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Current
Affairs

Day to Day



Record
104
Satellites
successfully launched by
PSLV-C37



The
OSCARS



QUESTIONS AND RELATED FACTS
1 FEBRUARY TO 28 FEBRUARY, 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 February to 28th February) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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NATIONAL

ISRO Launched 104 Satellites in a Single Flight

Question: ISRO recently launched record 104 satellites in a single flight through ...

(a) PSLV-C37 (b) GSLV (c) Sounding Rocket (d) LVM3

Ans: (a)

Related Fact

- On 15th February, 2017 ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C37) successfully launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- PSLV-C37 lifted off at 9:28 am IST, as planned, from the First Launch Pad.
- The satellites achieved a polar Sun Synchronous Orbit of 506 km inclined at an angle of 97.46 degree to the equator after a flight of 16 minutes 48 seconds.
- This is the thirty ninth flight of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle and thirty eighth consecutively successful mission of PSLV.
- The total weight of all the 104 satellites carried on-board PSLV-C37 was 1378 kg.
- The total number of Indian satellites launched by PSLV now stands at 46.
- The satellite will be brought to its final operational configuration in the coming days following which it will begin to provide remote sensing services using its panchromatic (black and white) and multispectral (colour) cameras.
- Of the 103 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C37, two – ISRO Nano Satellite INS-1 and INS-2 are technology demonstration satellites from India.
- The remaining 101 co-passenger satellites carried were international customer satellites from USA (96), The Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1), Israel (1), Kazakhstan (1) and UAE (1).
- With today's successful launch, the total number of customer satellites from abroad launched by PSLV has reached 180.



Reference:

<http://isro.gov.in/pslv-c37-successfully-launches-104-satellites-single-flight>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/ISRO-sets-world-record-launches-104-satellites/article17305373.ece>

Oscars 2017

Question: 'The Salesman' which won Best Foreign language film Award belongs to ...

(a) Iran (b) Turkey (c) Sri Lanka (d) India

Ans: (a)

Related Fact



- The 89th Academy Awards ceremony, of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA.
- The complete list of awards are as follows:
- Best Picture award: Moonlight. The film was directed by Barry Jenkins
- Best Director: Damien Chazelle for 'La La Land'.
- Best Actor: Casey Affleck for 'Manchester by the Sea'.
- Best Actress: Emma Stone for 'La La Land'.
- Best Supporting Actor: Mahershala Ali for 'Moonlight'.
- Best Supporting Actress: Viola Davis for 'Fences'.
- Best Animated Feature Film: Zootopia . The film was directed by Byron Howard and Rich Moore.
- Best Cinematography: Linus Sandgren for 'La La Land'
- Best Costume Design: Colleen Atwood for 'Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them'.
- Best Documentary Feature Film: O.J.: Made in America (director: Ezra Edelman)
- Best Foreign Language Film: The Salesman, Directed by Asghar Farhadi (Iran).
- Best Music Original Score: Justin Hurwitz for 'La La Land'
- The ceremony was hosted by Jimmy Kimmel this year.
- Film 'La La Land' created history with 14 Academy Awards nominations this year and win 6 award.

Reference:

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

<https://www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2017>

National Regulatory Authority of India meets WHO international standards for vaccine regulations

Question: WHO international standards for vaccine regulations include-

1. Quality 2. Safety 3. Efficacy



(a) (1) and (3) (b) (2) and (3) (c) (1) and (3) (d) All (1),(2) and (3)

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2017; the National Regulatory Authority of India (NRA) and affiliated institutions meet the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool requirements for a functional vaccine regulatory system.
- A World Health Organization (WHO) led team of international experts from several countries came to this conclusion at the end of a comprehensive review from 13-17 February 2017.
- Affiliated institutions includes, Central Drugs Standards Control Organization (CDSCO); Central Drugs Laboratory, Kasauli; Pharmaco-vigilance Programme and Immunization Division, and other relevant institutions engaged in the regulation, control and testing of vaccines.
- One of the requirements to become eligible and retain the prequalification status is to have the NRA assessed as functional against the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool.
- Safety, efficacy and quality are three basic parameters of assessment of vaccines.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158598>

http://www.searo.who.int/india/mediacentre/releases/who_india_nrapress_release_20170217.pdf

INS Sarvekshak

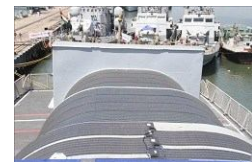
Question: Indian Naval Ship Sarvekshak has installed 18 light weight flexible panels of 300 W each for provision of electricity onboard using solar energy. This is-

- (a) First ship to do so (b) Second Ship to do so (c) Third to ship to do so
(d) None of the above

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 12 February 2017; Indian Naval Ship Sarvekshak has undertaken an innovative project for provision of electricity onboard using solar energy.
- The ship has installed 18 light weight flexible panels of 300 W each, which are 100% marine compatible.
- This can be used for communication equipment, battery charging and general lightings onboard round the clock with battery outputs during night.
- This power source can be used at sea as well as in harbour.
- This green initiative of the Indian Navy saves approximately 89.1 kg of carbon emission per day when compared with a diesel generator.



Reference:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/green-initiative-installation-solar-panel-onboard-ins-sarvekshak>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/Green-drive-on-blue-waters-%E2%80%94-solar-power-lights-up-naval-vessel/article17290319.ece>

India's First 100% Cashless Township

Question: Where is the India's First 100% Cashless Township is located?

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

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 13 February 2017; The Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilizers and Chemicals (GNFC) township in Bharuch has become country's first ever "cashless township".
- Over 10,000 residents have embraced various digital mode of payments instead of cash.
- It has facilities like a big Shopping Center, Restaurants, Eateries, Schools and Colleges, Hospital, Stadium, Guest House, etc.
- Here, Paan shop, Laundry shop, Cycle repairing shop, Barber shop and flour mill all run through transactions by PoS machines and E-wallets like BHIM, UPI, SBI buddy, etc.
- Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertilisers & Chemicals Limited (GNFC) is an Indian manufacturer of fertilizers and Chemicals.
- The company was jointly promoted by the Government of Gujarat and the Gujarat State Fertilizer Company Limited (GSFC).



Reference:

<http://www.gnfc.in/cashless-press-release.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/in-a-first-a-township-in-gujarat-goes-cashless/1/882043.html>

Appointment of new judges to the Supreme Court

Question: Recently President of India appointed how many new judges to the Supreme Court?

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

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2017; President of India, Pranab Mukherjee appointed five new judges to the Supreme Court.



- Those elevated to the apex court are five high court judges, including four chief justices of state high courts.
- They are: Madras High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Naveen Sinha, Kerala HC Chief Justice Mohan M Shantanagounder, Chhattisgarh HC Chief Justice Dipak Gupta and Karnataka HC judge S Abdul Nazeer.
- The working strength of Supreme Court is 28 now against the sanctioned strength of 31.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/President-appoints-five-new-SC-judges/article17308395.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/supreme-court-gets-five-more-judges/articleshow/57169199.cms>

Edappadi Palaniswami sworn in as Tamil Nadu new CM

Question: Edappadi Palaniswami who has been sworn in as Tamil Nadu's new CM is the ... chief minister of Tamil Nadu.

(a) 28th (b) 29th (c) 27th (d) 30th

Ans: (b)



Related Fact

- On 16th February, 2017 Edappadi K. Palaniswami took oath as Tamil Nadu's 29th Chief Minister.
- He was administered oath along with his cabinet colleagues by Governor C Vidyasagar Rao at Chennai's Raj Bhavan.
- Mr. Palaniswami has retained most of the ministers of Panneerselvam cabinet. K.A. Sengottaiyan is the only new inductee.
- He is the third Chief Minister the state had in the last three months.
- Mr. Palaniswami has been given 15 days by the Governor to prove majority support in the state legislature.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/Edappadi-Palaniswami-vs.-O.-Panneerselvam-Governor-invites-AIADMK-legislature-party-leader/article17310888.ece?homepage=true>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/governor-vidyasagar-rao-palanisamy-panneerselvam-aiadmk-tamil-nadu-cm/1/884014.html>

Aero India 2017 – A Curtain Raiser

Question: Where is the Aero India 2017 being held?

(a) Bengaluru (b) Allahabad (c) Khadagwasla (d) Amritsar



Ans: (a)

- The 11th edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru from 14th to 18th February 2017.
- Aero India which began in 1996, has established itself as a premium aerospace and aviation exhibition in the international arena.
- It has become one of the most sought after exhibitions in the Asian region in terms of participation from across the globe.
- The event is being organized and conducted by the Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO).
- The highlights of this year's show are:
- Participation from 270 Indian Companies and 279 foreign companies. That is a total of 549 companies.
- The total area of the show has grown from 24,403 sqm to 27,678 sqm this year.
- Number of aircraft participating are 72.
- The gross area has also increased from 2,50,000 sqm to 2,60,000 sqm.
- "Indian Aerospace : Investor's Meet" by CII
- "Make in India in Aerospace: Are MSMEs geared for it? – Reflections and the Way Forward" – PHD, CII
- Round Tables – Country specific by Indian Chambers (B2B)
- Indo-Swiss Business Meet
- A Business to Business meeting area has been created and is being offered to Indian business industries free of cost.
- Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala are setting up exclusive SEZ pavilions for attracting investment.
- Confirmation has been received from 30 Countries and the process is still on. In total 65 delegates comprising Ministers of Defence, Service Chiefs, Heads of Department from Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Brunei, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Sudan, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkey, the UAE, the UK, USA and Uzbekistan have confirmed their presence.

- There shall be country-wise company participation from 23 countries, including official delegations. A total of 51 countries are participating.
- Exhibitors from USA, France, the UK, Russia, Israel, Germany, Belgium, Switzerland, Ukraine, Singapore, Sweden, Spain, South Africa, Italy, the UAE, South Korea, Hong Kong, the Czech Republic, Canada, Australia, Poland and Greece will participate.
- Aerobatic teams participating in the show will be the Indian Air Force Sarang Team, the Indian Air Force Surya Kiran Team, the Scandinavian Air Show Team from Sweden and the Evolvkos Aerobatic Team from the UK.

Reference:

<https://www.aeroindia.in/Default.aspx>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158362>

Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan

Question: 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' envisaged to spread digital literacy in rural India by March, 2019, would be implemented under the supervision of ...

