and others. The app has four sections i.e. SEZ Information, SEZ Online Transaction, Trade Information, and Contact details.
 - 1.SEZ Information : This is a compendium of the SEZ Act, 2005, SEZ Rules, 2006, MOCI Circulars, details of SEZs and Units etc. It gives up to date comprehensive details on all the above aspects.
 - 2.TRADE Information: This provision gives access to important information / tools such as Foreign Trade Policy, Hand Book of procedure , Duty Calculator , Customs & Excise Notification and MEIS Rates.
 - 3.Contact Details: We see that the contact details of all Development Commissioners Office, DGFT, DG System, DGCI & S and SEZ online.
 - 4.SEZ online Transaction :This is a dynamic submenu that tracks the Bill of Entry / Shipping Bill processing status and also does verification. The app also helps the Importers / Exporters to track the status of 'Bill of Entry / Shipping Bill' integration and processing in the EDI system of the ICEGATE.
- ICEGATE stands for the Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data interchange (EC/EDI) Gateway.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157358>

<https://www.icegate.gov.in/>



Foundation Stone of New NDRF Campus in Andhra Pradesh

Question: Recently Home Minister Rajnath Singh lays the Foundation Stone of New NDRF Campus in which of the following district of Andhra Pradesh?

(a) Guntur (b) Prakasam (c) Krishna (d) Nellore

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 9 January 2017; Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh laid the Foundation Stone of New NDRF Campus in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- This campus will come up in 50 acres land provided by the Andhra Pradesh Government and the expenditure for construction will be borne by the Central government.
- The campus will be completed in two years.
- The complex will be home for the 10th Battalion NDRF.
- 10th Battalion of NDRF is responsible for looking after the areas of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka for disaster response.
- For its construction the Central government has allocated Rs 200 crore.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156186>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/shri-rajnath-singh-lays-the-foundation-stone-of-new-ndrf-campus-117010901143_1.html

<http://www.rajnathsingh.in/home-minister-shri-rajnath-singh-lays-the-foundation-stone-of-new-ndrf-campus-in-andhra-pradesh/>

Arogya Raksha scheme

Question: Which of the following state has launched the Arogya Raksha scheme?

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 01 January 2017; Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Sunday launched a new health scheme christened Arogya Raksha.
- It will offer medical insurance to those who were not covered under any of the existing health schemes of the state government.
- To avail of the benefits of Arogya Raksha one needs to pay `100 per month per head.
- Under this scheme health insurance cover is offered up to `2 lakh and free treatment can be had for 1,044 listed health ailments in any of the 432 corporate hospitals and 80 government hospitals in the state.



Reference:

<http://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/the+new+indian+express-epaper-newexpress/naidu+launches+arogyaraksha+for+a+healthy+ap-newsid-62093725>

Niti Ayog to Decide on Hyperloop

Question: What is Hyperloop?

(a) A Mode of transportation (b) Latest model of Power loom
(c) A mobile application (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5th January, 2017, Road transport and highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that the government has referred the proposal to set up a hyperloop transportation system in the country to Niti Aayog.
- Niti Aayog will call for a trial run of the technology at some small stretch after which the government will be able to take a call on the matter.
- A committee under Niti Aayog member VK Sarawat is looking into the feasibility of having hyperloop transportation in the country.
- **What is Hyperloop:**
- Hyperloop is a proposed mode of passenger and freight transportation that propels a pod-like vehicle through a near-vacuum tube at more than airline speed.
- The alpha version of the proposal published on the SpaceX website, describes claims of the design of the system, as well as its function. The pods would accelerate to cruising speed gradually using a linear electric motor and glide above their track using passive magnetic levitation or air bearings.
- The tubes could also go above ground on columns or underground. It can run at a speed of 1200 KM per hour.
- It is hoped that the system will be highly energy-efficient, quiet and autonomous.
- The outline of the original Hyperloop concept was made public by the release of a preliminary design document in August 2013.
- The hyperloop concept is a brainchild of Tesla founder Elon Musk. US-based Hyperloop Transport Technology claimed that it costs \$40 million per kilometer to build a hyperloop system while building a high-speed train line would cost almost twice.
- Hyperloop is a new way to move people and things at airline speeds for the price of a bus ticket. It's on-demand and energy-efficient.

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/niti-aayog-will-decide-fate-of-hyperloop/articleshow/55949642.cms>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/niti-aayog-may-seek-trial-run-of-hyperloop-nitin-gadkari/articleshow/56363675.cms>

Digital Dakiya

Question: Which of the following state has launched Digital Dakiya scheme in order to encourage cashless transactions?

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 14 January 2017; Digital Dakiya scheme inaugurated in MP to encourage cashless transactions.
- This is first of its kind scheme in the country.
- Digital Dakiya aims at encouraging cashless transactions.
- Digital Dakiya or Digital Postman will visit different places to teach and encourage people about cashless transactions and its benefits.
- State Finance Minister Jayant Malliya inaugurated the scheme at Indore.
- State government will provide Identity cards to the volunteers deployed in this programme.

DIGITAL DAKIYA SCHEME INAUGURATED IN
MP TO ENCOURAGE CASHLESS TRANSACTION

- Digital Dakiyas visit door to door and trained households specially women and elderly people about digitized transactions.
- The scheme aimed at urban as well as rural areas.

Reference:

<http://www.newsonair.com/news.asp?cat=state&id=ST5179>

Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)

Question: What is the aim of Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY)?

- (a) To encourage NRIs investment. (b) Skilling Indians seeking employment abroad.
(c) Easing visa approval processes. (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 8 January 2017; Prime Minister Narendra Modi said government will shortly launch the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY).
- The prime minister was speaking at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention in Bengaluru.
- This will aimed at skilling Indians seeking employment abroad.
- PKVY will train and certify Indians, who are keen on overseas employment in select sectors, in line with international standards.
- It will be implemented by the National Skill Development Corporation through its training partners and in consultation with the Ministry of External Affairs and the Skill Development Ministry.



Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-the-inauguration-of-the-14th-pravasi-bharatiya-divas-convention-in-bengaluru/?comment=disable

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/modi-announces-pravasi-kaushal-vikas-yojna-for-indian-youth-going-abroad-for-jobs/article9466468.ece>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pm-modi-announces-scheme-to-skill-indian-youth-seeking-jobs-abroad-117010800184_1.html

Polavaram irrigation project

Question: Polavaram irrigation project is being set up across which of the following river?

- (a) Krishna (b) Kaveri (c) Godavari (d) Mahanadi

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 26 December 2016; Central Government on Monday released Rs.1,981 crore, in the much-awaited first installment through Nabard, for the Polavaram irrigation project.
- The cheque was handed over to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu by Union Minister for Water Resources Uma Bharti in the presence of Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Union Minister for Urban Development M Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.
- The amount is part of a loan from NABARD, sanctioned from the Long Term Irrigation Fund (LTIF) under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).
- It was declared as a national project in 2014.
- It will be completed by 2019.
- Polavaram irrigation project is being set up across Godavari river.
- Polavaram is a multi-purpose project with an assessed cultural command area of 2.91 lakh hectares and power generation potential of 960 MW.



- Gujarat and Maharashtra were also sanctioned `463 crore and `756 crore respectively for their own projects.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/ncbn/status/813348344856616960>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/Centre-releases-Rs.-1981-cr.-for-Polavaram/article16946638.ece>

World's Largest LED Street Lighting Programme

Question: The Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of

- (a) The Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (b) The Electricity Act, 2003
(c) The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 9th January, 2017, Union Minister of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Shri Piyush Goyal dedicated the LED based Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP) to the Nation.
- This scheme is currently running in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) area.
- It is the World's Largest Street Light Replacement Programme, which is being implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited, a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.
- The SLNP programme is presently running in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan.
- A total of 15.59 lakh street lights have already been replaced in the country with LED bulbs, which is resulting in energy savings of 20.66 crore kWh, avoiding capacity of 51.47 MW and reducing 1.71 lakh tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per annum.
- The energy efficiency market in India is estimated at US\$ 12 billion that can potentially result in energy savings of up to 20 per cent of current consumption, by way of innovative business and implementation models.
- Under the SLNP, South Delhi Municipal Corporation area alone accounts for over 2 lakh street light replacements. The cumulative annual energy savings in SDMC through this programme is 2.65 crore kWh which has helped to avoid capacity addition of 6.6 MW, resulting in a daily reduction of 22,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases.
- Under the SLNP, South Delhi Municipal Corporation area alone accounts for over 2 lakh street light replacements. The cumulative annual energy savings in the area through this programme is 2.65 crore kWh which has helped to avoid capacity addition of 6.6 MW, and daily reduction of 22,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases.
- The Minister inaugurated the Phase II of the street lighting programme, under which Energy Efficiency Services Limited has signed a tripartite agreement with BSES and South Delhi Municipal Corporation to install 75,000 more street lights with more focus on installation in parks.



Reference;

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156244>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8267150_Goyal%20to%20unveil%20largest%20LED%20street%20lighting%20programme

Rail projects inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh

Question: Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has been elected to the Rajya Sabha from which of the following state?

(a) Punjab (b) Haryana (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; Andhra Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Railways for setting up a joint venture company for taking up major rail projects in the state.
- Apart from laying new railway lines, the JV will develop 21 railway stations in the state on par with airports.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu took part in the programme through a video link from New Delhi.
- The programs announced at the ceremony are:
 1. Development at least 21 railway stations in the state akin to airports.
 2. Nadikudi-Srikalahasti new railway line while free high-speed WiFi facility was launched in Guntur railway station.
 3. The Railway Minister also flagged off a new double-decker train between Tirupati and Visakhapatnam
 4. The renovated route-relay interlocking system at Vijayawada railway junction was also dedicated to the nation.
 5. New hostel building of the Electric Traction Training Centre at Satyanarayanapuram was inaugurated.
- It should be known that the Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu is a member of Rajya Sabha from the Andhra Pradesh state.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/ncbn/status/814790144628662272>

http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/ap-inks-jv-deal-with-rlys-to-develop-projects/article9451742.ece?utm_source=RSS_Feed&utm_medium=RSS&utm_campaign=RSS_Syndication

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/vijayawada/government-of-andhra-pradesh-indian-railways-to-form-a-joint-venture-company/articleshow/56258583.cms>

Trash Skimmers to be Introduced In Six New Cities

Question: Recently National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) will introduce trash skimmers for surface cleaning of Ganga in six more cities, which of the following city is not included in the list?

(a) Rishikesh (b) Haridwar (c) Navdweep (d) Varanasi

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) will introduce trash skimmers for surface cleaning of Ganga in six more cities in the first week of this month.
- The cities are Rishikesh, Haridwar, Garh Mukhteshwar, Sahibganj, Kolkata and Navdweep.
- Urban Local Bodies will be the nodal agency to monitor this work.



- State Programme Management Groups (SPMGs) and Collectorate office will be supervising these works under the aegis of NMCG at State and district level respectively.
- River Surface Cleaning (RSC) work was introduced last year in Allahabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Mathura-Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh and Patna in Bihar.
- Trash skimmers were deployed at the foregoing locations and tonnes of floating waste was collected and disposed off in a proper manner.
- This task was performed under the CSR head and proved to be extremely effective. In the coming days, more towns will be identified for carrying out similar activities.
- Namami Gange programme was launched as a mission to achieve the target of cleaning river Ganga in an effective manner with the unceasing involvement of all stakeholders, especially five major Ganga basin States – Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar and West Bengal.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156069>

Mobile payment app BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) launched

Question: Recently a mobile payment app BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) was launched by-

(a) Arun Jaitley (b) Arvind Panagariya (c) Narendra Modi (d) Rajnath Singh

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; At a Digi Dhan programme in New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched mobile payment app BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money).
- The application is developed by the National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The indigenously developed mobile application — BHIM — has been named after Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar.
The app verifies the phone number automatically.
- Note that the phone number used for the transactions has to be the same phone number registered with the bank for the account you intend to use.
- As of now, transactions are supported for only one account per user.
- The bank account menu allows users to change the bank account at any time.
- There are three ways to transfer money, through a QR code, through a phone number, or through the UPI address.
- A QR code is available by default in the profile section.
- This can be saved to the phone as an image, or directly shared through instant messengers or email.
- A phone number based UPI address is generated automatically, but users have the option of creating and saving additional UPI addresses.
- Security is through a UPI pin that has to be set up on start, and can be changed later on.
- Every time the app is launched, the pin is demanded, but not on screen unlock. IFSC and MMID transactions are supported for banks without UPI.

Reference:

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-speech-at-digidhan-mela-in-new-delhis-talkatora-stadium/?comment=disable

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Modi-launches-mobile-payment-app/article16964375.ece1>



Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme- 2016

Question: Recently Union government extended the last date for Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme- 2016?

- (a) 31 March 2017 (b) 28 February 2017 (c) 31 January 2017
(d) 31 April 2017

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; the last date for availing the Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016 (the Scheme) has been extended up to 31st January, 2017.
- In view of the representations received from various stakeholders and for the convenience of the taxpayers, the last date for availing the Scheme has been extended up to 31st January, 2017.
- The scheme was to close on 31st December, 2016.
- In order to reduce the pending litigation, the Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016 (the Scheme) was introduced by the Finance Act, 2016.
- The Scheme came into force from 1st June, 2016.

Reference:

<http://www.incometaxindia.gov.in/Lists/Press%20Releases/Attachments/577/Direct-Tax-Dispute-Resolution-Scheme-2016-Extended-31-Jan-2017-30-12-2016.pdf>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155993>



Country's first Digital Investigation, Training and Analysis Centre (DIATC)

Question: Recently country's first Digital Investigation, Training and Analysis Centre (DIATC) was inaugurated at-

- (a) Bengaluru (b) Gurugram (c) Ranchi (d) Ahmedabad

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016 Haryana Chief Minister, Mr. Manohar Lal today inaugurated country's first Digital Investigation, Training and Analysis Centre (DIATC) at Gurugram.
- It has been set up in collaboration with National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) of Government of India.
- The Centre has State-of-the-art Cyber Forensic Laboratory equipped with high-end tools and also have high-tech training facility at the premises of Haryana Police for advance level training of police officers not only of Haryana Police.
- Apart from this, the Centre has Social Media Monitoring Lab for enhancing technological capabilities of Haryana Police.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/khattar-inaugurates-diatc-at-gurugram/states/news/732794.html>
<http://prharyana.gov.in/erelease.aspx?relid=6229>



Chhaigaon Lift Irrigation Scheme

Question: Recently Chhaigaon Lift Irrigation Scheme inaugurated in which of the following state?

- (a) Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat

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



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 December, 2016; Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated Chhaigaon lift irrigation scheme.
- The programme was held near Chhaigaon Krishi Mandi of District Khandwa.
- This lift irrigation scheme has been made by the Narmada Valley Development Authority at the initiative of Chief Minister Shri Chouhan.
- Moreover, the scheme will provide irrigation facility to the farmers who are deprived of irrigation facility from the Indira Sagar Irrigation Project on account of its geographical situation.
- It may be highlighted that Chhaigaon lift irrigation scheme will provide irrigation facility on 35 thousand hectare land of 58 villages including 51 villages of Khandwa and 7 villages of Pandhana Tahsil.
- The scheme to be constructed at an estimated construction cost of Rs. 536 crore 99 lakh will be completed in three years.
- Moreover, under this special scheme irrigation, water will be provided through pipeline and water outlet will be given at every 2.5 hectare land area, which will facilitate pressure of at least 20 meter height.
- Furthermore, this will help farmers to irrigate their lands with sprinkler or drip irrigation system.

Reference:

<http://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20161222N9&LocID=1&PDt=12/22/2016>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

MoU to develop the hidden potential of Cane & Bamboo

Question: The North Eastern Council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of ... states.

(a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 5 (d) 6

Ans: (b)

Related Fact :

- On 29th January, 2017, the North Eastern Council and the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Shillong to harness the hidden potential of Cane and Bamboo of North Eastern Region.
- The MoU was signed by the Secretary, NEC Shri Ram Muivah and Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Shri Alok Kumar.
- to mobilize masses and promote Bamboo sector as a whole throughout the country the MoU provides a push for the integrated and inclusive development of Cane & Bamboo through skilled manpower, technology dissemination, marketing support and institutional support. Cane and Bamboo Technology Centre (CBTC), Assam and the Bamboo & Cane Development Institute (BCDI), Tripura will be promoted as the Centers of Excellence not only in the North East Region, but also in South East Asia.
- As per the MoU, the CBTC will be transformed into a Regional Centre of Excellence and the BCDI will be converted as a separate entity under the name Indian Institute of Bamboo Technology (IIBT).
- CBTC and BCDI will serve as a platform for generating and exchanging the knowledge base on the product development in Cane and Bamboo through the Discipline of Product Design and Innovation.



- The collective knowledge base of the sector would be documented and made available through library resources, multimedia, publications and online resources.
- To establish bamboo and cane as an economically strong industry, education will be imparted at various levels; to Craftsmen and Entrepreneurs, Designers, Farmers, Technologists and Marketing and Management professionals.
- Training programmes on entrepreneurship development among the artisan community with inputs in product innovation and design will also be provided in order to contribute in the up gradation of the socio economic status of the cane and bamboo industry in the region and at a national level.
- Academic courses will also be offered to promote cultivation.
 - a) PG Diploma in Bamboo Cultivation & Resource Utilization
 - b) B.Tech Course in Cane & Bamboo Technology
 - c) Ph.D/Research Program
 - d) Establishing satellite Centres in the other NER states
- It is notable that the North Eastern Council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Reference:

<http://necouncil.gov.in/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157750>

MoU between North Eastern Council (NEC) and Ministry of Textiles

Question: Recently North Eastern Council (NEC) and the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for which of the following purpose?

- (a) Extension of the textile industry in the North East
- (b) Assistance of female employees
- (c) To harness the hidden potential of Cane and Bamboo of North Eastern Region
- (d) To facilitate employees in the textile industry, particularly in the northeast region.



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 January 2017; The North Eastern Council (NEC) and the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Shillong.
- The MoU was signed to harness the hidden potential of Cane and Bamboo of North Eastern Region.
- The MoU provides a push for the integrated and inclusive development of Cane & Bamboo Sector of North East Region by way of skilled manpower, technology dissemination, marketing support and institutional support required for the holistic development of Bamboo which can coordinate a mission to mobilise masses and promote Bamboo sector as a whole throughout the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157750>

MoU between India and Russia

Question: On 18 January 2017; Cabinet approved MoU between India and Russia on cooperation on-

- (a) Cyber Security (b) Information Technology (c) Agriculture
- (d) Youth matters

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; Cabinet approved MoU on cooperation on Youth matters between India and Russia. Exchange programmes in the field of Youth Affairs between India and Russia will help in promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst Youth through establishment of people-to-people contacts and in consolidating friendly relations between the two countries.
- Exchange programmes will help in developing international perspective among the Youth and expanding their knowledge and expertise in the areas of Youth Affairs.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157462>

MoU between Ministry of AYUSH and Advertising Standards Council of India

Question: Recently Ministry of AYUSH and Advertising Standards Council of India signed a MoU for which of the following purpose?

- (a) Quality Improvement (b) Commercialization
- (c) Co-regulate misleading advertisements (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 20 January 2017 Ministry of AYUSH and Advertising Standards Council of India signed MoU to co-regulate misleading advertisements in the AYUSH sector?
- The MoU was signed by Advisor (Ayurveda), Ministry of AYUSH Dr, Dinesh Chan Katoch and Chairman, ASCI Shri Srinivasan K Swamy in the presence of Secretary AYUSH Shri Ajit M Sharan at New Delhi. This will help in resolving the cases of misleading advertisements with respect to Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy drugs, treatments and related services, ASCI will comprehensively monitor these advertisements across print and electronic media.
- ASCI have been given a self-monitoring mandate by the Ministry of AYUSH to identify potentially misleading advertisement in the AYUSH sector and process complaints through its Consumer Complaints Council (CCC).
- The Ministry of AYUSH will also redirect complaints against misleading advertisements they receive, to the ASCI, which will be reviewed using ASCI's code and guidelines.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157548>

https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/822437050531987457



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) and National Yuva Cooperative Society Ltd. (NYCS)

Question: Recently Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) and National Yuva Cooperative Society Ltd. (NYCS) signed to establish how many Janaushadhi Kendras across the Country?

(a) 500 (b) 800 (c) 1000 (d) 400

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) and National Yuva Cooperative Society Ltd. (NYCS) was signed.
- It was signed with the objective to setup 1000 Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras in both urban and rural places of the country, as a part of "Mission 3000" Kendras by March 2017. Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP), an initiative of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, is a mission to make quality medicines accessible to all citizens of the country at affordable prices. The BPPI is the nodal implementation agency for the PMBJP Scheme. Government envisions to establish Jansausadhi kendras in every block & gram panchayat across the country.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=157428>

https://twitter.com/AnanthKumar_BJP/status/821686714003550209

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/govt-inks-mou-to-set-up-1000-janaushadhi-kendras/1/860421.html>

MoU between ISRO and JAXA

Question : Recently Cabinet apprised of the MoU between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the JAXA for cooperation in the field of outer space, JAXA is the space agency of which of the following country?

(a) United Kingdom (b) Japan (c) Russia (d) Canada

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) for cooperation in the field of outer space.
- The MoU was signed on November 11, 2016 at Tokyo, Japan.
- The purpose of this MoU is to pursue future cooperative activities in the exploration and use of outer space exclusively for peaceful purposes in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable in each country and their international obligations.
- This MoU provides scope for pursuing cooperation in various areas of space science technology and applications including: earth observation, satellite communication and navigation; exploration and space sciences; Research and development (space systems and space technology); and Space industry promotion.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157461>

MoU between Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

Question: Recently a MoU between Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was signed for which of the following purpose?

- (a) Cleanliness in Schools (b) Cleanliness in Gram Sabhas
(c) Cleanliness of the village situated on the banks of the River Ganga (d) Cleanliness of the river Ganga

Ans: (d)



Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has signed a MoU with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS).
- It is aimed at generating widespread awareness on ails of polluting river Ganga, a cadre of thousands of youths will be groomed as volunteers to be deployed in villages along the river to raise clean Ganga consciousness among the local dwellers and visitors.
- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), an autonomous organisation under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- It has been entrusted with the task of building capacities of more than 20, 000 young men and women from Ganga basin states, so that they can represent Namami Gange programme as "Swachhta Doots".
- The project envisages deployment of the youth in 29 districts spanning about 2,336 villages along the river in Ganga basin States of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. One project officer will be assigned to each district.
- The project has been approved at an estimated cost of Rs 10 crore.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157422>

MoU on MSME Cooperation with Indian Ocean Rim Association

Question: The share of MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSME) in India's total export is ...

- (a) 40% (b) 35% (c) 38% (d) 36%

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- The Ministry of MSME, Government of India finalized a MoU on MSME Cooperation with Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member countries on 20th January, 2017
- The MoU will take effect for each party upon signature by 5 countries. The MoU would be signed soon at an appropriate forum.
- The focus areas of the Memorandum of Understandings are:
 - To finalise linkages and alliances amongst MSMEs organizations, associations and various institutions engaged in MSME development in their countries.
 - Exchange best practices, policies and programs for MSME development.
 - Exchange greater involvement of MSMEs in the global supply chain, increase their market access.
 - Promote youth and women's economic empowerment.
 - Encourage synergies with the IORA forum.
- Indian Ocean Rim Association Secretariat at Mauritius will be the coordinating agency for the implementation of the MoU.

Background:

Workshop on MSME Cooperation amongst IORA member countries was organized in pursuance of the commitment made by India in the Economic Business Conference – II held in Dubai in April, 2016. 29 Representatives from 14 member countries, viz., Mozambique, Madagascar, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Comoros, Kenya, Seychelles, Malaysia, Mauritius, Singapore, Australia, UAE and Yemen participated in the conference.

Benefit:

MoU for MSME Cooperation amongst Indian Ocean Rim Association member countries will provide an appropriate platform to IORA MSMEs to interact with each other, participate in trade fairs, facilitate buyer-seller meetings, acquire appropriate technology and explore trade and investment opportunities.

MSMEs constitute more than 90% of all business enterprises in the world and provide nearly 70% of global employment. India has more than 48 million MSMEs. These contribute more than 45% of India's industrial output, 40% of the country's total exports and create 1.3 million jobs every year. India has already signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with 18 countries for cooperation in MSME sector.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157541>

<http://www.smetimes.in/smetimes/news/top-stories/2017/Jan/20/msme-ministry-signs-mou-with-iora-member-countries.html>

MoU to co-regulate misleading advertisements in the AYUSH sector

Question: The department of AYUSH includes...

- (a) Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy (b) Unani, Siddha
(c) Homoeopathy (d) All of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 20th January, 2017 The Ministry of AYUSH signed a MoU with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to curtail malpractices in the advertisement of AYUSH drugs. Addressing the cases of misleading advertisements with respect to Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy drugs, treatments and related services, ASCI will comprehensively monitor these advertisements across print and electronic media.
- ASCI has been given a self-monitoring mandate by the Ministry of AYUSH to identify potentially misleading advertisement in the AYUSH sector and process complaints through its Consumer Complaints Council.
- The Ministry of AYUSH will also redirect complaints against misleading advertisements they receive, to the ASCI, which will be reviewed using ASCI's code and guidelines.
- The MoU also requires ASCI to report all advertisements in potential violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, to the Ministry of AYUSH as well as non-compliance of ASCI's recommendations for further action.
- The department of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) was created with a view to provide focused attention for the development of Education and Research in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.

**Reference:**

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

<http://ayush.gov.in/about-the-ministry/background>

Joint Venture by Railways & Govt. of Jharkhand

Question: The national average of present railway network density is ...