- (a) Ministry of Electronics and IT
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
- (d) Human resource development Ministry

Ans:(a)



- On 8th February, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate.
- The outlay for this project is Rs.2,351.38 crore to usher in digital literacy in rural India by March, 2019. This is in line with the announcement made by Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2016-17.
- Under the scheme, 25 lakh candidates will be trained in the FY 2016-17; 275 lakh in the FY 2017-18; and 300 lakh in the FY 2018-19.
- To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 250,000 Gram Panchayats would be expected to register an average of 200-300 candidates.
- The implementation of the Scheme would be carried out under the overall supervision of Ministry of Electronics and IT in active collaboration with States/UTs through their designated State Implementing Agencies, District e-Governance Society etc.
- Background:

- As per the 71st NSSO Survey on Education 2014, only 6% of rural households have a computer. The PMGDISHA being initiated under Digital India Programme would cover 6 crore households in rural areas to make them digitally literate.
- This would empower the citizens by providing them access to information, knowledge and skills for operating computers / digital access devices.
- As the thrust of the Government is on cashless transactions through mobile phones, the course content would also have emphasis on Digital Wallets, Mobile Banking, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) and Aadhaar Enabled Payment System (AEPS), etc.
- Benefit:
- Digitally literate persons would be able to operate computers/digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive emails, browse internet, access Government Services, search for information, undertaking cashless transactions, etc.
- Therefore people would be able to use IT to actively participate in the process of nation building.

Reference:

<http://ndlm.in/overview-of-ndlm.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158292>

Payment of Wages Bill passed in the Parliament

Question: Under which article of the Indian constitution the president is empowered to promulgate Ordinances during recess of Parliament?

(a) Article 123 (b) Article 352 (c) Article 356 (d) Article 360

Ans: (a)



- On 7th February, 2017, Parliament passed The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017.
- The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017 was passed by voice vote in Rajya Sabha on 7th February, 2017.
- The Lok Sabha had passed the bill on 6th February, 2017.
- This Bill seeks to enable the Centre and state governments to specify industrial units which will have to pay wages only either through cheques or by transferring into bank accounts.
- The bill replaces the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2016, which was introduced in Lok Sabha on December 15, 2016 and repeals the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Ordinance 2016 promulgated on December 28, 2016.

- Under the 1936 Act, all wages must be paid either in coin or currency notes, or both. However, the employer may pay his employee's wages either by cheque or by crediting it into his bank account, after obtaining his written authorisation.
- The Bill amends the 1936 Act to permit the employer to pay an employee's wages: (i) in coin or currency notes; or (ii) by cheque; or (iii) by crediting them into his bank account. The Bill removes the requirement of obtaining written authorisation for payment of wages by cheque or through a bank account.
- However, the relevant central or state government may specify certain industrial or other establishments where the employer should pay his employees only by: (i) cheque; or (ii) crediting the wages in his bank account.

Reference:

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Payment%20of%20Wages/Payment%20of%20Wages%20Bill%202017.pdf>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/parliament-passes-bill-for-wage-payment-via-cheques-e-mode/1/877997.html>

68th Republic Day-2017

Question: Who was the guest of honour for India's 68th Republic Day celebrations?

- (a) Barack Obama (former US President)
- (b) Vladimir Putin (Russian President)
- (c) Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Prince of Abu Dhabi)
- (d) François Hollande (President of France)

Ans:(c)



Related facts:

- On 26 January 2017; 68th Republic Day celebrations was held across the country.
- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan was the guest of honour for India's Republic Day celebrations.
- Republic Day honors the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect on 26 January 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document of India.
- Highlights of the 68th Republic Day celebrations: –
- A marching contingent of the UAE military is the second foreign military to ever participate in the Republic Day parade. Last year, a French Army contingent joined the parade becoming the first-ever foreign military to do so.

- For the first time in the history of Republic Day celebrations, the “black cat” commandos of the elite counter-terror force National Security Guard (NSG) march down Rajpath in full armed gear.
- India’s indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas makes a debut at the Republic Day parade along with long-range howitzer Dhanush.
- The parade also saw the fly-past of three LCA Tejas Aircraft flying ‘Vic’ formation and the Airborne Early Warning & Control System (AEW&C) developed by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).
- There will be a total of 23 tableaux showcasing their respective themes of which 17 from various states and Union territories and 6 were from different ministries.
- Six of those tableaux will belong to the Ministries of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation; Skill Development; Central Board of Excise and Customs; Council of Scientific and Industrial Research; and Central Public Works Department.
- President Pranab Mukherjee presented the Ashok Chakra to late Havildar Hangpan Dada’s wife Chasen Lowang. Dada showed exemplary bravery while fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir on 27 May 2016 and sacrificed his life in the line of duty.
- Burj Khalifa tower, the world’s tallest building located in Dubai was lit up in the colours of the Indian National flag to celebrate India’s 68th Republic Day.
- There were amazing themes for tableaux during Republic Day like Green India-Clean India, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Skill India, a tribute to Lokmanya Tilak on his 160th birth anniversary, art and lifestyle of Kutch, model government schools of Delhi during 68th Republic Day Parade.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157687>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/68th-republic-day-burj-khalifa-lit-up-in-indian-tri-colour/articleshow/56790802.cms>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157736>

Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2017

Question: Recently Union Cabinet has approved the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017, which of the following statement is incorrect in accordance with the bill?

- IIMs would be declared as Institutions of National Importance.
- These institutions will be able to grant degrees to their students.



(c) Management of these Institutions would be Board driven

(d) The Chairperson and Director of an Institution will be selected by Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bill, 2017.
- Under this the IIMs would be declared as Institutions of National Importance.
- The Bill provides for complete autonomy to the Institutions, combined with adequate accountability.
- IIMs will be able to grant degrees to their students
- Management of these Institutions would be Board driven.
- The Chairperson and Director of an Institution which will be selected by the Board.
- Provision has also been made for inclusion of women and members from Scheduled Castes/Tribes in the Board.
- 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.
- **Background:**
- 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.
- Being societies, IIMs are not authorized to award degrees and, hence, 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.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>

INTERNATIONAL

Pakistani private television channels allowed to show Indian films

Question: Recently Pakistani court has allowed private television channels having valid licences to show Indian films, the interim order was passed on a petition filed by-

(a) Dawn TV (b) Jio TV (c) Leo Communications (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 14 February 2017; Pakistani court has allowed private television channels having valid licences to show Indian films as per their terms of agreement with the country's regulatory authority.
- The permission to private television channels in the light of the report put by the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) before the court.
- The interim order was passed on a petition filed by Leo Communication challenging ban on airing Indian content on cable television network.
- Lahore High Court Chief Justice Syed Mansoor Ali Shah granted the permission.
- PEMRA in its October 2016 order had banned Pakistani private channels being operated through cable network from airing the Indian content.

Reference:

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-NQ/Mjk5NzgZ/finally-lahore-high-court-permits-pakistani-channels-to-air-indian-films.html>



INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM 2017

Question: What is India's ranking in the 2017 INDEX OF ECONOMIC FREEDOM recently released by The Heritage Foundation?

(a) 142nd (b) 145th (c) 141st (d) 143rd

Ans: (d)

- On 15th February, 2017, The Heritage Foundation released the 2017 Index of Economic Freedom.
- Among the 180 countries ranked, scores improved for 103 countries and declined for 73 (16 of which recorded their lowest Index scores ever).
- Five economies earned the Index's designation of "free" (scores of 80 or above), while the next 87 are classified as "mostly free" (70-79.9) or "moderately free" (60-69.9). Yet



the number of economically “unfree” economies remains high: 65 are considered “mostly unfree” (50-59.9) and 23 are “repressed” (scores below 50).

- Hong Kong and Singapore each logged increases in their Index scores, finishing first and second in the rankings for the 23rd consecutive year.
- Five other frequent top 10 finishers — New Zealand (3rd globally), Switzerland (4th), Australia (5th), Estonia (6th) and Canada (7th) also improved their scores. A surprise newcomer to the top 10, the United Arab Emirates, improved its Index score by 4.3 points to take the 8th spot. Ireland (9th) and Chile (10th) saw their scores dip, but still managed to round out the global top 10.
- India ranked 143rd in the annual index of economic freedom and falls under ‘mostly unfree’ category with score of 52.6 .
- India’s score of 52.6 points is 3.6 points less than that of last year, when India was ranked 123rd.
- Nepal (125), Sri Lanka (112), Pakistan (141), Bhutan (107), and Bangladesh (128) surpassed India in economic freedom.
- China with a score of 57.4 points was placed at 111 positions. The United States was ranked 17 with 75.1 points.
- The world average score of 60.9 is the highest recorded in the 23-year history of the index.
- How it works:
- The Index evaluates countries in four broad policy areas that affect economic freedom: rule of law; government size; regulatory efficiency; and open markets. There are 12 specific categories: property rights, judicial effectiveness, government integrity, tax burden, government spending, fiscal health, business freedom, labor freedom, monetary freedom, trade freedom, investment freedom, and financial freedom. Scores in these categories are averaged to create an overall score.
- Based on an average score, each of 180 countries graded in the 2017 Index is classified as “free” (i.e., combined scores of 80 or higher); “mostly free” (70-79.9); “moderately free” (60-69.9); “mostly unfree” (50-59.9); or “repressed” (under 50).
- The Index groups the world’s countries into five regions: the Americas, Asia-Pacific (home to nine of the 20 most-improved countries), Europe, Middle East/North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa (with the most countries recording notable score declines).

Reference:

<http://www.heritage.org/index/about>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-ranks-143rd-in-economic-freedom-index-behind-pak-bhutan-us-thinktank/story-qKL7Xb68M33eiVKSvhVzdO.html>

Visit of Commander of The Sri Lankan Navy to India

Question: Vice Admiral RC Wijegunaratne, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy is on an official visit to India from-

(a) 29 January (b) 28 January (c) 27 January (d) 26 January

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- From 29 January to 02 February 2017; Vice Admiral RC Wijegunaratne, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy is on an official visit to India.
- The visit is aimed at consolidating bilateral naval relations between India and Sri Lanka and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation.
- Commander, Sri Lankan Navy will hold bilateral discussions with Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff and other senior officials of the Indian Navy on 30 January 2017.
- The Commander, Sri Lankan Navy's visit follows closely on the visit of the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba's visit to Sri Lanka wherein he also participated in the 7th International Maritime Conference, Galle Dialogue 2016 held on 28-29 November 2016.

Reference:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/visit-commander-sri-lankan-navy>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157776>



H-1B visa reform bill introduced in US House of Representatives

Question: Recently H-1B visa reform bill introduced in US House of Representatives, according to this bill what is the proposed minimum salary of H-1B visa holders?

(a) 80 thousand US dollars (b) 1.30 million US dollars
(c) 60 thousand US dollars (d) 1 million US dollars

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 30 January 2017 H-1B visa reform bill introduced in US House of Representatives.
- High-Skilled Integrity and Fairness Act of 2017 introduced by California Congressman Zoe Lofgren.
- This priorities market based allocation of visas to those companies willing to pay 200 per cent of a wage calculated by survey, eliminates the category of lowest pay.
- It also raises the salary level at which H-1B dependent employer are exempt from non displacement and recruitment attestation requirements to greater than USD 130,000.