- (a) 5 KM per 100 square Km
- (b) 6 KM per 100 square Km
- (c) 7 Km per 100 square Km
- (d) 2.01 Km per 100 square Km

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 20th January, 2017, a Joint Venture Agreement was signed between Ministry of Railways and Government of Jharkhand for developing railway infrastructure in the State.
- This Joint Venture agreement will provide active representation to States in the Planning and Implementation and speed up the development of Railway projects on state's priority.
- It will generate more financial resources through participation of State & other stakeholders in the project specific subsidiaries.
- Government of Jharkhand has initially identified 3 projects viz., Namkum – Kandra, Giridih – Parasnath-Madhuban, Tori – Chatra Rail Line covering a length of 222 km at a cost of Rs. 2150 Crore.
- Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat have already signed JV agreement with Ministry of Railways.
- Government of Jharkhand with 51% equity is the 9th State which had agreed to form a Joint Venture Company with the Ministry of Railways
- The present railway network density in Jharkhand is 17.64 Km per 100 square Km which is the best in India and way above the national average of 2.01 Km per 100 square Km.
- Railways have a large shelf of ongoing New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects needing about Rs 3.86 lakh crores to complete.
- To expedite the projects, Railways have been trying to mobilize resources through other than Gross Budgetary Support. Towards this mission, 10 State Governments have till now agreed to share the cost of 41 ongoing projects ranging from 25% to 67% of the project cost.
- In view of the growing demands for Railway lines in various states and huge requirement of funds to execute them Railway Ministry has taken an initiative for setting up of Joint Ventures with States for focused project development.



Reference;

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

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/railways/railways-sign-joint-venture-with-jharkhand-government-to-develop-rail-infra-in-the-state/articleshow/56689621.cms>

MoU between India and World Bank

Question: Recently Government of India the World Bank signed a US\$ 48 million credit agreement to improve the quality of health care services in which of the following state?

- (a) Manipur (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Nagaland (d) Bihar

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 13 January 2017; Government of India, the Government of Nagaland and the World Bank signed a US\$ 48 million credit agreement to improve the quality of health care services in the north eastern state of Nagaland.



- The US\$ 48 million Nagaland Health Project will empower village health committees to deliver better health service delivery across the state and strengthen existing health systems and public health facilities.
- The closing date of Nagaland health Project is 31st March, 2023.

Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/01/16/project-signing-over-500-communities-to-benefit-from-usd48-million-nagaland-health-project>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157371>

Cabinet approved several MoU with UAE

Question: United Arab Emirates is a federation of ... emirates and was established on December 2, 1971.

(a) seven (b) five (c) eight (d) nine

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th January 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates on the Mutual Recognition of Certificates of Competency.
- The proposed MoU will pave way for recognition of maritime education and training, certificates of competency, endorsements, training documentary evidence and medical fitness certificates for seafarers issued by the Government of the other country in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1/10 of the Convention, and cooperation between the two countries in training and management of seafarers.
- The Cabinet also approved the Memorandum of Understanding between India and the United Arab Emirates on Bilateral Cooperation in the Road Transport and Highways Sector to be signed between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, India and the Federal Transport Authority – Land and Maritime, U.A.E.
- The proposed MoU envisages increased cooperation, exchange and collaboration between India and the UAE, and will contribute to increased investment in infrastructure development and enhance logistics efficiency.
- It will include sharing of information and cooperation for mobilizing investments for setting up of Logistics Parks, freight logistics, transportation warehousing and value added services as an enabler and as a catalyst of economic growth and seamless freight movement.
- Apart from these the Cabinet also approved for signing the Memorandum of Understanding between India and United Arab Emirates for cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises and Innovation.
- The MoU would benefit Indian SMEs and lead to equitable and inclusive development. The exposure to best practices in SME sector abroad would provide an opportunity to Indian SMEs to improve upon them and innovate further.
- Besides the cabinet gave its nod for signing of Memorandum of Understanding between India and United Arab Emirates in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- The MoU will be mutually beneficial to both countries. It will promote understanding of best agricultural practices in the two countries and will help in better productivity at farmer fields as well as improved global market access leading to equity and inclusiveness.
- The Union also approved the Memorandum of Understanding between India and the United Arab Emirates on Institutional Cooperation in Maritime Transport.



- The proposed MoU will pave way for facilitation and promotion of maritime transport, simplification of customs and other formalities, wherever possible, observed in Ports and facilitation of the use of existing installations for the disposal of waste.

Reference:

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

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

Trade Agreement negotiations with Peru

Question: Amazon River belongs to which of the following country?

(a) Peru (b) Canada (c) USA (d) UAE

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved holding negotiations for Trade Agreement with Peru on trade in goods, services and investment.
- A Joint Study Group between India and Peru was constituted in order to explore the possibility for entering into trade agreement with Peru on 15th January, 2015.
- Both sides concluded the Joint Study Group Report on 20th October, 2016 and agreed to carry forward the discussions on trade in goods, trade in services and investment.
- Peru ranks 3rd amongst export destinations for India in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region during 2015-16. India's bilateral trade with Peru was US\$ 107.32 million during 2005-06 which registered a growth of 1319.45% during 2015-16.
- During 2015-16, bilateral trade stood at US\$ 1,523.35 million with exports at US\$ 703.12 million and imports US\$ 820.22 million respectively.



Reference:

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

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peru>

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Vietnam

Question: The currency of Vietnam is ...

(a) Dong (b) Yuan (c) Dollar (d) Rupay

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th January, 2017 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Vietnam in the field of Cyber Security.
- It was signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In), India and the Cyber Security Department, Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam on 3rd September 2016 at Hanoi. The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation for exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of cyber security-related incidents between India and Vietnam.
- Implementation of the MoU will result in significant mutual benefits in the cyber security sector, through institutional and capacity-building in the field of cyber security in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.



Reference:

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

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Serbia

Question: consider the following:

- (1) Serbia is landlocked and (2) Serbia borders Hungary to the north
(a) Both are correct (b) Both are incorrect (c) Only 1 is correct
(d) Only 2 is correct

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Serbia for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics.
- The MoU was signed on 13th October, 2016
- The MoU aims to promote cooperation between India and Serbia in the field of IT and Electronics, and to foster active cooperation and exchanges between the private entities, capacity building institutions, the Governments and other public and private organizations of the two countries in IT & Electronics.
- Under the terms of agreement, both countries will enhance cooperation for using IT as a tool to improve public service delivery i.e. e-learning, e-government services, tele-medicine, e-education, e-authentication, cyber security, internet-governance, e-commerce etc.
- The two countries will also explore cooperation in R&D and Innovation in IT & Electronics sector through joint collaborative projects, organizing technical exhibitions, workshops, seminars, expert visits & training sessions and will develop cooperation on IT hubs, start-up companies and infrastructure incubators.

Reference:

<https://www.mea.gov.in>

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



India & Mauritius Sign MoU

Question: Recently India & Mauritius Signed MoU for Cooperation in which of the following field?

- (a) Cooperatives (b) Commerce (c) Tax evasion (d) Tourism

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 January 2017; India & Mauritius Sign MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives.
- The MoU will enable the two countries to collaborate in this vital sector and can significantly benefit thousands of Mauritians.
- India offered to exchange its expertise and technology with Mauritius in agro industry, fisheries and dairy sector.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157376>



MoU between India and the US

Question: Recently India has signed MoU to collaborate in the fields of developmental activities and aid in third world countries with which of the following country?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 14 January 2017; India and the US have signed an MoU to collaborate in the fields of developmental activities and aid in third world countries.
- The MoU has been signed between the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.
- MCC is a US agency providing eligible countries with grants to fund country-led solutions for reducing poverty through sustainable economic growth.
- DPA looks after implementation of India's development cooperation programmes with partner countries.
- As per the MoU signed, the two countries would collaborate on exchange of information and experience in sectors or issues pertaining to project development or implementation in partner countries.
- India and US might also provide advisory or technical assistance to third countries regarding sector policy reform, project and sector management, project implementation, and economic growth promotion strategies in relevant sectors.
- The MoU also facilitates officials of two countries to site visits to cross-border or other relevant projects, and capacity building of partner countries.
- India and US, share a vision of reducing poverty globally through sustainable economic growth.
- This was signed to cooperate with the goal of advancing their mutual interests to strengthen regional integration and connectivity, particularly in the areas of energy, trade, and investment.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-us-sign-mou-for-collaboration-in-third-world-countries-4473555/>

India-CERT Signs an MoU with US-CERT

Question: When did India and USA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT- In)?

(a) 11 January 2017 (b) 12 January 2017 (c) 13 January 2017
(d) 10 January 2017

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 11 January 2017; India and USA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information technology of the Government of India and the Department of Homeland Security, Government of the United States of America on cooperation in the field of cyber Security.
- The MoU was signed by Smt. Aruna Sundararajan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Mr. Richard Verma, US Ambassador to India
- The MoU intends to promote closer co-operation and the exchange of information pertaining to the Cyber Security in accordance with the relevant laws, rules and regulations of each economy and this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit.



- Earlier United States and India signed an MoU on 19th July, 2011 to promote a closer cooperation and timely exchange of information between the organizations of their respective Governments responsible for Cyber Security.
- Since, 19.07.2011 regular interactions between CERT-In and US CERT are taking place to share the information and discuss cyber security related issues.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156288>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/india-cert-signs-an-mou-with-us-cert-117011200195_1.html

India & Sri Lanka sign MoU

Question: Recently India has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka to construct how many rain water harvesting systems?

(a) 4000 (b) 3000 (c) 2000 (d) 1000

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 13 January 2017; India and Sri Lanka signed an MoU to construct 3000 rain water harvesting systems.
- It will be constructed at a cost of 30 crore Sri Lankan Rupees in northern Jaffna District.
- The MoU was signed by Mr. Arindam Bagchi, Acting High Commissioner of India in the presence of Hon. A. H. M. Fowzie, State Minister of National Integration and Reconciliation.
- The project envisages construction of rainwater harvesting systems for 3000 households in selected divisions of Tamil majority Jaffna District.
- The scope of the project also includes training of the households on operation and maintenance of the systems.
- It aims to assist people by supporting resettlement efforts focused on reintegrating internally displaced families in Jaffna by providing clean drinking water supply facility to households.
- This grant project was approved by Government of India in response to a request received from the Office for National Unity and Reconciliation of Government of Sri Lanka. Beneficiaries will be identified by Government of Sri Lanka in consultation with the Government of India.
- The selected beneficiaries would include women headed families and recently resettled families.



Reference:

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/39514>

<http://lankainformation.lk/news/latest-news/item/12526-indo-lanka-mou-to-construct-3-000-rainwater-harvesting-systems>

Indian Army

Question: Recently Indian Army has entered into an agreement with which of the following institution to set up a research and development (R&D) cell?

(a) IIT, Kanpur (b) IIT, Mumbai (c) IIT, Kharagpur (d) IIT, Gandhinagar

Ans: (d)

Related facts:



- On 27 December 2016; Indian Army signed an MoU with Indian Institute of Technology-Gandhinagar (IITGN) to set up a Research and Development cell.
- The cell will work with the faculty and research students to identify problems and possible solutions for the Indian Army.
- IITGN director Sudhir Jain and Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Planning and System) Lt Gen Subrata Saha signed the MoU at the institute's campus at Palaj in Gandhinagar district.
- On January 1, 2017 General Bipin Rawat became the India's 26th chief of army staff. He replaced Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag.

Reference:

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/india/indian-army-signs-mou-with-iit-gandhinagar-to-set-up-rd-cell/993596>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/indian-army-to-set-up-rd-cell-at-iitgandhinagar/article9446282.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-army-partners-with-iit-gandhinagar-for-critical-technology-requirements/articleshow/56202380.cms>

MoU between SBI and Magicbricks.com

Question: Recently State Bank of India has tied up with online classifieds portal magicbricks.com for which of the following purpose?

- (a) To conduct joint marketing activities and help rejuvenate the real estate sector.
- (b) To provide affordable house for lower income group
- (c) To provide digital platform for home buyers
- (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; State Bank of India, the country's largest bank has tied up with online classifieds portal magicbricks.com.
- MoU was signed to conduct joint marketing activities and help rejuvenate the real estate sector.
- To start the MOU, SBI and Magicbricks are launching the "Seal the Deal" campaign.
- Under Seal the Deal, SBI and Magicbricks will be hosting a mega online property show for SBI Approved Projects.
- This will be the first housing carnival in the industry at this scale.
- Seal The Deal will showcase SBI Approved Projects on the Magicbricks platform.
- Magicbricks, a division of Times Internet Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd (The Times Group) is a website.
- It provides a common platform for property buyers & sellers to locate properties of interest in India, and source information about all property related issues.
- It should be known that Arundhati Bhattacharya is currently the Chair-Managing director of the State Bank of India.
- She is the first woman to be the Chairperson of State Bank of India.



Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/state-bank-of-india-ties-up-with-magicbricks-com/articleshow/56255709.cms>

India and Kazakhstan sign Protocol to Amend DTAC

Question: which of the following is the world's largest landlocked country?