- This is more than double of the current H-1B minimum wage of USD 60,000 which was established in 1989 and since then has remained unchanged.
- The H-1B is a non-immigrant visa in the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act, section 101(a)(15)(H).
- It allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers in specialty occupations.
- If a foreign worker in H-1B status quits or is dismissed from the sponsoring employer, the worker must either apply for and be granted a change of status to another non-immigrant status.
- The biggest impact will be on the Indian IT companies.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/h-1b-visa-reform-bill-introduced-in-us-house-of-representatives/articleshow/56888616.cms>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/visa-and-immigration/trump-government-tables-new-h-1b-bill-techies-it-firms-brace-for-tough-future/articleshow/56887602.cms>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-the-high-skilled-integrity-and-fairness-act-of-2017-2303400>

Kuwait bans visa for 5 Muslim-majority countries

Question: Which one of the below is not among 5 countries for whose citizens issuance of visa has been suspended?

(a) Afghanistan (b) Iraq (c) Indonesia (d) Pakistan

Ans: (c)



Related Fact:

- On 2nd February, 2017, Kuwait suspended the issuance of visas for nationals of Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.
- Kuwait was the only nation to prohibit the entry of Syrian nationals prior to Trump's executive action. Kuwait City previously issued a suspension of visas for all Syrians in 2011.
- As a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Kuwait has become embroiled in escalated tensions between the GCC and Iran.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kuwait-bans-visa-for-5-muslim-majority-countries-pakistan/1/873217.html>

ECONOMICS

“MyAgriGuru” app

Question: Which of the following company has launched ‘MyAgriGuru’, an advisory platform for farmers that has been introduced as a mobile app?

- (a) IFFCO (b) Wipro Agri Solutions Ltd.
(c) Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd (d) Infosys

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 24 February 2017; Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd (MASL) announced the launch of ‘MyAgriGuru’, an advisory platform for farmers that has been introduced as a mobile app.
- Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd (MASL) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra
- MyAgriGuru is a 24x7 advisory platform for farmers.
- The newly launched app is available across India in Hindi and English for easy and convenient accessibility to farmers.
- Soon it will be launched in Gujarati, Marathi and other regional languages.
- It will empower farmers to compare prices and seek the best across states.
- Mahindra is working with Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to source weather forecast for a five-day period, in order to ensure that that crucial farming activities are aligned with the climatic conditions.
- It has also associated with Commodity Exchange – NCDEX in order to share real-time prices of various mandis across the country.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/mahindra-agri-launches-digital-platform-myagriguru-for-farmers/1/890762.html>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/software/mahindra-agri-launches-digital-platform-myagriguru-for-farmers/articleshow/57330670.cms>



Reserve Bank of India raised the ceiling of gold loans given by regional rural banks (RRB)

Question: Recently Reserve Bank of India has raised the ceiling of gold loans given by regional rural banks (RRB) to-

- (a) 1 Lakhs (b) 2 Lakhs (c) 2.50 Lakhs (d) 3 Lakhs



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2017; Reserve Bank of India has raised the ceiling of gold loans given by regional rural banks (RRB).
- It has been increased to Rs 2 lakh from Rs 1 lakh, expanding the access to credit for farmers and artisans willing to pledge gold as collateral.
- RBI has doubled the gold loan ceiling for loans not exceeding 12 months from the date of sanction.
- Interest will be charged to the account at monthly rests but will become due for payment along with principal only at the end of 12 months from the date of sanction.
- For this RRBs should maintain a Loan to Value (LTV) ratio of 75% on the outstanding amount of loan including the interest on an ongoing basis, failing which the loan will be treated as a Non Performing Asset (NPA).
- RBI has clarified that crop loans sanctioned against the collateral security of gold/gold ornaments shall continue to be governed by the extant income recognition, asset classification and provisioning norms for such loans.
- India's first RRB was established in 1975.
- These were set up on the recommendations of The M. Narasimham committee.

Reference:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10861&Mode=0>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/regional-rural-banks-can-offer-gold-loans-up-to-rs-2-lakh/articleshow/57188429.cms>

Second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17

Question: Recently the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare .As per 2nd Advance Estimates, the estimated production of foodgrains is-

- (a) 300 million tonnes (b) 265.78 million tonnes
(c) 271.98 million tonnes (d) 350.15 million tonnes



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2017; the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.

- The assessment of production of different crops is based on the feedback received from States and validated with information available from other sources.
- As per Second Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 271.98 million tonnes which is higher by 6.94 million tonnes than the previous record production of Foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.
- The current year's production is also higher by 14.97 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2011-12 to 2015-16) average production of Foodgrains.
- Total production of Rice is estimated at record 108.86 million tonnes which is also a new record.
- This year's Rice production is higher by 2.21 million tonnes than previous record production of 106.65 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.
- It is also higher by 3.44 million tonnes than the five years' average Rice production of 105.42 million tonnes.
- Production of rice has increased significantly by 4.45 million tonnes than the production of 104.41 million tonnes during 2015-16.
- Production of Wheat, estimated at 96.64 million tonnes is also a record.
- This year's wheat production is higher than the previous record production of 95.85 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.
- Production of Wheat during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.03 million tonnes than the average wheat production.
- The current year's production is higher by 4.36 million tonnes as compared to Wheat production of 92.29 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.
- Production of Coarse Cereals estimated at a new record level of 44.34 million tonnes is higher than the average production by 3.00 million tonnes.
- It is higher than the previous record production of 43.40 million tonnes achieved during 2010-11 by 0.94 million tonnes.
- Current year's production it is also higher by 5.82 million tonnes as compared to their production of 38.52 million tonnes achieved during 2015-16.
- As a result of significant increase in the area coverage and productivity of all major Pulses, total production of pulses during 2016-17 is estimated at 22.14 million tonnes which is higher by 2.89 million tonnes than the previous record production of 19.25 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.
- Production of Pulses during 2016-17 is also higher by 4.50 million tonnes than their Five years' average production.

- Current year's production is higher by 5.79 million tonnes than the previous year's production of 16.35 million tonnes.
- With an increase of 8.35 million tonnes over the previous year, total Oilseeds production in the country is estimated at record level of 33.60 million tonnes.
- It is higher by 0.85 million tonnes than the previous record production of 32.75 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.
- Production of Sugarcane is estimated at 309.98 million tonnes which is lower by 38.46 million tonnes than the last year's production of 348.45 million tonnes.
- Despite lower area coverage during 2016-17, higher productivity of Cotton has resulted into higher production of 32.51 million bales (of 170 kg each) as compared to 30.01 million bales during 2015-16.
- Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.06 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower than their production of 10.52 million bales during the last year.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158478>

Govt allocates capital to India Post Payments Bank

Question: The amount allocated by government to India Post Payments Bank for the financial year 2017-18 is-

(a) 400 Crore (b) 500 Crore (c) 600 Crore (d) 800 Crore

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 13 February 2017; government has allocated Rs500 crore to India Post Payments Bank for the financial year 2017-18 .
- The government has allocated Rs125 crore as “capital infusion into corporate entity for India Post Payments Bank” and Rs375 crore as “grant in aid to India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)”, as per Output-Outcome Framework for Schemes 2017-18 for the department of posts (DoP) .
- The IPPB will offer an interest rate of 4.5% on deposits up to Rs25,000; 5% on deposits of Rs25,000-50,000 and 5.5% on Rs50,000-1,00,000.
- The total paid up equity of the new bank IPPB is Rs 800 crore, of which the government has already infused Rs275 crore.
- Government plans to set up 650 branches across country by September 2017.

Reference:

<https://www.indiapost.gov.in/Financial/Pages/Content/IPPB.aspx>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/500-cr-to-india-post-payments->



bank/article9539731.ece

<http://www.livemint.com/Industry/TNemWYXNZVrgUlcVdIRckO/Govt-allocates-Rs500-crore-to-India-Post-Payments-Bank.html>

Cabinet Nod for acquisition of 5 subsidiaries by SBI

Question: Which one of the below is not among five banks approved to be acquired by State Bank of India?

- (a) State Bank of Hyderabad (b) State Bank of Mysore
(c) State Bank of Patiala (d) Bank of India



Ans: (d)

- On 15th February, 2017, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the acquisition of 5 subsidiaries bank namely State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore by State Bank of India (SBI).
- The Cabinet also approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.
- The merger is likely to result in recurring savings, estimated at more than Rs. 1,000 crore in the first year, through a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and reduced cost of funds.
- The acquisition of subsidiary banks of State Bank is an important step towards strengthening the banking sector through consolidation of public sector banks.
- It is in pursuance of the Indradhanush action plan of the Government and it is expected to strengthen the banking sector and improve its efficiency and profitability.
- It is to be noted that Indradhanush Action Plan is a 7-pronged strategy to address the challenges in public sector banking system.
- Benefit:
- The acquisition under Section 35 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 will result in the creation of a stronger merged entity.
- It will create improved operational efficiency and economies of scale.
- It will also result in improved risk management and unified treasury operations.
- Existing customers of subsidiary banks will benefit from access to SBI's global network.
- The merger will also lead to better management of high value credit exposures through focused monitoring and control over cash flows.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158491>

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: January, 2017

Question: According to the data released by Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department of Commerce, India's export has

(a) declined (b) grown (c) been constant (d) none of the above.

Ans: (b)



Related Fact:

- On 15th February, 2017, Ministry of Commerce & Industry Department of Commerce released January, 2017 trade data. Below are the key highlights:
- During January, 2017 exports grew at 4.32 per cent in dollar terms (valued at US\$ 22115.03 million) and 5.61 per cent in Rupee terms (valued at Rs. 150559.98 crore) as compared to US\$ 21199.02 million (Rs. 142568.31 crore) during January, 2016.
- Cumulative value of exports for the period April-January 2016-17 was US\$ 220922.78 million (Rs. 1484473.55 crore) as against US\$ 218532.64 million (Rs. 1420572.68 crore) registering a positive growth of 1.09 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 4.50 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.
- Non-petroleum exports in January 2017 were valued at US\$ 19422.86 million against US\$ 19111.38 million in January 2016, an increase of 1.6 %. Non-petroleum exports during April – January 2016-17 were valued at US\$ 196254.10 million as compared to US\$ 192071.50 million for the corresponding period in 2016, an increase of 2.2%.
- The growth in exports is positive for USA (2.63%), EU(5.47%) and Japan(13.43%) but China has exhibited negative growth of (-1.51%) for November 2016 over the corresponding period of previous year as per latest WTO statistics.

IMPORTS:

- Imports during January 2017 were valued at US\$ 31955.94 million (Rs. 217557.32 crore) which was 10.70 per cent higher in Dollar terms and 12.07 per cent higher in Rupee terms over the level of imports valued at US\$ 28866.53 million (Rs. 194134.02 crore) in January, 2016.
- Cumulative value of imports for the period April-January 2016-17 was US\$ 307311.86 million (Rs. 2065656.42 crore) as against US\$ 326277.38 million (Rs. 2120158.57 crore) registering a negative growth of 5.81 per cent in Dollar terms and 2.57 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year
- Oil imports during January, 2017 were valued at US\$ 8140.83 million which was 61.07 percent higher than oil imports valued at US\$ 5054.29 million in January 2016

- Oil imports during April-January, 2016-17 were valued at US\$ 69062.66 million which was 5.81 per cent lower than the oil imports of US\$ 73321.66 million in the corresponding period last year.
- Non-oil imports during January, 2017 were estimated at US\$ 23815.11 million which was 0.01 per cent higher than non-oil imports of US\$ 23812.24 million in January, 2016.
- Non-oil imports during April-January 2016-17 were valued at US\$ 238249.20 million which was 5.81 per cent lower than the level of such imports valued at US\$ 252955.72 million in April-January, 2015-16.

Reference:

http://commerce.gov.in/writereaddata/UploadedFile/NTESCL_636227774112258988_PRESS_RELEASE_Jan_2017.pdf
http://www.ptinews.com/news/8409665_Exports-up-4-32-to-22-11-bn-in-Jan.html

New India Assurance's Medical cover for the Super Rich

Question: What is the maximum cover amount under the recently launched mediclaim policy for super rich by New India Assurance?

(a) 1 Crore (b) 50 Lakh (c) 75 Lakh (d) 90 Lakh

Ans:(a)



- According to news report dated 10th February, 2017, State-owned New India Assurance has launched a premium Rs 1 crore mediclaim policy for the super rich. The mediclaim policy would involve a sum insured of Rs 15 lakh, going up to Rs 1 crore. Policy covers most treatments that were not covered under other mediclaim policies before.
- It includes several elective medical procedures like infertility treatment and consulting dietitians. Claimants can claim for treatment for obesity and even maternal benefits after a three-year cooling period.
- The new policy would cover dental and psychiatric treatments, which are otherwise not covered under other policies.
- New India Assurance is the largest non-life insurer in the country and also the largest health insurance provider.
- It is the first public sector company to provide such a cover.

Reference:

<http://newindia.co.in/news.aspx>
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/wealth/personal-finance-news/new-india-assurance-offers-rs-1-crore-health-cover-for-super-rich/articleshow/57076598.cms>

First State to establish Cashless System for distribution of food grains

Question: Which is the first state of the country to establish Cashless System for distribution of food grains?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Rajasthan (d) Gujarat

Ans: (d)



- According to a release dated 8th February, 2017 by the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Gujarat has become the first state in the country for establishing cashless system in its public distribution system (PDS) of food grains.
- The beneficiaries who are eligible for subsidised food grains under the National Food Security Act will now need to carry only Aadhaar cards for getting their food grains in Gujarat.
- The state government achieved the goal of installing Aadhaar enabled payment system in 17,250 fair price shops (FPS), much before the targeted date of March 31.
- **Background:**
- In January this year, Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan had organized a meeting with state food ministers for establishing cashless system in the PDS across the country.
- Majority of states agreed to provide cash less distribution system of food grains by March 31.
- **Benefits:**
- According to the Food ministry there are over 81 crore beneficiaries under National Food Security Act in the country.
- This will help in establishing the identity of beneficiaries, help in stopping the leakages of grains at shop level and above all eradicate corruption in the PDS.
- The Gujarat government has partnered with common service centres, a special purpose vehicle of ministry of Electronics and IT by offering 30 digital services through the FPSs like Rail Ticket reservation, mobile bill payment, payment of crop insurance and LIC premiums etc.
- Further, a farmer can get the soil health card and registration for centrally sponsored schemes

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/gujarat-establishes-cashless-system-for-pds/articleshow/57041720.cms>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158259>

Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17

Question: Recently Reserve Bank of India released Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), accordingly GVA growth for 2017-18 is projected at-

(a) 6.9% (b) 7.4% (c) 7.1% (d) 7.0%

Ans. (b)

Related facts:

- On 8 February 2017 Reserve Bank of India released its Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2016-17 Resolution of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- RBI kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.25 per cent.
- Also, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent.
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) remained unchanged at 20.75 per cent.
- Reserve Ratios Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks also remained unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liability (NDTL).
- GVA growth for 2016-17 is projected at 6.9 per cent and GVA growth for 2017-18 is projected at 7.4 per cent.
- Inflation is projected in the range of 4.0 to 4.5 per cent in the first half of the financial year and in the range of 4.5 to 5.0 per cent in the second half of 2017-18.
- The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled on April 5 and 6, 2017.

Reference:

<http://downloadpolicy2.rbi.org.in/PR21164542C3DF7FC944278648E394CAF8D68E.PDF>

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=39505



India Post Payments Bank

Question: Recently government of India launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in which of the following two cities?

(a) Jamshedpur, Shahdol (b) Ranchi, Raipur (c) Raipur, Kodarama
(d) Ranchi, Bhopal

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 30 January 2017; government of India launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a basic financial services facility, as a pilot in Raipur and Ranchi.



- The idea is that the branches will be located in postal district headquarters and all the branches under that particular head post office will be enabled by the payment bank services
- Payments banks can accept deposits up to Rs 1 lakh per account from individuals and small businesses.
- India Post Payments Bank is the third entity to receive payments bank permit after Airtel and Paytm.
- The success of the payments bank will depend on Gramin Dak Sevaks, postmen and the unsung postal assistants who will take banking to doorsteps.

Reference:

<https://www.indiapost.gov.in/Financial/Pages/Content/IPPB.aspx>

Acquisition of MoneyGram

Question: Acquisition of MoneyGram International Inc., United States based money transfer company was announced by which of the following company-

- (a) Numero Uno Finance (b) Ant Financial (c) Toshiba Financial
(d) Rent Financial



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 26 January 2017; Alibaba affiliate Ant Financial announced the acquisition of U.S. money-transfer firm MoneyGram.
- Ant Financial acquired MoneyGram for USD 880 million.
- Stockholders of MoneyGram being offered \$13.25 per share in cash.
- The transaction will connect MoneyGram's money transfer network of 2.4 billion bank and mobile accounts and 350,000 physical locations with Ant Financial's users.
- The combination will provide consumers in over 200 countries and territories with convenient and accessible financial services, which furthers Ant Financial's mission to promote equal access to financial services globally.
- The services of MoneyGram and Ant Financial are highly complementary.
- MoneyGram, which will remain headquartered in Dallas and continue to operate under its existing brand.
- It will be able to leverage Ant Financial's global presence and existing network to serve more than 630 million users — including 450 million with Alipay and 180 million with India's leading mobile payment provider Paytm — to increase MoneyGram's transaction volume across the broad Asia-Pacific region.

- The transaction will also help expand Ant Financial's business in new global markets following its recent partnerships with Paytm in India and Ascend Money in Thailand.
- The acquisition is expected to close in the second half of 2017.
- Alipay.com is a third-party online payment platform. It was launched in China in 2004 by Alibaba Group and its founder Jack Ma.

Reference:

<http://ir.moneygram.com/releasedetail.cfm?releaseid=1009287>

FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey

Question: According to FICCI, what is the percentage of growth forecast for 2016-17?

(a) 6.8 (b) 7.3 (c) 7.1 (d) 7.9

Ans: (a)

Related Facts :



- According to the latest round of FICCI's Economic Outlook Survey report released on 30th January, 2017, the annual median GDP growth is forecasted at 6.8% for 2016-17.
- This is 0.5 percentage points lower than the estimate of 7.3% put across in the last round.
- The survey was conducted in the months of December 2016/ January 2017 and drew responses from leading economists representing industry, banking and financial services sector.
- The Central Statistical Organization had estimated a GDP growth of 7.1% for 2016-17 earlier in January this year.
- Industry and services sector are expected to grow by 5.7% and 8.5% respectively in 2016-17.
- Consumer Price Index has a median forecast of 4.7% for 2016-17, with a minimum and maximum range of 3.8% and 5.1% respectively.
- Wholesale Price Index based inflation rate for 2016-17 has been put at 3.4%, with a minimum and maximum range of 3.1% and 3.5% respectively.
- The median growth forecast for exports has been put at 2.2% for fiscal year 2016-17 and for imports at (-) 2.5%.

Reference:

<http://ficci.in/SEdocument/20386/FICCI-EOS-January-2017-Jan-28.pdf>

<http://www.uniindia.com/ficci-s-economic-outlook-survey-projects-gdp-growth-of-6-8pc-for-2016-17/business-economy/news/765539.html>

Operation Clean Money

Question: Operation Clean Money is started by-

- (a) NITI Ayog (b) Income Tax Department (c) Ministry of Finance
(d) Central Board of Direct Taxes

Ans: (b)



Related facts:

- On 31 January 2017; Income Tax Department (ITD) has initiated Operation Clean Money.
- Initial phase of the operation involves e-verification of large cash deposits made during 9th November to 30th December 2016.
- Data analytics has been used for comparing the demonetisation data with information in ITD databases.
- In the first batch, around 18 lakh persons have been identified in whose case, cash transactions do not appear to be in line with the tax payer's profile.
- ITD has enabled online verification of these transactions to reduce compliance cost for the taxpayers while optimising its resources.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157815>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Income-Tax-Department-begins-Operation-Clean-Money/article17124276.ece>

SCIENTIFIC

BEL launches communication radio

Question: Name the new communication radio which was recently launched by PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) for the Indian armed forces?

- (a) IIF KTM II (b) STARS FM III (c) STARS-V Mk III (d) STARS IIF III

Ans: (c)



Related facts:

- On 16 February 2017; PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has unveiled a new communication radio for the Indian armed forces, called STARS-V Mk III.
- It was launched at the Aero India 2017 show at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru.
- The radio is completely designed, developed and made in BEL.
- It is a multi brand, high data rate, software intensive IP radio with mobile ad hoc networking (MANET) functions supporting up to 64 nodes.

- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company.
- It is owned by the Indian Government and primarily manufactures advanced electronic products for the Indian Armed Forces.
- Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) was set up in 1954.
- Its headquarters is in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/bel-launches-communication-radio/article9547351.ece>

<http://defenceaviationpost.com/aero-india-2017-bel-unveils-first-ever-digitised-radio-comm-set/>

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/aero-india-2017-bel-unveils-first-ever-digitised-radio-comm-set-2349639.html>

ISRO Successfully Tests its Cryogenic Stage for GSLV Mk-III rocket

Question: Recently the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested its indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) for GSLV MkIII on February 17, 2017. The cryogenic stage designated as-

(a) C24 (b) C25 (c) C23 (d) C30

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2017; Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully tested its indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS) for GSLV MkIII rocket.
- The cryogenic stage designated as C25.
- It was tested for flight duration of 640 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu.
- It should be known that C25 Stage had earlier been tested successfully for 50 seconds on January 25, 2017 to validate all the systems.
- Prior to Stage development hot tests, three CE20 engines were realised and two engines were subjected to qualification tests in sea level conditions.
- This included 800 seconds duration hot test and the third engine identified for flight was tested in high.
- The C25 stage is the most powerful upper stage developed by ISRO and uses Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Hydrogen (LH2) propellant combination.