(a) Kazakhstan (b) Bhutan (c) Bolivia (d) Uganda

Ans:(a)

- On 6th January, 2017 India and Kazakhstan signed a Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) which was earlier signed on 9th December, 1996.
- Salient features of the Protocol are as under:
 - (i) The Protocol provides internationally accepted standards for effective exchange of information on tax matters. Further, the information received from Kazakhstan for tax purposes can be shared with other law enforcement agencies with authorisation of the competent authority of Kazakhstan and vice versa.
 - (ii) The Protocol inserts a Limitation of Benefits Article, to provide a main purpose test to prevent misuse of the DTAC and to allow application of domestic law and measures against tax avoidance or evasion.
 - (iii) The Protocol inserts specific provisions to facilitate relieving of economic double taxation in transfer pricing cases. This is a taxpayer friendly measure and is in line with India's commitment under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan to meet the minimum standard of providing Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) access in transfer pricing cases.
 - (iv) The Protocol inserts service PE provisions with a threshold and also provides that the profits to be attributed to PE will be determined on the basis of apportionment of total profits of the enterprise.
 - (v) The Protocol replaces existing Article on Assistance in Collection of Taxes with a new Article to align it with international standards.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/business-others/india-kazakhstan-sign-protocol-to-amend-double-taxation-avoidance-convention-4461810/>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156176>

MoU between India and Portugal

Question: The agreement signed between India and Portugal recently concerning agriculture will be in force for a period of

(a) five years. (b) two years. (c) one year. (d) four years.

Ans:(a)

- On 4th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for signing of an Agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Portugal.
- The Agreement covers various activities in the field of agriculture such as exchange of scientific and technical information, trade in plants and plant products, exchange of information in phytosanitary issues, training programmes, seminars and visits of experts and consultants.
- The Agreement provides for constitution of a Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from both countries.
- The Joint Working Group would monitor the implementation of the present MoU and make concrete proposals for agriculture cooperation and develop guidelines and priorities for future cooperation in these fields.



- The Agreement shall enter into force on the date of its signing and shall remain in force for a period of five years and shall be automatically extended for a subsequent period of five years unless either Party gives written notice through diplomatic channels to the other Party of its intention to terminate the Agreement at least six months before its expiration.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156124>

<http://agriculture.gov.in/news.aspx>

India and Uruguay agree for mutual Assistance in Customs Matters

Question: What is MERCOSUR?

- (a) A sub regional block for trade (b) A security alliance (c) An animal
(d) None of the above

Ans:(a)

- On 4th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved signing and ratifying of an Agreement between India and Uruguay regarding Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters.
- The Agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for the prevention and investigation of Customs offences.
- The Agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the two countries.
- The draft Agreement takes care of Indian Customs' concerns and requirements, particularly in the area of exchange of information on the correctness of the Customs value declared, the authenticity of certificates of origin of goods and the description of the goods traded between the two countries.
- Background:
- Uruguay is an important trading partner of India among members of the MERCOSUR, a trading block in Latin America. India signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with the MERCOSUR which came into effect from 1st June, 2009.
- Mercosur is a sub-regional bloc. Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency. Its full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela (which was suspended on December 1, 2016).
- Trade between India and the Uruguay has been expanding gradually. The Agreement would provide a legal framework for sharing of information and intelligence between the Customs authorities of the two countries and help in the proper application of Customs laws, prevention and investigation of Customs offences and the facilitation of legitimate trade.
- The draft text of the proposed Agreement has been finalized with the concurrence of the two Customs Administrations.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156117>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-uruguay-customs-agreement-receives-cabinet-nod-4458405/>



India and Kenya to cooperate in the field of agriculture and allied sectors

Question: Nairobi is the capital city of

- (a) Kenya (b) West Indies (c) Cuba (d) None of the above.

Ans:(a)



- On 4th January, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kenya on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- The MoU covers wide range of activities in the field of agriculture such as agricultural research, animal husbandry and dairy, livestock and fisheries horticulture, natural resource management, post-harvest management and marketing, soil and conservation.
- It will also focus on water management, irrigation farming systems development and integrated watershed development integrated pest management, agricultural plant, machinery and implements, sanitary and phytosanitary issues.
- The MoU provides for constitution of a Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from both countries. The Joint Working Group would develop detailed cooperation programmes and monitor implementation of the MoU.
- The MoU shall enter into force on the day of signing and shall remain valid for a period of five years and shall automatically be renewed for a subsequent period of five years unless either Party notifies the other in writing, six months before the expiry of the validity period of the intention to terminate it.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156122>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/cabinet-approves-pact-with-kenya-on-agriculture/story-wanAAXkCafu6g7W1KcVRjL.html>

Memorandum of understanding between Haryana and Andhra Pradesh

Question: Recently Haryana government signed a memorandum of understanding with Andhra Pradesh for-

- (a) Agriculture (b) Preparing centralised database of its population
(c) International transport operations (d) None of these

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 29 December 2016 Haryana government signed a memorandum of understanding with Andhra Pradesh to assist it compile a centralised database of its population.
- It will ensure efficient and effective implementation of welfare programmes.
- The MoU for State Resident Data Base (SRDB) was signed by Haryana Principal Secretary, Information Technology Devender Singh and Secretary Andhra Pradesh, Information Technology, Vijayen.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Andhra's N Chandra Babu Naidu were present during the signing of the MoU.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/haryana-signs-mou-with-andhra-to-prepare-citizen-database-116122900709_1.html

CONFERENCE

North East Investors' Summit

Question: The first North East Investors' summit is being organized in ...

(a) Agartala (b) Imphal (c) Shillong (d) Guwahati

Ans: (C)

Related Fact:

- The first ever "Investors Summit" exclusively for North Eastern Region (NER) is being organized in Shillong from 29-30 January, 2017.
- The event would be inaugurated by the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani in Shillong, on 29th January, 2017.
- The North East Investors Summit 2017 is being organized jointly by the Ministry of Textiles and the Ministry of DoNER of the Government of India, in collaboration with industry associations FICCI and CII.
- The theme of the summit is "Exploring Opportunities in North East Region". The summit aims to showcase the NER as a global destination for investment, and to explore the possibility of bringing in convergence of efforts of various central Ministries and North Eastern States to attract investment in NER.
- The Summit will be attended by all North Eastern States, industries from North Eastern Region and leading investors across the country.
- The states of the NER would put up exclusive stalls and make presentations on investment opportunities in textile manufacturing in these states.
- Various MoUs between industry bodies and state governments are expected to be signed during the summit, which would promote investment and boost manufacturing in the region.



Background:

North Eastern Region has huge potential for investments, particularly in the field of textiles and handicrafts, due to its inherent strength for skilled work force and locally available raw materials. Ministry of Textiles is implementing projects worth Rs. 1,050 crore for handlooms, handicrafts, sericulture, apparel & garmenting, technical textiles etc. in the eight states of North Eastern Region, in line with the "Act East" policy of the Government.

The decision to hold the summit was announced by the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani, at the Annual Conference of State Textiles Ministers, held in New Delhi, on 10th November, 2016.

Reference:

<http://www.cii.in/EventsDetails.aspx?enc=eo18/j+aJMWXCXiMZZAdo8d9zNSY68JG17PTPgWIsxY=>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157731>

India Pharma & India Medical Device 2017

Question: the 2nd International exhibition and conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2017' is being organized in ...

(a) Bengaluru (b) Chandigarh (c) Srinagar (d) Goa

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry is organising 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2017' from 11th-13th February, 2017 in Bengaluru.



- This year the 'India Pharma & Medical Device 2017' Conference is based around the Themes: Medical Devices- 'Shaping the Future-Making the Right Choices' and Pharma - 'Shaping the future of India Pharma' with vision 'For Responsible Healthcare',
- The international event would not only provide a platform to tap global potential for the Indian Pharmaceutical and Medical Device sector, but also provide an opportunity to project India as an attractive investment destination for investment to areas such as Research & Developments, Clinical Trials by promoting Joint Ventures with the Indian Manufacturers and bringing in best practices in the sector from around the world.
- The Conference will be a Pharma Kumbh and the highlight would be the International Drug Regulators meet.
- The initiatives in this three day programme are designed to focus on contemporary policy interventions, Ease of Doing Business, sharing best practices & fostering collaborations with the global Regulatory Framework and to deliberate on sectoral reforms which shall bring India on forefront of global attractiveness for Investments
- The 2nd edition of the event will witness a 25% growth in number of exhibitors, number of delegates & business visitors and international delegations participation.
- The India Pharma exhibition will cover all the segments of the pharmaceutical industry starting from finished formulations, APIs, bio-pharmaceuticals, fine chemicals & intermediates, natural extracts and excipients.
- India Medical Device exhibition will showcase med-tech innovations in India across segments from preventive to therapeutic care.

Reference:

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

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157733>

Bharat Parv-2017

Question: "Bharat Parv" event is being organized by the Government of India from 26th to 31st January 2017 at which of the following place?

(a) Pragati Maidan (b) Vijay Chowk (c) Red Fort (d) Indraprastha Park

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- From 26th to 31st January 2017; the "Bharat Parv" event is being organized by the Government of India at the Red Fort, Delhi.
- The prime objective of organizing the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country, to ensure wider participation of the general public and to popularise the idea of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat.
- The Ministry of Tourism has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the event.
- The highlights of event include display of the Republic Day Parade Tableaux, Performances by the Armed Forces Bands (static and moving), a Multi-Cuisine Food Court, Crafts Mela, Cultural Performances from different regions of the country and a Photo Exhibition by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.
- The Cultural Performances include choreographed Folk / Tribal Dances and Music from across the country will be included in the event.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157634>



National Conference in Rann of Kutch

Question: Recently a three day National Conference started at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat to-

- (a) Promote sports in Gujarat
- (b) Promote and develop Tourism, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports
- (c) Promote Youth Affairs and Sports (d) Develop tourism and culture

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 20 January 2017; a three (20-22 January 2017) days National Conference to promote and develop Tourism, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports organized by the Ministries of Tourism, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports in cooperation with the Government of Gujarat held at Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
- The theme of the Conference is “Converging Tourism, Culture, Youth Affairs and Sports and Creating Synergy with States and UTs towards building a Resurgent Young India and strengthening Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat”.
- The Chief Guest Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered the inaugural address through a live video conference.
- Vijaybhairu R. Rupani, Chief Minister of Gujarat launched a “Quiz Competition under Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” on the occasion.
- A Film entitled “The Making of Rann Utsav” was also screened.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157508>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157552>

<http://cmogujarat.gov.in/gu/cm-kick-starts-national-conference-tourism-cultural-sports-ministers-pm-addresses-video-conference/>



Combined Commanders Conference

Question: Recently the Combined Commanders Conference (CCC) was held in which of the following city?

- (a) Delhi (b) Dehradun (c) Kochi (d) Jodhpur

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 21 January 2017; Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Combined Commanders Conference (CCC) in Dehradun.
- It was hosted at the Indian Military Academy (IMA).
- It was attended by all army commanders and their equivalents from the Air Force and the Navy.
- The last conference was conducted at INS Vikramaditya off the coast of Kochi on December 15, 2015.
- This was organised outside Delhi for the second time after 2015.
- The conference focused on the surgical strikes across the Line of Control, the prevailing situation on the LoC, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and the emerging security situation.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/PMOIndia/status/822841662552444928>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/pm-modi-to-today-address-combined-commanders-conference-in-dehradun-117012100129_1.html



28th Dantan Gramin Mela -2017

Question: Recently the 28th Dantan Gramin Mela -2017 was inaugurated at which of the following place?

(a) West Medinipur (b) East Medinipur (c) Singhbhum (d) Malda

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19 January 2017; President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 28th Dantan Gramin Mela -2017.
- It was inaugurated at Dantan, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157532>



Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2017

Question: Recently Global Forum for Food and Agriculture 2017 was held at-

(a) Davos (b) Berlin (c) Jakarta (d) New Delhi

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- The Global Forum for Food and Agriculture is an International Conference organized by Germany during 19-21, January 2017 in Berlin.
- The main subject of conference was “Agriculture and Water – Key to Feeding the World”.
- It was attended by Agriculture Ministers of 65 countries.
- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh to lead a five member delegation to Germany for participation in the Global Forum for Food & Agriculture from 19-21 January, 2017.
- He also participated in G-20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting on 22nd January, 2017 in Berlin.
- The theme of G-20 Agriculture Ministers Meeting was “Agriculture & Water – Digitalization in the Agriculture Sector”.
- Ministers from the world's twenty biggest economies to discuss the way ahead for the global agricultural sector.



Reference:

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

<http://www.gffa-berlin.de/en/global-forum-for-food-and-agriculture-2017/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157410>

Festival of India in Cambodia

Question: Festival of India is being organized in Cambodia from –

- (a) 1st January to 31st January , 2017
(b) 15th January to 21st February, 2017
(c) 11th January to 17th February, 2017
(d) 10th January to 16th February, 2017

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- From 10th January to 16th February, 2017; a Festival of India is being organized in Cambodia.



- The activities of the Festival include Ramayana Performance, Rajasthani Folk Music & Dance Group (Dance Group plus Manganiyar Group) and Classical Dance.
- A Buddhist Mahotsav – Exhibition titled Dhamma Darshana – to explore the life, teachings and important events connected with Lord Buddha and Photo Exhibition on Buddhist religious/heritage sites in India will also be organized.
- A Food Festival will also be held.
- The Festival events are being showcased in three cities of Phnom Penh, Siem Reap and Battambang in Cambodia.

Reference:

<http://www.indembassyphnompenh.org/slide.php?id=79>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156153>

First Steel Consumers' Council Meeting

Question: The first meeting of the National Steel Consumers' Council was held on 21st January, 2017 in ...