- The stage carries 27.8 tons of propellants loaded in two independent tanks. Development of a cryogenic stage has unique design challenges, with liquid Hydrogen stored at -253 deg C and liquid Oxygen stored at -195 deg C in its tanks.
- To store these cryogenic fluids, special multi-layer insulation is provided for the tanks and other structures.
- The development of the cryogenic stage was led by Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) with support from various System Development Agencies from other ISRO Centres of ISRO, viz., Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) and Sathish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), SHAR.
- The Cryogenic Stage development tests were carried out in two phases.
- First, the Stage was subjected to fluid mock-up, wherein the stage preparation and servicing at launch complex in SDSC, SHAR, Sriharikota was completed to prove all the ground facilities established for servicing the cryogenic stage.
- Second phase used for testing of the Stage at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri. From the Stage realisation to completion of testing was accomplished in four months.
- The flight cryogenic stage is in advanced stage of realisation, and forms the upper stage of GSLV Mk-III the next generation launch vehicle of ISRO, capable of launching 4 ton class satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).
- The vehicle consists of two solid strap-ons (S200) motors, one earth storable liquid core stage (L110) and the Cryogenic Upper Stage (C25).
- The GSLV MkIII vehicle integration activities are in progress at SDSC, SHAR for its first development flight (GSLV MkIII-D1) targeted for April 2017.

Reference:

<http://isro.gov.in/update/18-feb-2017/isro-successfully-tests-its-cryogenic-stage-c25-gslv-mkiii-flight-duration>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/science/cryogenic-upper-stage-for-gslv-mkiii-tested-successfully/article9550193.ece>

INSV Tarini

Question: Which one the below ocean going sailboat has recently been inducted in the Indian Navy?

- (a) Tarangini
- (b) Sudarshini
- (c) Mhadei
- (d) Tarini

Ans (d)



Related Fact

- On 18th February, 2017, The Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat INSV Tarini was inducted in a ceremony held at the INS Mandovi Boat Pool.
- INSV Tarini is a sloop built by M/s Aquarius Shipyard Pvt Ltd at Divar, Goa. The sail boat Tarini is slated to be the platform for First Indian All Women Circumnavigation of the Globe expedition of the Indian Navy.
- Extensive trials of the newly built INS Tarini were successfully completed on 30 January 2017.
- The boat has been built to a stock design by Van de Stadt, Netherlands called Tonga 56.
- The hull is made of wooden core fiberglass sandwich construction for a better performance than aluminum and steel.
- Her mast is 25 meters tall and has been custom built by M/s Southern Spars, Cape Town, for sailing in extreme conditions. She boasts a Raymarine navigation suite and an array of latest satellite communication systems through which she can be contacted anywhere in the world.
- Indian Navy will be operating four sailing vessels capable of open ocean deployments- Tarangini, Sudarshini, Mhadei and Tarini, all four of which have been built in shipyards at Goa.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158527>

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/insv-tarini-inducted-all-woman-crew-scheduled-sail-her-around-globe-commencing-august-2017>

Air Forces Netra

Question: Airborne Early Warning and Control System Netra has been developed by ...

- (a) DRDO (b) ISRO (c) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related Fact:

- Indigenously developed Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS) 'Netra' was inducted into the Indian Air Force on 14th February, 2017 at Yelahanka air base Bengaluru.
- The AEWS&CS was developed by the Centre for Airborne Systems (CABS). The laboratory comes under the Defence Research and Development Organisation and headed by woman scientist J Manjula.
- Netra has the capability to detect hostile missiles and jets at land, sea and air within the range of 200 kms. It is mounted on a Brazilian Embraer-145 jet.

- The Netra project is headed by Rajlaxmi who has been working with the DRDO for the last 28 years. The project received outstanding contribution from women scientist working at DRDO.
- Senior scientist Manisha Sharma worked on the system integration and communication, while scientist Bhagyalaxmi looked after computer mission of the project

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/air-forces-netra-a-symbol-of-women-power/1/882794.html>

Interceptor missile successfully test-fired

Question: The Wheeler Island in Bhadrak district of Odisha has been renamed as ...

- (a) Abdul Kalam Island (b) Nagarjun Island (c) Bhaskaracharya Island
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 11th February, 2017, India successfully test-fired its interceptor missile off the Odisha coast from Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) at about 7.45 AM.
- It is a significant milestone in the direction of developing a two-layered Ballistic Missile Defence system.
- This mission termed as “PDV mission is for engaging the targets in the exo-atmosphere region at an altitude above 50 km of earth’s atmosphere. Both, the PDV interceptor and the two stage target missile, were successfully engaged.
- The target was developed for mimicking a hostile Ballistic Missile approaching from more than 2000 km away was launched from a ship anchored in the Bay of Bengal.
- In an automated operation, radar based detection and tracking system detected and tracked the enemy’s ballistic missile.
- The computer network with the help of data received from radars predicted the trajectory of the incoming Ballistic Missile.
- PDV took-off once the computer system gave the necessary command for lift-off. The Interceptor guided by high accuracy Inertial Navigation System and supported by a Redundant Micro Navigation System moved towards the estimated point of the interception.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Interceptor-missile-successfully-test-fired/article17287777.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/odisha-government-renames-wheeler-island-as-abdul-kalam-island/1/465811.html>

World's first country to stop investing in fossil fuels

Question: Recently which of the following country became world's first country to fully divest public money from fossil fuels?

(a) Ireland (b) Switzerland (c) Finland (d) Denmark

Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- Ireland becomes the world's first country to fully divest from all fossil fuels, according to 350.org's Fossil Free Europe.
- The country's parliament just passed "first-of-its-kind fossil fuel divestment legislation" with a majority vote.
- Irish Parliament passed legislation will drop coal, oil, and gas (fossil fuel) investments from its \$8.56 billion Ireland Strategic Investment Fund.
- Ireland Strategic Investment Fund is a part of the Republic's National Treasury Management Agency.
- Once enacted, the bill would force the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund to sell its investment in fossil fuel industries over the next five years.
- Earlier in 2015, Norway's sovereign pension fund had divested from some fossil fuel companies, but not fully.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/ireland-just-became-the-worlds-first-country-to-stop-investing-in-fossil-fuels/articleshow/56872723.cms>

<https://gofossilfree.org/ireland-passes-fossil-fuel-divestment-bill/>



ISRO to launch record 103 satellites at one go

Question: What is the highest number of satellites launched in a single mission so far?

(a) 29 (b) 15 (c) 20 (d) 37

Ans: (d)

Related Fact:

- India's space agency ISRO will launch a record 103 satellites in the first week of February from its Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- All of them except three will be foreign at satellites. These will be on a single rocket in what will be a major feat not attempted by any country.
- These will be 100 micro-small satellites, which will be launched using a PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)- C37.



- The weight of the payload will be 1350 kgs, of which 500-600 kgs will be the satellite's weight
- This will be an important achievement as India looks to grab a larger slice of the lucrative commercial space market.
- The highest number of satellites launched in a single mission is 37, a record that Russia set in 2014. The US space agency NASA launched 29.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's favourite South Asian satellite project, meanwhile, will take off in March.

Reference:

<http://ddinews.gov.in/Sci-Tech/Sci-Tech%20-%20Headlines/Pages/isro.aspx>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/ISRO-to-launch-record-103-satellites-at-one-go-in-February/article16987921.ece>

Sports

TENNIS

Garanti Koza Sofia Open-2017

Question: Who among the following has won the men's singles title of 2017 Garanti Koza Sofia Open?

(a) Grigor Dimitrov (b) David Goffin (c) Mikhail Elgin (d) None of the above

Ans: (a)



Related facts:

- The 2017 Sofia Open (also known as 2017 Garanti Koza Sofia Open for sponsorship reasons) was a tennis tournament played on indoor hard courts.
- It was the 2nd edition of the Sofia Open as part of the ATP World Tour 250 series of the 2017 ATP World Tour.
- It took place at the Arena Armeec in Sofia, Bulgaria, from February 6–12, 2017.
- Result of the tournament:
- Men's Singles:
- Winner: Grigor Dimitrov(Bulgaria)
- Runner up: David Goffin(Belgium)
- Men's Doubles:
- Winner: Viktor Troicki and Nenad Zimonjic(Both are of Serbia)
- Runner Up: Mikhail Elgin and Andrey Kuznetsov(Both are of Russia)

Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/sofia/7434/overview>

St. Petersburg Ladies' Trophy-2017

Question: Who among the following has won the singles title of recently held 2017 St. Petersburg Ladies' Trophy?

- (a) Kristina Mladenovic (b) Daria Kasatkina (c) Elise Mertens
(d) Kirsten Flipkens



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The 2017 St. Petersburg Ladies' Trophy was a professional tennis tournament played on indoor hard courts.
- It was the eighth edition of the tournament and second time as a WTA Premier tournament.
- It was part of the 2017 WTA Tour and was held between 30 January and 5 February 2017.
- Result of the tournament:
- **Women;s singles:**
- Winner: Kristina Mladenovic(France)
- Runner Up: Yulia Putintseva(Kazakhstan)
- **Women;s Doubles:**
- Winner : Jeļena Ostapenko(Latvia) and Alicja Rosolska(Poland)
- Runner Up: Darija Jurak(Croatia) and Xenia Knoll(Switzerland)

Reference:

<http://wta.formulatx.com/en/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2017_St._Petersburg_Ladies'_Trophy

Taiwan Open-2017

Question: Who among the following has won the title of women's singles in the recently held Taiwan Open-2017?

- (a) Elina Svitolina (b) Peng Shuai (c) Miyu Kato (d) None of the above



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The Taiwan Open-2017 was a women's tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts.
- It was the second edition of the event and part of the WTA International tournaments of the 2017 WTA Tour.

- It took place from January 30 to February 5, 2017.
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner: Elina Svitolina(Ukraine)
- Runner Up: Peng Shuai(China)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner: Chan Hao-ching and Chan Yung-jan(Both are of Chinese Taipei)
- Runner Up: Lucie Hradecka and Katerina Siniaková(Botha are of Czech Republic)

Reference:

http://www.taiwanopen.com.tw/order_of_play_9.htm?tab=Draws&GE=2#td

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/27911315/WTADRAWSWTAIILS SM>

Australian Open-2017

Question: On 29 January 2017; in the Australian Open, Serena Williams won her 23rd major title, breaking the record of which of the following player?

(a) Chris Evert (b) Helen Wills (c) Steffi Graf (d) Martina Navratilova

Ans:(c)

Related facts:



- The 2017 Australian Open was a tennis tournament that took place at Melbourne Park from 16 to 29 January 2017.
- It was the 105th edition of the Australian Open, and the first Grand Slam tournament of the year 2017.
- Result of the competition:
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-Roger Federer (Switzerland)
- Runner-Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Serena Williams (US)
- Runner-Venus Williams (US)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Henri Kontinen (Finland) and John Pearce (Australia)
- Runner-Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan (Both are of USA)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner-Bethanie Mattek Sands(USA) and Lucy Safarov (Czech Republic)
- Runner- Andrea Hlavackova (Czech Republic) and Peng Shuai (China)
- **Mixed Doubles:**

- Winner-Abigail Spears (USA) and Juan Sebastian cabal (Colombia)
- Runner- Sania Mirza(India) and Ivan Dodig(Croatia)
- Serena Williams won the Australian Open-2017 and also her 23rd major title, breaking the record she had shared with Steffi Gra (22 titles).
- Venus Williams became the oldest Australian Open finalist in Open Era history when she captured the 50th Australian Open.
- The oldest player to become finalist of any grand slam is Martina Navratilova, then 37 and 258 days, at Wimbledon in 1994.
- This was Roger Federer's record 18th (the most men's singles) Grand Slam title. Federer the previously won Wimbledon in 2012.
- Roger Federer became the second oldest (35 years, 05 months, 22 days) to win Australian Open in Open Era.