(a) Mumbai (b) Katak (c) Ranchi (d) Tata Nagar

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21st January, 2017 the first meeting of the National Steel Consumers' Council was held under the Chairmanship of the Union Steel Minister Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh in Mumbai.
- The function of the Steel Consumer Council is to advise Government on matters relating to supply, availability, quality and the market trends of iron and steel.
- This meeting was attended by representatives of various ministries, several industry associations, producers and consumers of iron & steel Industry, house builders and related industries, industry experts and steel makers including SAIL, RINL and TATA Steel etc.
- This meeting would provide a vibrant platform to discuss the domestic steel industry scenario, the global steel trends, and benefits of using steel and on how to boost the domestic steel consumption.
- India has become the third largest steel producer in the world; while the domestic steel consumption remains at only 60 Kgs per capita.
- There has been continued thrust from the Ministry of Steel to boost domestic steel consumption by exploring the versatile steel uses.



Reference:

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

<http://steel.gov.in/welcome.html>

Dantan Gramin Mela -2017

Question: Dantan Gramin Mela in West Bengal is organized ...

(a) Annually (b) Half- yearly (c) Every two years (d) Every five years

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th January, 2017, The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 28th Dantan Gramin Mela -2017 at Dantan, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.
- Speaking on the occasion, the President Pranab Mukherjee expressed concern over growing tensions and difference of opinion in society.



- Referring to the violence in different parts of the world, the President said the general trend of human society is for people to love each other and co-exist, not spread hatred. Rural fairs like Dantan Gramin Mela promote brotherhood, harmony and peaceful co-existence among people.
- The fair was started in 1989. It has crossed multifarious barriers and with a clear and liberal outlook is still winding its way towards coming generation with a nobler brighter and more prosperous future.

Reference:

<http://dsca.in/about-us/>

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

First ABU International Dance Festival

Question: First ABU International Dance Festival was held at-

(a) Hyderabad (b) Begaluru (c) Jaipur (d) Ahemdabad

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 13-15 January 2017; the ABU International Dance Festival 2017 was inaugurated in Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad.
- Indian national broadcasters Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR), which are part of the public broadcasting agency Prasar Bharati (PB), were in charge of organising the event.
- In the competition of 17 organizations of 13 countries, including the host country presented the traditional and contemporary dance.
- Performers from countries like Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, India, Maldives, Mongolia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam participated in the festival.
- The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) was established in 1964.
- It is a non-profit, non-government, professional association to assist the development of broadcasting in the region.
- The ABU Secretariat is located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Reference:

<http://aidf.prasarbharati.org/#>

http://www.abu.org.my/Festivals-@-Dance_Festival.aspx

4th Delhi International Kite Festival

Question: Recently 4th Delhi international kite festival was organised on 14-16 January 2017 by-

- (a) Department of Tourism, Government of India
 (b) Delhi Tourism, Government of Delhi
 (c) Delhi Development Authority
 (d) Municipal Corporation of Delhi

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 14-16 January 2017; the 4th international kite festival organised by the Delhi tourism department.
- The three-day festival, held at Dwarka's DDA Ground, was inaugurated by Delhi tourism minister Kapil Mishra.



- The theme of the festival was “Fly for Fun, Fly for Peace, Fly for Health”
- A special kite making demonstration will also be organised where professional kite flyers will showcase their expertise and demonstrate the art of kite making.
- International kite flyers from Germany, Korea, the US, China, Thailand, Ukraine, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, Netherlands and Malaysia also participated in the fourth Delhi International Kite Festival.
- Professional kite flying experts from states such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, Jaipur, Chennai, Kerala, Punjab and Delhi participated in the festival.

Reference:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/732920180207774/>

<http://www.delhievents.com/2017/01/fest-delhi-international-kite-festival.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/delhi-international-kite-festival-begins/1/857638.html>

58th IIGF 2017

Question: The 58th edition of **India** International Garment Fair (IIGF) will be held in **New Delhi** from January 18 – 20, 2017. **India** International Garment Fair will be organized by ...

- (a) Apparel Export Promotion Council (b) FICCI
(c) India Trade Promotion Organisation
(d) Confederation of Indian Industry

Ans: (a)

- The 58th edition of India International Garment Fair will be held in New Delhi from January 18 – 20, 2017.
- India International Garment Fair will be organized by Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPF) India and will cater primarily to Autumn-Winter 2017/18.
- The IIGF is one of the largest and most popular platforms in Asia, from which overseas garment buyers can source products and forge business relationships with India's finest players in the apparel and fashion accessories domain.
- A total of 312 participants from 14 states of the country are participating in the Fair; the major participating states are Delhi-NCR, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- A theme pavilion and best display awards are some other attractions of the event.
- 58th IIGF is India's largest garment show in South Asia, covering Apparel and Fashion Accessories, organized over a vast exhibition area.
- The India International Garment Fair was started in 1988. It is a Business to Business fair and is meant for conducting meaningful and quality business.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157386>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/textiles-minister-to-inaugurate-58th-iigf-2017-117011700226_1.html

Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions

Question: Who is the current chairman of the National Minority Commission?

- a) Naseem Ahmad b) S Y Qureshi c) R C Lahoti d) Maneka Gandhi

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 17th January, 2017 The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Minority Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Mukhtar



Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the Annual Conference of State Minorities Commissions at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

- Minority Affairs Ministry has started several welfare schemes for socio-economic-educational empowerment of Minorities to ensure that Minorities have been moving forward on the path of development.
- PM's new 15-point programme, "Nai Manzil", "Nai Raushni", "Seekho aur Kamao", "Ustaad", "Pre-metric and Post-metric scholarships" schemes have benefitted all the Minorities.
- Ministry of Minority Affairs will establish 5 world class educational institutions to provide better traditional and modern education to students belonging to Minority communities. A high-level committee has been constituted for this purpose.
- Begam Hajrat Mahal Girls Scholarship" and "Garib Nawaz Skill Development Centres have also been decided to be started.
- Centre has also approved about 200 "Sadbhav Mandap" and 16 "Gurukul" type of schools with a cost of about Rs 262 crore. The Minister informed that welfare schemes-programmes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs have been made "100 per cent digital" which has ensured transparency in these schemes.
- National Minority Commission chairman Shri Naseem Ahmad briefed that only 82 petitions were pending disposal out of 1288 petitions received, by the end of December 2016.
- He also informed that commission's Members regularly visit their allotted states to hear the grievances of minority communities and to monitor the implementation of various minority welfare schemes.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157392>

<http://mukhtarabbasnaqvi.in/Pressdtl.aspx?ID=10985&cat=Press>

21st National Youth Festival

Question: National Youth was held at Rhotak from 12th to 16th January 2017, what was the theme of the festival?

- (a) Skills development for youth (b) Youth for Clean India
(c) Youth for Digital India (d) Youth for make in India

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- From 12th to 16th January 2017; National Youth Festival was held at Rhotak. Department of Youth Affairs of Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized the National Youth Festival on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda Which falls on 12 January. This year the theme of the Festival 'Youth for Digital India'.
- On 12 January 2017 Prime Minister addressed the participants of the Festival through video conference on the occasion of opening ceremony.
- The ceremony was inaugurated by Union Minister of state (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel along with Chief Minister of Haryana Shri Manohar Lal.
- About 5000 participating youth delegates from different States/UTs enriched their knowledge and exchange their experiences during the festival.
- It may be recalled that 20th National Youth Festival was held in Chhattisgarh.

Reference:

<http://21nyf2017.com/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=157306>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156252>



Jal Manthan –III

Question: On 13 January 2017 Jal Manthan-III was held in New Delhi, In this Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti discussed the issue of bringing water into which of the following list?

(a) Union list (b) States list (c) Concurrent list. (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 13 January 2017; Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has organized the third National conference called “Jal Manthan-III” on January 13, 2017 in New Delhi.
- Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti inaugurated the conference.
- During this Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti discussed the issue of bringing water into concurrent list with States
- She asked the people of country to convert Jal Kranti into Jan Kranti.
- The daylong event had discussions on Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, River Basin Management, River Rejuvenation and Ecology, Flood management, Water use efficiency and Participatory irrigation management.
- About 700 participants comprising Union Ministers of related Ministries/Departments, Chief Ministers of some States/Union Territories, Irrigation/ Water Resources Ministers of States/UTs, eminent experts in water sector, representatives of NGOs and senior officers of the Central and State Governments attended the event.
- The earlier Jal Manthan Programmes held in November, 2014 and February, 2016.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156222>

<http://wrmin.nic.in/forms/list.aspx?lid=505&ld=4>

<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/819789068070359040>

Magh Bihu Festival organized in Delhi

Question: The theme of the famous ‘Magh Bihu’ Festival organized by ministry of Development of North East Regions in Delhi was ...

- (a) Assimilation of the North East
(b) Integration through fusion’
(c) Integration of the North East
(d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

- On 13th January, 2017, Magh Bihu (Makar Sankranti) festival was organised by Ministry of Development of North-East Region (DoNER) at Dilli Haat in New Delhi.
- The theme of the festival was ‘Integration through fusion’.
- Bihu is the biggest post-harvest festival of Assam and other parts of the North-East and it coincides with other festivals such as Pongal, Lohri and Makar Sankranti.
- On the auspicious occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region, announced the setting up of multi-purpose “DoNER House” complex at Guwahati, Assam. The complex will have meeting hall, conference hall and other infrastructural support.
- The minister also briefed about the change in emphasis in the establishment. Earlier the emphasis was to bring North east region closer to the national mainstream, but now the



emphasis is being laid on bringing the rest of India closer to the culture and diversity of north east.

- Dr. Jitendra Singh also informed on the occasion that in February, 2015, the Government started with the practice of having a camp office in each state of north east on a rotational basis which has helped the officers to understand the problems on the region on the ground level.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157329>

<http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2017/01/14/doner-house-complex-being-set-up-in-guwahati/>

First-ever Pravasi Haryana Divas-2017

Question: The first-ever Pravasi Haryana Divas-2017 was celebrated on 10-11 January 2017 in which of the following district?

(a) Sonapat (b) Gurugram (c) Rewadi (d) Hisar

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 10-11 January 2017; the first-ever Pravasi Haryana Divas-2017 was celebrated in Kingdom of Dreams, Gurugram, Haryana.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the event.
- The objective of the Pravasi Haryana Divas is to recognize the achievements of NRIs and PIOs of Haryana as well as those persons from Haryana who are now settled in other States of India and to harness their energies in the future development of Haryana.
- The event organized was by Haryana government and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- More than 400 people of Haryana origin from 30 countries participated in the first-ever Pravasi Haryana Divas.
- During the program 24 agreements for 20 thousand million investment was done.
- Haryana government conferred the 'Gaurav Samman' upon 19 Pravasi Haryanvis, including actor Randeep Hooda and singer Sonu Nigam, for excelling in their respective fields at the first Pravasi Haryana Divas .



Reference:

http://www.pravasiharyanadivas.in/?page_id=5162

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/pravasi-haryana-divas-begins-in-gurgaon-4468639/>

<https://twitter.com/mlkhattar/status/819214386271129601>

<https://twitter.com/mlkhattar/status/819214154066079744>

38th Meeting of Tripartite Committee on Convention

Question: Which of the ILO conventions below pertains to minimum age for entry to employment and work?

(a) Convention No. 138 (b) Convention No. 182
(c) Convention No. 87 (d) Convention No. 98

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The 38th meeting of the Tripartite Committee on Convention (COC) was held on 10th January, 2017, at New Delhi, under the chairpersonship of Smt. M. Sathiyavathi, Secretary, Union Ministry of Labour and Employment.



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- Representatives of Central Trade Unions, Employers' Organizations, State Governments, Central Ministries, ILO and officers from the Ministry of Labour & Employment participated in the meeting.
- COC has a specific mandate of discussing the progress made so far in ratification of International Labour Standards and recommending the future road map.
- **COC also took stock of the progress made in respect of ILO Conventions like:**
 - Convention No. 138 regarding Minimum Age for Entry to Employment and Work
 - Convention No. 182, concerning Worst Forms of Child Labour,
 - Convention No. 87 regarding Freedom of Association and protection of Rights
 - Convention No. 98 regarding Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining
 - Maritime Labour Convention 2006
 - Convention No. 185 regarding Seafarers' Identify Document
 - Convention No. 187 regarding promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health
 - Convention No. 153 regarding Hours of work and Rest Periods in Road Transport and Report on the Working Group on Standard Review Mechanism.
- The Committee expressed satisfaction on the progress made in respect C 187, C 153 and India's contribution to ILO's work in the Standard Review Mechanism and also on the decision of the Government of India to ratify the Maritime Labour Convention 2006 and C 185.
- The Committee lauded the efforts taken by the Union Ministry of Labour & Employment relating to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016, passed by the Parliament in July, 2016.
- This Amendment Bill clearly stipulates total and complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years and proposes more stringent punishments for violations.
- Amendment bill seeks to ensure the Right of Children to schooling and learning. Amendment also prohibits Adolescents in the age group of 14-18 years of their employment in hazardous occupations and permits their engagement in only certain occupations to be specified in due course.
- With this amendment, India is now close to ratifying the ILO Conventions C 138 and C 182, for which steps are already being taken by the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- COC also decided to constitute a committee comprising of representatives from Union Ministry of Labour & Employment, Department of Personnel & Training and ILO, New Delhi Office to examine issues relating to ratification of C 87 concerning Freedom of Association and protection of rights, C 98 regarding Right to Organize and collective bargaining.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157290>

https://india.gov.in/news_lists?a456500520

DEFCON INDIA 2017

Question: DEFCON 2017 is scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 March 2017 at... .