Reference:

http://www.ausopen.com/en_AU/scores/index.html

http://www.ausopen.com/en_AU/news/articles/2017-01-28/serena_stands_tallest.html

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/26/tennis/venus-serena-williams-australian-open/>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/29/tennis/federer-nadal-australian-open-final-tennis/>

HOCKEY

Hockey India League-2017

Question: Who has awarded with the title of “Most Valuable Player” of the tournament in the recently held Hockey India League-2017?

- (a) Florian Fuchs (b) Moritz Fürste (c) Harmanpreet Singh
(d) None of these



Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- The 2017 Hockey India League, known as Coal India Hockey India League for sponsorship reasons, was the fifth season of the Hockey India League.
- It was held between 21 January and 26 February 2017.
- Six teams (Delhi Waveriders, Kalinga Lancers, Dabang Mumbai, Punjab Warriors, Ranchi Rays and Uttar Pradesh Wizards) played 34 matches in six venues.
- The final match was played in Sector 42 Stadium, Chandigarh.
- **Result of the tournament:**
- Kalinga Lancers beat Dabang Mumbai by 4–1 in the final to win the title.
- This was their first title.

- Kalinga Lancers, the Winner of Coal India Hockey India League won a prize money of Rs 2 crores 50 lakhs.
- Dabang Mumbai, the 1st Runner up of Coal India Hockey India League won a prize money of Rs 1 crore 25 lakhs.
- Uttar Pradesh Wizards, the 2nd Runner up of Coal India Hockey India League, was awarded prize money of Rs 75 lakhs.
- The Fair Play Trophy was awarded to the Kalinga Lancers.
- Florian Fuchs of Dabang Mumbai won the Hero Achiever Award for Upholding the Spirit of Hockey and also received a prize money of Rs 10 lakhs.
- Moritz Fuerste and Glenn Turner of Kalinga Lancers were declared joint winners of the Dhruv Batra Maximum Goal Awards and were presented with prize money of Rs 20 lakhs
- Harmanpreet Singh won the Ponty Chadha Upcoming player of the tournament award and was presented with a prize money of Rs 20 lakhs.
- Florian Fuchs of Dabang Mumbai was declared the Most Valuable Player of Tournament and was awarded a prize money of Rs. 50 lakhs.
- Kalinga Lancers' Glenn Turner and Moritz Fürste finished as the tournament's joint top-scorers with 12 goals each.

Reference:

<http://league.hockeyindia.org/news/kalinga-lancers-crowned-the-champions-of-coal-india-hockey-india-league/>

<http://league.hockeyindia.org/news/kalinga-lancers-crowned-the-champions-of-coal-india-hockey-india-league/>

<http://league.hockeyindia.org/images/stories/2017/02/CoalIndiaHockey.pdf>

BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

India to host World Billiards Championship

Question: Recently Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) has announced that India will host the World Billiards Championship for the next how many years?

(a) Two Years (b) Four Years (c) Six Years (d) Eight Years

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- According to the announcement by the Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) India will host the World Billiards Championship for the next four years.



- This was announced on 6 February 2017 by Billiards and Snooker Federation of India (BSFI) secretary S Balasubramaniam.
- This will be the only World Championship recognized by all as the earlier one being held by the World Billiards Limited will not take place now.
- In 2016, the World Billiards Championship was held in Bengaluru.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/india-to-host-world-billiards-championship-for-next-four-years/article9524635.ece>

GOLF

Genesis Open-2017

Question: Who among the following won the recently held Genesis open-2017?

(a)Hudson Safford (b)Dustin Johnson (c)Jordan Spith (d) Justin Thomas

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- PGA Tour golf tournament Genesis Open-2017 was held in California on February 16-19, 2017.
- Result of the tournament:
- Winner-Dustin Johnson (USA)



Reference:

<http://www.sbnation.com/golf/2017/2/19/14665128/dustin-johnson-riviera-genesis-open-2017-results-winner>

SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

All India National Style Kabaddi championship

Question: How much cash prize was given to the winner of first edition All India National Style Kabaddi championship hosted by Haryana?

(a) 2 Crore (b) 1.5 Crore (c) 1 Crore (d) 50 Crore

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 9-11 February 2017;Pandit Deen Dayal Updhyay All India National Style Kabaddi championship held at Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Haryana



- Hosts Haryana won the first edition of the three-day Pandit Deen Dayal Updhyay All India National Style Kabaddi championship.
- Haryana defeated the Railways team 33-27 to clinch the title.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) beat Air India 45-37 to secure the third position.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar felicitated the players for their performances and gave away cash prizes of Rs 1 crore, Rs 50 lakh and Rs 25 lakh to the top three teams.
- This is the highest prize money for any kabaddi event in the country.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/haryana-wins-rs-1-crore-kabaddi-championship-117021100847_1.html
<http://www.thenewsnow.co.in/newsdet.aspx?q=21942>

Mascot for FIFA under 17 World Cup India 2017

Question: Where is the FIFA under 17 World Cup India 2017 scheduled to be held?

(a) Sri Lanka (b) Australia (c) China (d) India

Ans: (d)



- On 10th February, 2017, Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel with President of AIFF Praful Patel unveiled the mascot KHELEO for FIFA under 17 World Cup India 2017 at New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.
- The mascot was unveiled during the launch of Mission XI Million programme.
- FIFA under 17 world cup to be held in India from 06/10/2017 to 28/10/2017.

Reference:

<http://www.fifa.com/u17worldcup/news/y=2017/m=2/news=official-mascot-unveiled-for-fifa-u-17-world-cup-india-2017-2866714.html>

Discovery "DSPORT" channel

Question: On 6 February 2017; which of the following channel has announced the launch of DSPORT, an all-new premium sports channel in India?

(a) Colors (b) & TV (c) Discovery (d) History Channel



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 6 February 2017; Discovery Communications announced the launch of DSPORT, an all-new premium sports channel in India.
- Karan Bajaj, senior vice-president & GM, Discovery Networks Asia-Pacific has made the announcement.
- Discovery has expertise sports, especially in Europe through Eurosport.
- DSPORT will be a part of the Sports Tier via a subscription model on both DTH and Cable in both HD and SD.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/Discovery-Communications-launches-DSPORT/article17202128.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/discovery-launches-dsport-channel-for-sports-viewers/1/875792.html>

<https://dthforum.com/threads/discovery-enters-sports-genre-with-the-launch-dsport.39806/>

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Sunil Chhetri

Question: Recently Sunil Chhetri has overtaken which of the following footballer as the leading goalscorer in the history of I-league football?

- (a) Samuel Lalmuanpuia (b) Bhaichung Bhutia (c) Willis Plaza
(d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- The Bengaluru FC strike, Sunil Chhetri has overtaken Bhaichung Bhutia as the leading goalscorer in the history of Indian league football.
- He overtook Bhutias record of 89 goals by scoring 90th goal in the I-League match against Aizawl FC.
- Bangalore FC's match against Aizawl FC's drew with the score of 1-1.

Reference:

<https://www.sportskeeda.com/football/sunil-chhetri-becomes-indian-league-footballs-top-goalscorer-breaks-bhaichung-bhutias-record>

<http://www.goal.com/en-india/news/1064/i-league/2017/02/16/32717152/i-league-2017-bengaluru-fc-skipper-sunil-chhetri-becomes-all>



Dushyant Chautala

Question: Who appointed as the president of Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI)?

(a) Praful Patel (b) Urjit Patel (c) Dushyant Chautala (d) Suresh Kalmadi

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 30 January 2017; a new set of office-bearers, led by president Dushyant Chautala took charge of affairs at the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) following the Annual General Body meeting where they were elected unopposed.
- The election to all posts conducted and supervised by Justice Ranjit Singh (Retd.) of the Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- Dushyant Chautala is the youngest president of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

Reference:

<http://www.ttfi.org/news/show/825>



Andre Russell

Question: Recently which of the following player has been banned for one year from cricket for a whereabouts clause violation by an independent anti-doping panel in Kingston?

(a) Dwayne Bravo (b) Andre Russell (c) Chris Gayle (d) Marlon Samuels

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell has been banned for one year from cricket for a whereabouts clause violation by an independent anti-doping panel in Kingston.
- The ban is effective from January 31, 2017 and will last until January 30, 2018.
- A three-member tribunal comprising Hugh Faulkner, Dr Marjorie Vassell and Dixeth Palmer, a former Jamaica cricketer, found Russell guilty of being negligent in filing his whereabouts on three separate occasions within a 12-month period in 2015.
- In March 2016, the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission pressed charges of negligence against Russell for not filing his whereabouts on January 1, July 1 and July 25 in 2015.
- Because of this under the World Anti-Doping Agency rules – amounted to a failed dope test.

Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/westindies/content/story/1080431.html>



Virat Kohli to feature on Wisden 2017 cover

Question: Which magazine is reputed as The Bible of Cricket?

(a) Wisden (b) Sports today (c) The Cricketer (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- As per news report published on 3rd February, 2017, Virat Kohli will be featured on the cover of the Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2017 following a stellar 2016.
- A photograph of Kohli playing a reverse sweep in a Test match will be on the cover and word is that he is one of the leading contenders to be named Wisden's Leading Player of the Year, an accolade put in place in 2004, when Ricky Ponting became the first honoree.
- The reason behind featuring Kohli playing an unorthodox stroke on the cover page, is to depict the way the game is changing.
- This comes after the Indian captain became the first person to be 'the Wisden India Almanack Cricketer of the Year for the second time'.
- Kohli made 1215 runs from 12 Tests at an average of 75.93 in the last calendar apart from scoring 739 runs from ten One-Day Internationals and 641 runs from 15 Twenty20 Internationals at a whopping average of 106.83.
- The 28-year-old also led India to three Test series wins last year against the West Indies (2-0), New Zealand (3-0) and England (4-0). After taking over the limited-overs captaincy from Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Kohli also led India to series victories over England in the three ODIs and three T20Is this year.
- Kohli becomes only the second Indian, after Sachin Tendulkar in 2014 following his retirement from the game, to be featured on the cover of 'The Bible of Cricket'.
- The 154th edition of the Wisden Almanack will be published on April 6.



Reference:

<http://www.wisdenindia.com/cricket-news/kohli-to-feature-on-wisden-2017-cover/239780>

Lakshya Sen

Question: Recently who achieved the World No. 1 ranking in the latest BWF World junior ranking?