(a) New Delhi (b) Pune (c) Mumbai (d) Belgaum

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

DEFCON INDIA 2017

- A Curtain Raiser Ceremony for DEFCON 2017 was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi on 11th January, 2017 wherein a Brochure on the theme, 'Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resource for Digital Army', was released

- DEFCOM 2017, an annual seminar organized jointly by the Corps of Signals of Indian Army and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 March 2017 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- DEFCOM is the most seminal forum for interaction between the officers of the Armed Forces, Indian Industry, Academia and R&D organisations on matters related to operational communication systems for the Army.
- The occasion was also graced by senior representatives of Indian Industry who are closely involved in shaping a strong, indigenous Defence Industrial Base for the Nation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156276>

<http://cii.in/EventsDetails.aspx?enc=eo18/j+aJMWXCXiMZZAdo4EbyOzA5/Vx0XqW9ALskVRrAct7C/dy7gnVn>

2nd Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas 2017

Question: The second edition of Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas from January 4-6, 2017 was held in which of the following city?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- From January 4-6, 2017; The second edition of Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas was held at the Hotel Taj Vivanta, Gomti Nagar in Lucknow .
- Akhilesh Yadav, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh inaugurated the Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas 2017.
- On this occasion award was given to Pravasis from Uttar Pradesh who have excelled in their field of work and brought laurels to both their country of residence and origin.
- The award recognizes the contribution that Uttar Pradesh brethren have made to the growth of the Country.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was associated with Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas 2017 as its National Partner.
- During the event, the Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas will offer a platform to discuss various opportunities for growth available in Uttar Pradesh and ways to maximize them and will also showcase how India's largest state offers maximum opportunities in various sectors.
- On the occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the Uttar Pradesh Financial Corporation's website.
- It is known that the first Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Divas was held on 4-6th January 2016 in Agra.



Reference:

<http://www.uppravasidivas.com/about.html>

http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=3321

New Delhi World Book Fair 2017

Question: What is the theme of the New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) – 2017?

(a) Manushi (b) Manushya (c) Digital India (d) Maitri

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- From 7 to 15 January 2017; New Delhi World Book Fair (NDWBF) 2017 will be held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.



- New Delhi World Book Fair will have 'Manushi' as the Theme of this year.
- This will focus on writings on and by women; and will exhibit the rich tradition of women writings from ancient times till present.
- India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India is the Co-organizer of the Fair.
- National Book Trust is celebrating 60 years of its foundation and it will showcase its journey in promoting books and reading at a special exhibit 'This is no looking back!'.
- The exhibit will display the varied activities that NBT has undertaken in promoting books including book fairs being organized by the Trust across India, participation of NBT in international book fairs, publishing programme among others.

Reference:

<http://www.newdelhiworldbookfair.gov.in/>

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

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156181>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156181>

International Conference on Yoga for Diabetes

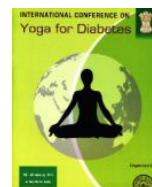
Question: Recently the three day International Conference on “Yoga for Diabetes” was held at-

(a) Jaipur (b) Nasik (c) New Delhi (d) Pune

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2017; International Conference on “Yoga for Diabetes” was organised at New Delhi.
- The three day (4-6 January 2017) Conference was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shripad Yesso Naik.
- This conference aims to generate discussions on the role of Yoga in the prevention and management of Diabetes and to draw up a roadmap to be adopted for the control of Diabetes through Yoga.
- It will provide a common platform for the Allopathy and AYUSH practitioners, Researchers, Academicians, Policy makers and students to come together in the fight against diabetes.
- Approximately 400 delegates and 50 experts from India and abroad participated in the Conference.
- UNESCO, the world's apex body for culture has recently included yoga in its list of intangible cultural heritage.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156142>

13th Chitwan Elephant Festival

Question: Recently the 13th Chitwan Elephant Festival, a five-day event that started from December 26, Monday to December 30 was held at-

(a) New Delhi (b) Thimphu (c) Chitwan (d) Colombo

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- The 13th Chitwan Elephant Festival, a five-day event that started from December 26, Monday to December 30 was held at Sauraha, Chitwan, Nepal.



- The five-day Elephant Festival was organized by the Regional Hotel Association of Sauraha to promote tourism and raise awareness about wildlife protection.
- The theme of the festival was – society, protection and prosperity.
- The event started with an elephant walk from the elephant breeding centre to a complete march in the entire village followed by a Tharu cultural show to the Bachauli ground in Sauraha here.
- Tharu is the local tribe of Chitwan.

Reference:

<https://www.facebook.com/elephantfestivalchitwan/>

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1026132.shtml>

<http://www.news18.com/news/travel/nepal-hosts-elephant-festival-in-chitwan-to-boost-tourism-1330594.html>

27th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council

Question: Recently the 27th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council was held at-

(a) Puducherry (b) Bengaluru (c) Thiruvananthapuram (d) Hyderabad

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016; the 27th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council at Thiruvananthapuram.
- Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the meeting.
- In the meeting out of the 22 items discussed 16 were resolved in the meeting.
- The next meeting will be hosted in Karnataka.
- The five Zonal Councils were set up under the States' Reorganization Act, 1956 to foster Inter-State cooperation and coordination among the States.
- The Zonal Councils are mandated to discuss and make recommendations on the matters of common interest in the field of economic and social planning, border disputes, linguistic minorities and inter-State transport etc.
- They are regional forum of cooperative endeavour for States linked with each other geographically, economically and culturally.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=155934>

77th Indian History Congress

Question: 77th annual session of Indian History Congress was held on 28-30 December 2016 in which of the following city?

(a) Bengaluru (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) New Delhi (d) Pune

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 28-30 December 2016; 77th annual session of Indian History Congress was held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- The three-day session was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- Indian History Congress was hosted by the Kerala University after a gap of 58 years.
- The three-day 76th annual session of Indian History Congress was held at Malda, West Bengal on December-27-29, 2015, under the aegis of the Gour-Banga University.
- Indian History Congress is the largest professional and academic body of Indian historians with over 30,000 members.



- It was established in 1935.

Reference:

<http://www.indianhistorycongress.com/about.php>

24th National Children's Science Congress 2016-17

Question: The 24th National Children's Science Congress 2016 was held between 27th to 31st December, 2016 at which of the following place?

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

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- The 24th National Children's Science Congress 2016 was held between 27th to 31st December, 2016 at the venue Vidyapratishthan's Institute of Information Technology (VIIT), Baramati, Maharashtra.
- National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) provides the children of 10 to 17 years from all over the country a unique opportunity to use their scientific temperament and knowledge to make their own dreams come true.
- The program was initiated in 1993.
- Theme of 24th National Children's Science Congress 2016 was "Science Technology and Innovation for Sustainable Development".
- 23rd State-level Children's Science Congress was held at Chandigarh University, Mohali in 2015.

Reference:

http://www.ncsc.co.in/news_details/18

http://www.ncsc.co.in/files/current_program.pdf

http://asmenvis.nic.in/KidsCentre/NationalChildrensScien_1011.aspx



5th National Minicoy festival

Question: Recently the 5th National Minicoy festival was held at-

(a) Port Blair (b) Daman and Diu (c) Lakshadweep
(d) Thiruvananthapuram

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- The fifth edition of National Minicoy festival, which was flagged off by Union Minister of Civil Aviation, Ashok Gajapathi Raju on 27 December 2016 in Lakshadweep.
- It is held annually since 2012; by the Tourism Department.
- The annual event is envisaged to showcase the unique culture, tradition and natural beauty of Minicoy, the southern most atoll of the Union Territory.
- The demonstration by the Indian Navy and Coast Guard personnel was also held.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8228329_National-Minicoy-fest-kicks-off-Jahadhoni-woos-audience.html

<http://lakshadweep.nic.in/VDVersion4Apps/minicoyfest/index.html>



ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Cabinet approves the Establishment of Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Question: Recently Union Cabinet has given its approval for the 12th Plan Proposal of the DARE/ICAR Plan Scheme of the 'Establishment of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in which of the following state?

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

Ans:(b)



Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for 'Establishment of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI).
- The approval has been given under the 12th Plan Proposal of the DARE/ICAR Plan Scheme.
- It will have an estimated outlay of Rs. 200.78 crores (100% ICAR share) on 1,000 acre land provided by the Government of Jharkhand at the Gauria Karma Village in Barhi Block of Hazaribag.
- IARI-Jharkhand would be a unique Institution, which would possess all the hallmark identities as that of IARI at New Delhi including all sectors of agriculture like field crops, horticultural crops, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry, piggery, silk and lac rearing, honey production etc.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157452>

Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre

Question: a world class Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs is proposed to be built at ...

(a) India Gate (b) Raisina Hills (c) Connaught Place (d) Pragati Maidan

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 24th January, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) for setting up of a world class Integrated Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- India Trade Promotion Organisation is a Mini Ratna Category-1 Company under the Department of Commerce.
- The total cost of the project will be Rs.2,254 crore. ITPO will utilise Rs.1,200 crore out of its free reserves towards funding of the project.
- ITPO will raise institutional loan / soft loan / external aid / land monetization for the balance amount of Rs.1,054 crore with government guarantee for the amount of institutional loan.



- The redevelopment of Pragati Maidan is envisaged in two phases. Phase-1 redevelopment is expected to complete by May 2019. Phase-1 of the project will result in redevelopment of nearly 3.26 lakh sq. meters. After redevelopment, the exhibition space will be doubled to 1.19 lakh sq.mtr. as against 65,000 sq. meters presently. Redevelopment will also include creation of a state-of-the-art Convention Center with seating capacity of 7,000 persons.
- For execution of this mega project, ITPO has assigned the work to National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd. as a Project Management Consultant.
- ITPO would call for global bidding for selection of project executor(s) for construction of the project.

Reference:

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

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/modern-exhibition-convention-centre-to-come-at-pragati-maidan-117012400534_1.html

IIMs to be declared as Institutions of National Importance

Question: IIMs would be declared as Institutions of National Importance under ...

- (a) Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017,
- (b) The University Grants Commission Act, 1956
- (c) The Central Universities Act, 2009
- (d) National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Amendment Act), 2014



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017, under which the IIMs would be declared as Institutions of National Importance.
- This will enable them to grant degrees to their students. Earlier they have been awarding Post Graduate Diploma and Fellow Programme in Management.
- While these awards are treated as equivalent to MBAs and Ph.D, respectively, the equivalence is not universally acceptable, especially for the Fellow Programme.
- **Following are the salient features of the Bill:**
- IIMs can grant degrees to their students
- The Bill provides for complete autonomy to the Institutions, combined with adequate accountability.
- Management of these Institutions would be Board driven, with the Chairperson and Director of an Institution which will be selected by the Board.
- A greater participation of experts and alumni in the Board is amongst other important features of the Bill.
- Provision has also been made for inclusion of women and members from Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the Board.
- The Bill also provides for periodic review of the performance of Institutions by independent agencies, and placing the results of the same on public domain.
- The Annual Report of the Institutions will be placed in the Parliament and CAG will be auditing their accounts.
- There is also a provision of Coordination Forum of IIMs as an advisory body.
- Indian Institutes of Management are the country's premier institutions imparting best quality education in management on globally benchmarked processes of education and training in management.

- IIMs are recognized as world-class management Institutions and Centers of Excellence and have brought laurels to the country. All IIMs are separate autonomous bodies registered under the Societies Act.
- An Institute of National Importance, in India is defined as one which serves as a pivotal player in developing highly skilled personnel.
- Only a chosen few institutes make it to this coveted list and are usually supported by the Government of India or even any other international institutes.

Reference:

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

<http://www.aicte-india.org/einp.php>

Cabinet approves India's Membership in the International Vaccine Institute (IVI)

Question: International Vaccine Institute (IVI) is located at-

(a) Seoul (b) Hague (c) Geneva (d) Bern

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 January 2017; the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to the proposal for India's taking full membership of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) Governing Council.
- The move involves payment of annual contribution of US \$ 5, 00,000 to the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), Seoul, South Korea.
- In the year 2007, with the approval of Cabinet, India joined IVI.
- International Vaccine Institute (IVI), Seoul, South Korea, established in 1997 on the initiatives of the UNDP, is an international organization devoted to developing and introducing new and improved vaccines to protect the people, especially children, against deadly infectious diseases.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157464>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/cabinet-approves-indias-move-to-take-full-membership-of-ivi/articleshow/56646940.cms>

<http://www.india.com/news/india/cabinet-approves-indias-membership-in-the-international-vaccine-institute-1767237/>

Proposal for full membership of the International Vaccine Institute

Question: International Vaccine Institute is located in...

(a) Seoul (b) Tokyo (c) Ansan (d) Changwon

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the proposal for India's taking full membership of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) Governing Council.
- The move involves payment of annual contribution of US \$ 5,00,000 to the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), Seoul, South Korea.
- International Vaccine Institute (IVI), Seoul, South Korea, established in 1997 on the initiatives of the UNDP, is an international organization devoted to developing and



introducing new and improved vaccines to protect the people, especially children, against deadly infectious diseases.

- In the year 2007, with the approval of Cabinet, India joined IVI. India is a long-term collaborator and stake-holder of IVI.
- In December, 2012 the Board of Trustees (BOT) of IVI approved the formation of its new governance structure. As per the new governance structure of IVI, a member State has to contribute to the IVI by paying a portion of its core budget.
- Since India is classified in Group-I, it has to pay an annual contribution of US \$ 500,000.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cabinet-approves-indias-move-to-take-full-membership-of-ivi/1/860430.html>

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

Financial data management centre

Question: The setting up of financial data management centre under the aegis of the financial stability and development council was announced in which of the following year's budget speech?

(a) 2013-14 (b) 2014-15 (c) 2015-16 (d) 2016-17

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 29 December 2016 government appointed panel has suggested setting up a financial data management centre (FDMC).
- The Committee, headed by Ajay Tyagi (additional secretary in finance ministry), has submitted its report and a draft bill titled 'The financial data management centre bill 2016'.
- Finance minister Arun Jaitley in budget speech 2016-17 had announced setting up of financial data management centre under the aegis of the financial stability and development council (FSDC) to facilitate integrated data aggregation and analysis in the financial sector.
- Financial Stability and Development Council is an apex-level body constituted by the government of India. The idea to create such a super regulatory body was first mooted by the Raghuram Rajan Committee in 2008.
- Finally in 2010, the then Finance Minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, decided to set up such an autonomous body dealing with macro prudential and financial regularities in the entire financial sector of India.



Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/b6HeuDflyYcf2hFrkM6EVP/Govt-proposes-setting-up-financial-data-management-centre.html>

<http://www.finmin.nic.in/reports/FDMCReportalongwithdraftbill29122016.pdf>

<http://finmin.nic.in/fsdc/GazNote31122010.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=66284>

Lashkar-e-Taiba's student wing declared as a terrorist organisation

Question: Which of the following country declared student wing of militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, "Al-Muhammadia Students" to its list of "foreign terrorist organisations"?

(a) France (b) Britain (c) U.S (d) Germany



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016 United States added the student wing of the Pakistan-based militant organization Lashkar-e-Taiba, "Al-Muhammadia Students" to its list of "foreign terrorist organizations."
- Founded in 2009, Al-Muhammadia Students (AMS) is a subsidiary of LeT and has worked with LeT senior leaders to organise recruiting courses and other activities for youth.
- Simultaneously, the US Treasury Department designated two LeT senior leaders Muhammad Sarwar and Shahid Mahmood as global terrorists, both based in Pakistan.
- The State Department had designated LeT as a "terrorist organisation" in December 2001.

Reference:

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1305109/us-tightens-grip-on-lashkar-e-taiba>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/us-designates-pakistan-student-group-wing-of-banned-lashkar-e-taiba-as-terrorists/story-l9PXbLzEOkROExMScnXsOL.html>

<http://dailytimes.com.pk/pakistan/29-Dec-16/us-adds-let-student-wing-to-foreign-terrorists-list>

<http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2016/12/us-adds-lashkar-e-taiba-student-wing-to-terrorism-list.php>

LAW & JUSTICE

Cabinet's Nod the Repealing of the Obsolete and Redundant Laws

Question: Number of Acts approved to be repealed in recent cabinet decision is ...

(a) 105 (b) 200 (c) 107 (d) 109

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 18th January, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave approval for introduction of the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017 to repeal 105 Acts.
- A two Members Committee constituted by the PMO, the Law Commission of India and the Legislative Department identified 1824 redundant and obsolete Central Acts for repeal.
- After careful examination and consultation with various Ministries/Departments in the Government of India, four Acts have been enacted to repeal 1175 Central Acts (during the period May, 2014 to August, 2016) by Parliament which are –
- **The Repealing and Amending Act, 2015 (17 of 2015) repealing 35 Acts; The Repealing and Amending (Second) Act, 2015 (19 of 2015) repealing 90 Acts;**
- **The Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Act, 2016 (22 of 2016) repealing 756;**
- **Appropriation Acts including Appropriation (Railways) Acts;**
- **The Repealing and Amending Act, 2016 (23 of 2016) repealing 294 Acts.**
- Out of the aforesaid 1824 Acts, 227 Acts (including Appropriation Acts enacted by Parliament for the States under President's Rule) are identified to be repealed by State Governments have been requested to take necessary action to repeal them.
- A list of remaining 422 Central Acts was circulated among all the Ministries for their comments on repeal of Acts pertaining to their respective Ministries.
- Till date, 73 Ministries/Departments including Legislative Department have given their comments whereby they have agreed to repeal 105 Acts and disagreed to repeal about 139 Acts. On the basis of the comments/concurrence received from the Ministries/Departments, 105 Acts have been identified for repeal by this Department.



Reference:

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

<http://www.uniindia.com/cabinet-approves-repeal-of-105-more-obsolete-and-redundant-laws/india/news/753176.html>

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

World Leprosy Day 2017

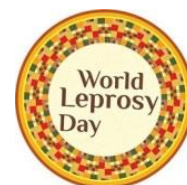
Question: World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the ... Sunday in January each year.

(a) first (b) second (c) third (d) last

Ans: (d)

Related Fact:

- On 29th January, 2017 observing the anti-leprosy day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a collective effort to completely eliminate the 'treatable disease' of leprosy from India.
- The Prime Minister said that the effort to eliminate leprosy from the country under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme is a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's vision. This programme was launched way back in 1955.
- The goal of leprosy elimination as a public health problem i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population at national level was achieved in 2005.
- The Prime Minister mentioned that a three-pronged strategy for early detection of leprosy cases in the community was introduced in 2016 under the National Health Mission, especially in the hard-to-reach areas.
- As a result, more than 32000 cases were confirmed and were put on treatment. In addition, persons who are in close contact with the patients were also given medicine to reduce the chances of occurrence of the disease in them.
- Leprosy is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae. It usually affects the skin and peripheral nerves, but has a wide range of clinical manifestation
- Leprosy is a leading cause of permanent physical disability. Timely diagnosis and treatment of cases, before nerve damage has occurred, is the most effective way of preventing disability due to leprosy.
- World Leprosy Day is celebrated on the last Sunday in January each year to coincide with the anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's death on 30 January 1948. (Gandhi worked tirelessly to help those afflicted with leprosy.)
- The goal for World Leprosy Day is to raise the awareness of a disease that many people believe is eliminated.

**Reference:**

<http://nlep.nic.in/about.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157753>

National Girl Child Day

Question: The National Girl Child Day is celebrated on-

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

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; National Girl Child Day was celebrated across India.



- The day is celebrated every year on January 24 in India to raise the awareness among people about all the inequalities faced by the girl child in the society.
- It should be known that International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated on 11 October.
- On this occasion a special function was organized by the Ministry of Women & Child Development in New Delhi in the light of exemplary achievements by nation's daughters during 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157598>

<http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/tag/girl-child-day/>

National Voters' Day 2017

Question: The first National Voters Day was celebrated in...

(a) 2011 (b) 2012 (c) 2010 (d) 2009

Ans: (a)

Related Fact



- On 25th January, 2017, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wished the citizens on National Voters' Day.
- The theme of the National Voters day 2017 is ' Empowering young and future voters'.
- President Pranab Mukherjee will hand over awards for best electoral practices to over 20 government officers to mark the seventh National Voters Day on 25th January, 2017.
- National Voters Day is celebrated every year on January 25 — the foundation day of the Election Commission of India (ECI) — to promote participation in elections and increase voter enrollment.
- The day is celebrated across all polling stations in the country where first-time voters of the area are invited to a function to collect their Elector Photo Identity Cards.
- This year, the ECI will also hand over Elector Photo Identity Cards to "future voters" in the age group of 15-17 years. This is part of the new awareness programme focused on students of classes IX to XII. Under this initiative, an awareness drive was conducted by electoral officers who visited schools and encouraged students to enroll as voters as soon as they turn 18.
- Students from all over the country participated in an event organized by the Election Commission of India with the theme 'every vote counts'. The event was also graced by the presence of President of India as the chief guest.
- The first National Voters Day was celebrated in 2011 under the leadership of the then Chief Election Commissioner S Y Quraishi.
- **National Voters' Day Pledge :**
- "We, the citizens of India, having abiding faith in democracy, hereby pledge to uphold the democratic traditions of our country and the dignity of free, fair and peaceful elections, and to vote in every election fearlessly and without being influenced by considerations of religion, race, caste, community, language or any inducement"

Reference:

<http://ecisveep.nic.in/nvd2017.aspx>

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

<http://indianexpress.com/elections/national-voters-day-today-ec-focuses-on-future-voters-4490192/>

<http://ddinews.gov.in/Current%20Affairs/Pages/NationalVotersDay.aspx>

National Youth Day

Question: National Youth Day is celebrated in India on 12 January, In which of the following year Government of India declared the day as the National Youth Day?

(a) 1986 (b) 1980 (c) 1984 (d) 2001

Ans. (c)

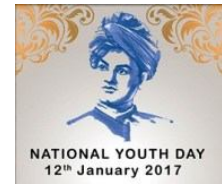
Related facts:

- 33rd National Youth Day was celebrated in India on 12 January 2017.
- The is celebrated on the birthday of one of India's most revered spiritual leaders, Swami Vivekananda.
- 12 January 2017 marked the 154th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- In 1984 the Government of India declared the day as the National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year.
- Swami Vivekananda was born on 12 January 1863 in Kolkata.
- His real name was Narendranath Dutt.
- He representing India at the 1893 Parliament of the World Religions in Chicago.
- On 11 September 1893, Swami Vivekananda delivered his historic speech in Chicago & won many hearts & minds.
- Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Math and the Ramakrishna Mission in west Bengal.
- He was chief disciple of the 19th century saint Ramakrishna Paramhansa.
- On 4 July 1902 he passed away.

Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/on-swami-vivekanandas-birth-anniversary-national-youth-day-celebrated-1647993>

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



69th Army Day

Question: Indian Army celebrated 15th January as 'Army Day' to commemorate the day when General K.M Carriappa took over the command of Army from-

- (a) General Sir F.R.R Bucher
(b) General Sir William
(c) General Sir John Shore
(d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 15 January 2017 Indian Army celebrated 69th 'Army Day'.
- It is celebrated to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) K.M Carriappa took over the command of Army from General Sir F.R.R Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949.
- K.M Carriappa became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157357>



Veterans' Day

Question: Veteran's day is celebrated ...

- (a) For Ex-servicemen of the defence forces
- (b) For Serving defence forces personnel
- (c) To commemorate the paramilitary day
- (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- The Joint Armed Forces Veterans' Day shall be commemorated tomorrow on 14th January, 2017 at Harbaksh Stadium, Delhi, acknowledging the selfless devotion and sacrifice by Veterans of the Services.
- The function will be addressed by the Minister of State for Defence Dr. Subhash Bhamre, who will be the Chief Guest at the function.
- Over 1500 Veterans of the Army, Navy and Air Force will attend the function. Serving and retired Chiefs of the three Services will also grace the occasion as Guests' of Honour.
- The event is being organized all across the nation and military stations.
- Exclusive counters by Directorate of Indian Army Veterans & Ex Servicemen Helpline, Kendriya Sainik Board, Directorate General Resettlement, Comptroller General of Defence Accounts, Canteen Services Directorate and Army Welfare Education Society will be set up to disseminate information on different facets of Ex-Servicemen welfare.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157336>

11th World Hindi Day

Question: World Hindi Day is celebrated on-

- (a) 8 January (b) 10 January (c) 9 January (d) 14 January

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- The World Hindi Day is being observed annually on 10 January.
- On this occasion, Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has conducted special events to spread the greatness of the language through its missions abroad.
- World Hindi Day was first observed on 10 January 2006.
- On this occasion Indian Embassy in Cairo and its cultural wing the Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) organised cultural performances at Hanager Theatre in the Cairo Opera House.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/world-hindi-day-celebrated-in-cairo-%C2%A01/854198.html>

World Braille Day

Question: On January 4, 2017 "World Braille Day" was celebrated across the world, the day is celebrated to commemorates the birthday of-

- (a) Sir Louis Pasteur (b) Sir Isaac Newton (c) Sir Louis Braille
- (d) None of these

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2016 World Braille Day" was celebrated across the world.



- World Braille Day is annually celebrated on January 4, the birthday of Braille inventor, Sir Louis Braille.
- Braille is a tactile writing system used by people who are blind or visually impaired. It is traditionally written with embossed paper.

Reference:

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/world-braille-day-who-invented-reading-writing-system-why-1599139>

‘Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan’ Week

Question: Recently Indian Council of Agricultural Research celebrated ‘Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan’ Week on-

- (a) 25-29 December 2016 (b) 23-29 December 2016
(c) 24-29 December 2016 (d) 22-29 December 2016

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- From 23 December to 29 December 2016; Indian Council of Agricultural Research celebrated ‘Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan’ Week across the country.
- It was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of former Prime Ministers Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Late Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- The celebration is being organized keeping in view their immense contribution for promoting use of science for the welfare of farmers.
- ICAR Institutes and KVKs across the country are organizing various farmer awareness programs aiming showcasing and demonstration of new technological advances for enhancing productivity and profitability of agriculture.
- Progressive farmers who have successfully adopted latest technologies and have made contribution in wide scale adoption of technologies by farmers will be honored.



Reference:

<http://icar-ciwa.org.in/index.php/fortabevents/173-jai-kisan-jai-vigyan-week>

<http://icar.org.in/en/node/10005>

<http://ivri.nic.in/news/KVK291216.pdf>

<http://ivri.nic.in/news/JaiJwanKvk2412.pdf>

MISCELLANEOUS

China bans unauthorized internet connections

Question: What does VPN stand for in computer terminology?

- (a) View Product Number (b) Valid Product Number
(c) Virtual private network (d) Virtual public network

Ans: (c)

Related Fact :

- On 22nd January, 2017 China notified to reinforce censorship on unauthorized internet connection including virtual private network (VPN) services that allow users to bypass restrictions known as the Great Firewall.
- The Ministry of Industry and Information Technology informed that it is launching a nationwide clean-up campaign aimed at internet service provider, internet data center and content delivery network companies.
- It also ordered enquiry for companies operating without government licenses or beyond the scope of licenses.



- The ministry reiterated that renting communication channels, including VPNs, without governmental approval had already been forbidden.
- China is home to around 731 million internet users. Some of the biggest internet companies such as Tencent Holdings, Baidu Inc and Alibaba Group Holding are Chinese firms.
- The government also censors the internet and blocks many sites which could challenge the rule of the Communist Party or threaten law and order. Sites such as Facebook and Google and Gmail are banned in China.

Reference:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-internet-idUSKBN15715U>

http://english.gov.cn/state_council/2014/08/23/content_281474983035940.ht

U.S. lifts economic sanctions against Sudan

Question: Recently which of the following country has announced to end of 20-year of its economic sanctions on Sudan?

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

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 13 January 2017; United States has announced the end of 20-year economic sanctions on Sudan.
- Lifting sanctions will allow expanded U.S. trade and investment in Sudan and unfreeze Sudanese assets in the United States.
- The announcement made by outgoing President Barack Obama's administration, comes after an executive order to permanently repeal a range of sanctions as a result of Sudan's efforts to improve security in the region.
- For the first time in two decades, Sudan will be able to receive imported goods and services from the US.
- The United States imposed sanctions on Sudan in 1997 when the Sudanese government failed to end its deadly civil war with southern Sudan, which has since become its own country.



Reference:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/01/lifts-20-year-economic-embargo-sudan-170113210941137.html>

<http://www.dw.com/en/obama-lifts-20-year-sanctions-on-sudan/a-37131050>

BIS Standard on Gold Hallmarking Revised

Question: Recently Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has revised the Indian Standard on Gold Hallmarking and has been made effective for implementation with effect from-

(a) 1 January 2017 (b) 4 January 2017 (c) 7 January 2017
(d) 8 January 2017

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has revised the Indian Standard on Gold Hallmarking and has been made effective for implementation with effect from 1st January 2017.
- The Hallmarked Gold jewellery will now be available in three grades of 14 Carat, 18 Carat and 22 Carat.



- The caratage will also be marked on jewellery in addition to fineness for convenience of consumers, e.g. for 22 carat jewellery, 22K will be marked in addition to 916 (22K916), for 18 carat jewellery, 18K will be marked in addition to 750 (18K750) and for 14 carat jewellery, 14K will be marked in addition to 585 (14K585).
- Hallmark on gold jewellery will now have four marks, like the BIS Mark, the purity in carat and fineness (22K916 for 22 carat), assaying centre's identification mark and jeweller's identification mark.

Reference:

http://www.bis.org.in/other/Hallmark_revised_27122016.pdf

Co-operative Banks not authorized for Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan scheme Deposit

Question: Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016 was started on ...

- (a) 16 December, 2016. (b) 8 November, 2016 (c) 20 November, 2016
(d) 21 November, 2016

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 20th January, 2017, The Government clarified that Co-operative Banks are not authorised banks to accept deposits under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016. Para 7 (1) of the notification stands amended as under:
7. Authorised banks.—(1) Application for the deposit in the form of Bonds Ledger Account shall be received by any banking company, other than Co-operative Banks, to which the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (10 of 1949) applies.”
- The Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India, had notified Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016 dated December 16, 2016.
- The deposit under this Scheme shall be made by any person who declared undisclosed income under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana, 2016.
- The deposit sum, which shall not be less than twenty-five per cent of the declared undisclosed income, can be deposited at the authorized banks (as notified by Government of India) from December 17, 2016 (Saturday) to March 31, 2017 (Friday).

Reference:

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

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10782&Mode=0>



Mega food park in Madhya Pradesh

Question: Recently Union government has accorded approval to establish a mega Food Park in which of the following districts of Madhya Pradesh?

- (a) Satna (b) Gwalior (c) Mandsaur (d) Shivpuri

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 9 January 2017; Union government has accorded approval to establish a mega food park in Daloda tehsil of Madhya Pradesh's Mandsaur district.
- The work to set up the mega food park will be carried out by Chetak Enterprises Company Limited.
- Around Rs 500 crore will be invested in the food park.



- Several big companies like Dabur, Zandu Pharmaceuticals and Patanjali are likely to be linked to this project.
- Besides traditional crops, various horticulture products, spices and medicinal crops are cultivated on a large scale in Mandsaur district.
- Also, the floriculture is being undertaken here on a large scale.
- The entire region will become industrially developed and employment opportunities will be generated after the establishment of the mega food park.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/centre-gives-nod-to-set-up-mega-food-park-in-mandsaur/1/852867.html>

<http://retail.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/food-entertainment/food-services/centre-gives-nod-to-set-up-mega-food-park-in-mandsaur/56421690>

IRCTC Rail Connect

Question: Recently Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu released the new passenger mobile application named 'IRCTC Rail Connect app', which of the following is not true?

- (a) This app was launched on 10 January 2017.
- (b) Passenger will be able to quickly and easily book e-ticket booking.
- (c) App has been developed as a next-generation ticketing system.
- (d) App will help in railway security system.

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 10 January 2017 Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu released the new passenger mobile application named 'IRCTC Rail Connect app'.
- The app was launched to promote ease of ticketing through digital transactions.
- Rail Connect has been developed to bring the power of next generation e-ticketing system like high performance and enhanced security.
- The new application has features like 24/7 service with no time based checks, synchronisation of mobile app with NGET (Next Generation e-Ticketing) for ticket booking, simple and easy user interface and supports general, ladies, Tatkal and Premium-Tatkal quota.
- The new application sports other features like advanced security of self-assigned PIN (Personal identification number) to login without entering username and password on each login.
- New application is integrated with IRCTC e-wallet for faster and hassle free transactions.
- The new app will provide payment gateway to over 40 banks to facilitate payments through net Banking, credit or debit cards and wallets like Paytm, PayU, Mobikwik.
- The IRCTC Rail Connect is also be inter-connected with IRCTC AIR, Food on Track mobile apps to facilitate booking of air tickets and food through e-catering.

Reference:

<http://gadgets.ndtv.com/apps/news/irctc-rail-connect-app-launched-with-new-features-improved-security-1647541>

<http://www.livemint.com/Leisure/9DAnRL4RyTp5coLv6oGyLJ/IRCTCs-Rail-Connect-app-get-the-muchneeded-update.html>

<http://www.huffingtonpost.in/2017/01/10/irctc-launches-rail-connect-for-faster-booking-of-train-tickets/>



World's highest bridge

Question: Name the world's highest bridge that has opened to traffic recently in China?

- (a) Jinshajiang Bridge (b) Zhongba Bridge
(c) Beipanjiang Bridge (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- In December 2016; the world's highest bridge has opened to traffic in China.
- The Beipanjiang Bridge is 565 meters (1,854 feet) above a river and connects the two mountainous provinces of Yunnan and Guizhou, the Guizhou provincial.
- The length of the bridge is 1,341-metre and it cost over 1 billion Yuan (\$144 million) to build.
- Its construction was started in September 2013 and is completed in 2016.
- It overtook the Si Du River Bridge in the central province of Hubei, China to become the world's highest bridge.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/Worlds-highest-bridge-opens-in-China/article16963400.ece>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/cars/news/beipanjiang-bridge-worlds-tallest-opens-traffic-rural-china/>

Launch of IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police and IPR Awareness Campaign for Children

Question: Who is the minister of state for commerce and Industry?

- (a) Nirmala Sitharaman (b) Anand Sharma (c) Kalraj Mishra
(d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 4 January 2017 Commerce & Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police.
- The toolkit has been jointly prepared by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).
- This toolkit will be a ready reckoner for police officials across the country in dealing with IP crimes, specifically Trade Marks counterfeiting and Copyrights piracy.
- In addition to details of offences under various laws, it provides for checklists for registering a complaint and conducting search and seizures.
- It also lays down general guidelines for search and seizure in case of IP crimes.
- This toolkit will be provided to all state police departments across the nation and will assist them in dealing with the cases relating to Trademarks and Copyrights infringements.
- The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and Government of India is working to ensure effective implementation of the National IPR Policy 2016.
- CIPAM is collaborating with the International Trademark Association (INTA) to launch an IPR Awareness campaign for schoolchildren.
- It would spread the message on IPRs in a creative and engaging manner, through the use of presentations and creatively illustrated posters and pamphlets which cover the basics on IPRs and the need to protect IPRs.



- CIPAM is actively facilitating International engagements in the field of Intellectual Property Rights.
- Two MoU on IPRs were recently signed with UK and Singapore.
- India-USA Workshop on Protection of Trade Secrets was successfully organized by CIPAM to discuss various aspects related to Trade Secrets and its impact on Industry.
- CIPAM is looking forward to work with various stakeholders in its journey of making Creative India; Innovative India.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=156135>

Mother Dairy

Question: Mother Dairy was founded in which of the following year?

(a) 1974 (b) 1975 (c) 1980 (d) 1985

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 30 December 2016; Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd today introduced Aadhar enabled payment system in more than 1,000 milk booths and 'Safal' retail stores.
- This step is taken to promote cashless transactions.
- This service would now be available in addition to the existing modes like E-wallets and SmartChange Cards.
- The service was commissioned in association with CSC e-Governance Service India Ltd under the aegis of Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity).
- Mother Dairy Fruit & Vegetable Pvt Ltd is an Indian company that manufactures markets and sells milk, milk products and other edible products.
- Its milk products include cultured products, ice cream, paneer and ghee under the Mother Dairy brand.
- The company also sells edible oils, fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen vegetables, and processed food like fruit juices, jams, pickles etc.
- Mother Dairy was founded in 1974, as a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB).
- The company sells milk products under the "Mother Dairy" brand.
- Safal is the fruit and vegetable arm of Mother Dairy.



Reference:

<http://www.digitalindia.gov.in/content/mother-dairy-launches-aadhar-enabled-payment-system-booths>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/mother-dairy-launches-digital-payment-system/article9453852.ece>

India, Pakistan exchange list of nuclear facilities

Question: When did India and Pakistan exchanged for the 26th consecutive year a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral agreement?

(a) 2 January 2017 (b) 1 January 2017 (c) 31 December 2016
(d) 30 December 2016

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 1 January 2017 India and Pakistan on Sunday exchanged for the 26th consecutive year a list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral agreement.



- India and Pakistan exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad.
- The list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan.
- The agreement, which was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991.
- The two countries inform each other of nuclear installations and facilities to be covered under the agreement on January 1 of every calendar year.
- The agreement on consular access, signed between the two countries on May 21, 2008, provides for exchanging a comprehensive list of nationals of each country lodged in their jails twice each year—on January 1 and July 1.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-pakistan-exchange-list-of-nuclear-facilities-4454242/>

Inauguration of advanced Automatic Vechime Monitoring System

Question: Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani dedicated India's first laser technology-based advanced Automatic Vechime Monitoring System (AVMs) at which of the following check post?

(a) Bhilad (b) Shamkyali (c) Shamlaji (d) Ratanpur

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- Gujarat Chief Minister Shri Vijay Rupani dedicated India's first laser technology based advanced AVMS RTO check-post at Shamlaji of Aravalli district today.
- The check-post is equipped with advanced ray technology with a cost of Rs. 4.72 crore.
- Along with this program, CM Shri Rupani also laid foundation stones of various developmental works worth Rs. 30 crore in tribal area of Aravalli district.



Reference:

<http://cmogujarat.gov.in/en/cm-inaugurates-digital-avms-rto-check-post-equipped-laser-technology-shamlaji/>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/gujarat-cm-dedicates-indias-first-laser-technology-based-check-post/articleshow/56258130.cms>

Sealdah-Ajmer Express train derailment

Question: Recently the Sealdah-Ajmer Express derailed in which of the following city of Uttar Pradesh?

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

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 28 December 2016; fifteen coaches of the Sealdah-Ajmer Express derailed near Kanpur injuring more than 60 people.
- Train no. 12987 Sealdah-Ajmer Express went off the tracks between Rura and Metha railway stations, about 50km from Kanpur.
- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. Akhilesh Yadav announced a financial assistance of Rs 50,000 for seriously injured and Rs 25,000 for those who have sustained minor injuries.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/kanpur-train-derailed-sealdah-ajmer-express-indore-patna-4449570/>