(a) Bodhit Joshi (b) Sanjay Srivastava (c) Lakshya Sen
(d) Vinayak Mahajan



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2017; young shuttler Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand achieved the World No. 1 ranking in the latest BWF World junior ranking.
- According to BWF current rankings, Lakshya has 16,903 points in eight tournaments he has played in the season while Chia Hao of Chinese Taipei is at the second spot, has 16,091 points.
- By the end of 2016, he was eighth in the rankings.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/Lakshya-Sen-reaches-World-No.1-in-BWF-junior-ranking/article17140787.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/Lakshya-Sen-reaches-World-No.1-in-BWF-junior-ranking/article17140787.ece>

Short Notes

PERSONALITIES

Brand Ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission

Question: Recently who has been named as a brand ambassador for the cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission?

- (a) Deepika Padukone (b) Priyanka Chopra (c) Parineeti Chopra
(d) Shilpa Shetty



Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 23 February 2017; government of India has named actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission.
- She will feature in TV and radio campaigns aimed at discouraging people from littering on roads.
- It should be known that she is latest entrant in the list of the missions ambassadors like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Shankar Mahadevan and Sachin Tendulkar.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/govt-ropes-in-shilpa-shetty-as-swachh-bharat-brand-ambassador/1/890062.html>

<http://www.dailyexcelsior.com/govt-ropes-in-shilpa-shetty-as-swachh-bharat-brand-ambassador/>

Ms. Suman Saxena took charge as member of IBBI

Question: Who is the current chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India?

- (a) Ms. Suman Saxena (b) Dr. M. s. Sahoo (c) G. S. Yadav
(d) Amardeep Singh Bhatiya



Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Ans: (b)

Related Fact:

- On 22nd February, 2017, Ms. Suman Saxena took charge as the whole time member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- Ms. Saxena will look after research and regulation wing comprising corporate insolvency, corporate liquidation, individual insolvency, individual bankruptcy, research and publications, data management and dissemination and advocacy.
- She will also look after National Insolvency Programme, Continuing Professional Programme, and Knowledge Management and Partnership.
- Ms. Saxena served as a member of the Indian Audit and Accounts Service for over 35 years. She was previously working as Deputy Comptroller and Auditor General.
- She has also been the Director of National Academy of Audit and Accounts.
- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was established on October 1, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- The main responsibility of IBBI is to regulate the functioning of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016.
- It is to be noted that Dr. M.S. Sahoo is the current chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.

Reference:

<http://www.ibbi.gov.in/about-ibbi.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158644>

Ved Prakash Sharma

Question: Recently Ved Prakash Sharma passed away, he was a-

- (a) Novelist (b) Singer (c) Actor (d) Leader

Ans: (a)

Related facts:



- On 17 February 2017; Popular Hindi novelist Ved Prakash Sharma passed away. He was 62.
- Some of his famous novels are Dahej Mein Revolver (Revolver as Dowry), Widhva Ka Pati (Husband of a Widow) and Dulhan Maange Dahej (Bride Asks for Dowry).
- Sharma had also written scripts for about half-a-dozen Hindi movies.
- His famous novels which broke many records and added to his popularity included “Qaidi No 100” and “Vardi Wala Gunda”.
- He has penned 176 novels.
- He has been honoured with “Meerut Ratna” award twice in the year 1992 and later, in 1994.
- He has also been an award recipient of “Natraj Bhushan Award” in 2008 and “Natraj Award” in 1995.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/celebrated-hindi-novelist-ved-prakash-sharma-dead-117021800193_1.html

<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/books/ved-prakash-sharma-hindi-author-novelist-death-4531404/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Hindi-novelist-Ved-Prakash-Sharma-dies/article17327485.ece>

New U.S. National Security Advisor

Question- Who has been appointed as the new national security adviser of the United States of America?

- (a) Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster (b) Gen Colin Powell
(c) Gen Douglas MacArthur (d) Sara Palin



Ans: (a)

Related Fact

- On 20th February, 2017 Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster was appointed as the new national security adviser, replacing the ousted Michael Flynn.
- Retired Army Lt. Gen. Keith Kellogg, who has been serving as acting national security adviser, will return to his role as the National Security Council chief of staff.
- The national security adviser serves as the chief in-house counselor to the president on national security. The position does not require Senate confirmation.
- Lt. Gen McMaster is widely known as smart, intense and fiercely outspoken.
- He is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point and commanded troops during the

first Gulf War.

- He has received the Silver Star for his role commanding a tank during the Battle of 73 Easting.
- Lt. Gen McMaster also received a PhD in history from the University of North Carolina and has written a book titled, "Dereliction of Duty".
- Lt. Gen McMaster, who is currently serving as the director of the Army's Capabilities Integration Center, is the second active-duty military officer to take the post.
- Before him, Gen. Colin Powell served in the role during the final years of the Reagan administration.

Reference:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/02/20/politics/who-is-gen-hr-mcmaster-national-security-adviser/>
https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-taps-army-lt-gen-hr-mcmaster-as-his-new-national-security-adviser/2017/02/20/3a8fd9fa-f7ae-11e6-be05-1a3817ac21a5_story.html?utm_term=.898350837616

Narinder Chauhan

Question: Recently Narinder Chauhan Serbia has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which of the following country?

(a) Japan (b) Malaysia (c) Philippines (d) Thailand

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 11 February 2017; Narinder Chauhan has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of the Philippines.
- She is presently the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.
- She is Indian Forest Service officer of 1985 batch.

Reference:

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28061/Narinder+Chauhan+appointed+as+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Philippines>
<https://www.eoibelgrade.gov.in/pages.php?id=8>



India's New High Commissioner to Canada

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the new High Commissioner of India to Canada?

- (a) Vikas Swarup (b) Saiyad Akabaruddeen (c) S Jaisankar
(d) M J Akbar



Ans:(a)

- According to press release by Ministry of External Affairs dated 16th February, 2017, Shri Vikas Swarup
- presently Additional Secretary has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Canada.
- He will replace Arun Kumar Sahu who is currently working as acting Indian High Commissioner to Canada.
- Mr. Swarup is expected to join his new post in Ottawa by mid-March.
- He is an India Foreign Services Officer of 1986 batch.
- Mr. Swarup is a well-known author. He became the MEA spokesperson in April 2015.

Reference:

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28071/Vikas+Swarup+appointed+as+High+Commissioner+of+India+to+C>

Jovenel Moise sworn in as Haiti's new president

Question: Jovenel Moise who recently sworn in as Haiti's new president is the President of Haiti.

- (a) 58th (b) 57th (c) 59th (d) 60th



Ans:(a)

- On 7th February, 2017, Jovenel Moise was sworn in as 58th president of Haiti at a ceremony at the National Assembly.
 - His predecessor, Michel Martelly, stood down a year ago at the end of his term, and was replaced by an interim president.
 - Mr. Moise won the October 2015 poll, but the election was annulled for alleged fraud.
 - Mr. Moise won in the first round, with some 55% of the vote against 20% for his closest rival, Jude Celestin.
- Jovenel Moise is a banana exporter and has never held a public office before.
- Jovenel Moise inherits a government still reeling from an electoral crisis that had left the presidency vacant since early 2016

- Recovering the nation devastated by earthquakes, poverty elimination and development are some of the main challenges before Mr. Moise.
- According to the World Bank, Haiti's economic growth continues to "decelerate due to lower investments, uncertain political environment and a modest recovery of the agricultural sector after a severe drought.

Reference:

<http://primature.gouv.ht/?m=201702>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/02/08/americas/haiti-new-president-inauguration-jovenel-moise/>

New Chairman and CEO of KPMG in India

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of KPMG in India?

- (a) Arun Sharma (b) Arun M. Kumar (c) Deepak Chadda
(d) Richard Rekhy



Ans.(b)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2017 KPMG, a leading professional services firm appointed Arun M Kumar as its new Chairman and CEO.
- It should be known that KPMG was established in 1987.
- He has five-year tenure.
- He will be succeeding Richard Rekhy.
- Its Headquarters is located in Amstelveen, Netherlands.

Reference:

<https://home.kpmg.com/in/en/home/media/press-releases/2017/02/arun-kumar-elected-as-chairman-and-ceo-of-kpmg-in-india.html>

Bano Qudsia

Question: Recently renowned Urdu novelist and playwright Bano Qudsia passed away, she belongs to which of the following country?

- (a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) India (d) Myanmar



Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2017: renowned Pakistani Urdu novelist and playwright Bano Qudsia passed away. She was 88.

- Bano Qudsia was born in Ferozpur, Punjab (British India) on November 28, 1928.
- Qudsia is best known for her novel Raja Gidh.
- Among her more prominent writings are Aatish-i-zer-i-paa, Aik Din, Amer Bail, Asay Pasay, Chahar Chaman, Chhotaa Sheher Baray Log, Footpath ki Ghaas, Haasil Ghaat and Hawa Kay Naam.
- Her most famous playwrights include Tamasil, Hawa ke Naam, Seharay and Khaleej.
- The Government of Pakistan also recognised her contributions to her field and she was bestowed with Sitara-e-Imtiaz in 2003 and the Hilal-e-Imtiaz in 2010.
- Pakistan Academy of Letters honoured the renowned author by awarding her with Kamal-e-Fun Award in 2010.

Reference:

<https://www.geo.tv/latest/129961-Renowned-Urdu-author-Bano-Qudsia-passes-away>

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

Joginder Singh

Question: Recently Joginder Singh passed away, He was a-

- (a) Former ISRO chief (b) Former RAW chief (c) Former CBI chief
(d) Former IB chief

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 3 February 2017 Former CBI chief Joginder Singh passed away. He was 77.
- He was the CBI director between 1996-97.
- CBI under him probed large number of sensitive cases including Bofors, fodder scam, securities scam, the JMM MPs bribery scandal, Rs 133 crore urea scam e.t.c.
- He was 1961 batch IPS officer of Karnataka cadre.
- A prolific writer, Singh, penned over 25 books on various subjects after retiring from the service.



Reference:

<http://cbi.nic.in/history.php>

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-Mg/Mjk4Mjkz/former-cbi-director-joginder-singh-passes-away.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/former-cbi-chief-joginder-singh-is-dead/1/874372.html>

Sanjeev Sanyal

Question: Recently who has been appointed as Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance?

- (a) R V Pandala (b) Sunil Kumar Gupta (c) Sanjeev Sanyal
(d) None of the above



Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2017 The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Sanjeev Sanyal as Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance.
- He is the former Global Strategist and Managing Director, Deutsche Bank.
- In 2007, Sanyal was awarded the Eisenhower Fellowship for his work on urban issues and was also honoured by the Singapore government at the World Cities Summit 2014.

Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/sanjeev-sanyal-appointed-principal-economic-adviser-in-finance-ministry/articleshow/56957880.cms>

Ashok Amritraj

Question: Who has been appointed as the United Nations in India Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

- (a) Ashok Amritraj (b) Samantha Power (c) Amandeep Singh Gill
(d) None of the above



Ans. (a)

Related facts:

- On 27 January 2017 Award-winning Hollywood film producer and Wimbledon tennis player, Ashok Amritraj has been appointed the United Nations in India Goodwill Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Amritraj is the first Ambassador for the UN in India. Ashok Amritraj has made over 100 films during the span of his 30-year extraordinary career garnering global acclaim.
- It may be recalled that in September 2015, at the UN General Assembly, 193 countries adopted arguably the most ambitious global agenda of our times, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity and peace. India played an important role in shaping the global agenda and is critical to its success.
- UN Goodwill Ambassadors aim to generate momentum and commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and to foster engagement of new stakeholders in the implementation of these Goals. The United Nations has a long history of close co-operation with the

Government of India and presently the United Nations system in India includes 26 organizations that have the privilege to serve in the country.

Reference:

<http://www.in.undp.org/content/india/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/20>

Vikram Limaye the new CEO, MD of NSE

Question: Vikram Limaye who has been recently selected as new CEO, MD of NSE is currently the CEO of ...

(a) IDFC (b) HDFC (c) ICICI (d) Bank of Baroda

Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 3rd February, 2017 Leading stock exchange NSE (National Stock Exchange) selected IDFC chief Vikram Limaye as its new CEO and Managing Director, two months after the sudden exit of Chitra Ramkrishna from the top post.
- The approval of the board, chaired by Ashok Chawla, came after a four-member search panel suggested Limaye's name from amongst the shortlisted candidates.
- The appointment would also need capital market regulator SEBI's approval.
- Vikram Limaye is commerce graduate and MBA in Finance and Multinational Management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.
- Limaye is currently the Managing Director & CEO of IDFC. He started his professional career with Arthur Andersen in Mumbai in 1987 and has also worked with Ernst & Young and Citibank.
- He has also worked at Wall Street for eight years with Credit Suisse First Boston.
- Limaye has contributed to various committees of government and industry associations on a range of topics surrounding infrastructure, economic policy, markets and trade.
- The appointment comes at a time when the exchange is preparing to launch its IPO estimated to be worth over Rs 10,000 crore.



Reference:

http://ptinews.com/news/8365963_NSE-selects-Vikram-Limaye-as-new-chief-

First Transgender Model to walk at an Indian Fashion Week

Question: Who has become the first transgender to catwalk on India's Lakmé Fashion Week?

(a) Anjali Lama (b) Neha Dhawan (c) Ritu Mukherjee
(d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 3rd February, 2017, Anjali Lama made history at India's Lakmé Fashion Week by being the first transgender model to walk at an Indian fashion week.
- Anjali 32, was born Nabin Waiba to a family of poor farmers in remote Nuwakot in mountainous Nepal.
- Lama spent the majority of her life tackling discrimination and prejudice.
- As a child she was bullied at school, while at home she was pressured to conform to gender stereotypes by her family members.
- At the age of 18, Lama moved to Nepal's capital city, Kathmandu, where her struggle with gender identity continued.
- In 2014 she featured in a documentary titled "Anjali: Living inside Someone Else's Skin" in which she said she hoped to become completely female one day.

Reference:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/02/02/fashion/anjali-lama-transgender-model-india-lakme-fashion-week/>

P.V.K. Reddy

Question: Recently Union government has appointed P.V. K. Reddy a senior IPS officer as-

- (a) Director General, Border Security Force
- (b) Director General (Investigation), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)
- (c) Director General (Investigation), National Women's Rights Commission
- (d) Director General, Central Industrial Security Force



Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2017; P.V. K. Reddy, has been appointed as Director General (Investigation), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- His tenure will start from the date of joining the post and up to the date of his superannuation i.e. 30.4.2017 or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157887>

New Director General of Border Roads

Question: Recently who has taken over as the 25th Director General Border Roads (DGBR)?

- (a) Lieutenant General BK Srivastava
- (b) Lieutenant General Suresh Sharma
- (c) Lieutenant General Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava
- (d) Lieutenant General J. S Cheema



Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2017; Lieutenant General Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava has taken over as the 25th Director General Border Roads (DGBR).
- He has replaced Lieutenant General Suresh Sharma.
- Lt Gen SK Shrivastava was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun in 1980.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and North-East states of the country.
- The organisation's operations are spread across India, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157874>

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

E. Ahamed

Question: Recently former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away, he was the member of Lok Sabha from which of the following state?

- (a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat

Ans: (b)

Related facts:



- On 1 February 2017; Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) national president and former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away.
- He was M.P from the Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency of Kerala.
- He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1967, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1987. From 1982 to 1987, he served as Cabinet Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala.

- He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009.
- During 2004 -2009, he served as the Minister of State for External Affairs.
- From April 2009 to January 2011, he was Minister of State for Railways.
- His famous books include "The Leaders I Know '(Malayalam),' A story of a renaissance of Indian Muslim '(Malayalam) and 'One foreign journey and numerous memories '.
- On 31 January 2017, he suffered a cardiac arrest during the President's address to the joint sitting of Parliament.

Reference:

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

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/E.-Ahamed-passes-away/article17127004.ece>

New Ambassador of India to Iraq

Question: Who has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Iraq?

- (a) Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit (b) Navtej Sarna (c) Nirupama Rao
(d) Arun Kumar Singh



Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- According to press release by Ministry of External Affairs published on 31 January, 2017, Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Iraq.
- He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
- He is an officer of Indian Foreign service of 2004 batch.

Reference:

[https://www.mea.gov.in/press-](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/27972/Pradeep+Singh+Rajpurohit+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador)

[releases.htm?dtl/27972/Pradeep+Singh+Rajpurohit+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador](https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/27972/Pradeep+Singh+Rajpurohit+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador)

PLACES

e-Cabinet solution

Question: Which is the first state of North East India to implement e-Cabinet solution?

- (a) Mizoram (b) Nagaland (c) Meghalaya (d) Arunachal Pradesh

Ans:(d)



- On 7th February, 2017 Arunachal Pradesh became the first state in

the northeast to implement e-Cabinet solution for the state cabinet members.

- This system will help cabinet members access the cabinet notes before the meeting.
- The entire business of the Cabinet can be conducted using the e-Cabinet solution.
- The e-Cabinet solution will give remote access to the Ministers to view Cabinet notes and the same will be circulated well in advance for proper analysis and feedback.
- The system is a multi-user secure solution that keeps relevant information organized and updated in real time, giving ministers a clear overview of each item under discussion.
- e-Cabinet solution has been implemented by the department of Information Technology and Communication.
- The Department of IT and Communication also distributed one secured tablet to each member of the Cabinet through which the ministers can access the e-Cabinet solution.
- After adoption of the e-Cabinet system, the average length of the cabinet meetings will go down from 4-5 hours to just 30-90 minutes and the government can also eliminate the need to print and deliver thousands of pages of documents.

Reference:

<http://echoofarunachal.in/newecho/2017/02/08/goap-implements-e-cabinet/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/arunachal-first-ne-state-to-implement-e-cabinet-solution-117020701080_1.html

China became the biggest producer of solar energy

Question: As per a recent report by the National Energy Administration, China has become world's biggest producer of solar energy. What is the share of solar energy to China's total power generation?

(a) 2 percent (b) 1 percent (c) 1.25 percent (d) 1.5 percent

Ans:(b)

- China has emerged as world's biggest producer of solar energy as per data shared by the National Energy Administration (NEA) of China on 4th February, 2017.
- The country has doubled installed photovoltaic (PV) capacity. Solar plants generated 66.2 billion kilowatt-hours of power last year, accounting for 1 percent of China's total power generation.
- As per the data by the Energy Agency, the Installed PV capacity has risen to 77.42 gigawatts at the end of 2016, with the addition of 34.54 gigawatts over the course of the year.
- Shandong, Xinjiang, Henan were among the provinces that saw the most capacity increase, while Xinjiang, Gansu, Qinghai and Inner Mongolia had the greatest overall capacity at the end of last year.



- National Energy Administration has planned to add more than 110 gigawatts of capacity in the 2016-2020 period.
- The country aims to boost the mix of non-fossil fuel generated power to 20 percent by 2030 from 11 percent today.
- China plans to invest 2.5 trillion Yuan (\$364 billion) into renewable power generation by 2020.

Reference:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-solar-idUSKBN15J0G7>

<http://en.ndrc.gov.cn/>

Meghalaya's first ever Apparel and Garment Centre

Question: Recently Meghalaya's first ever Apparel and Garment Centre was inaugurated at-

(a) Ampati (b) Mawlynnong (c) Punsari (d) None of the above

Ans. (a)



Related facts:

- On 30 January 2017 Meghalaya's first ever Apparel and Garment Centre inaugurated at Ampati.
- It was inaugurated by union Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani, along with Chief Minister of Meghalaya Dr. Mukul Sangma.
- Ampati is present in South West Garo Hills, Meghalaya.
- The Apparel and Garment Making Centre, covering an area of 45,000 sq. ft, has been set up at a cost of approximately Rs. 14.26 crore, under the North East Region Textiles Promotion Scheme (NERTPS) of the Ministry of Textiles.
- The centre has three units, two of them housing 105 sewing machines each, and the third one having seventy machines.
- The foundation stone for this centre was laid in 2015 by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, in the presence of the then Union Textiles Minister.
- Its construction was completed by NBCC, in a record time of less than two years.
- The Apparel and Garment Making Centre is being set up as part of a landmark initiative announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Nagaland, on 1st December, 2014.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157782>

United Arab Emirates

Question: Recently United Arab Emirates' Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation has announced to donate an Elekta Synergy Digital Accelerator worth US\$2 million to which of the following Medical College?

- (a) Kamala Nehru Medical College, Allahabad
- (b) Sarojini Naidu Medical College, Agra
- (c) Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi
- (d) Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh



Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 23 January 2017; The United Arab Emirates' Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Foundation has announced that they will donate an Elekta Synergy Digital Accelerator worth US\$2 million to the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)'s Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College.
- The announcement coincides with the visit to India of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, as the chief guest at the 68th Republic Day celebrations.
- The Khalifa Foundation mentioned that the donation was made possible through cooperation between them and VPS Healthcare, a UAE-based Indian healthcare company.
- It should be noted that Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the President of the UAE, had declared the year 2017 as the 'Year of Giving', focusing on public-private partnership in the field of humanitarian initiatives.

Reference:

<http://businesswireindia.com/news/news-details/uaes-khalifa-foundation-donates-us-2-million-medical-equipment-aligarh-muslim-university/51880>

<http://education.medicaldialogues.in/uae-khalifa-foundation-donates-2-million-us-dollars-to-aligarh-muslim-university/>

AWARDS & HONORS

Hockey Stars Awards 2016

Question: FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2016 were conferred on 23 February 2017 in which of the following city of India?

- (a) New Delhi (b) Chandigarh (c) Jaipur (d) Bengaluru

Ans: (b)



Related facts:

- On 23 February 2017; FIH Hockey Stars Awards 2016 were conferred in Chandigarh.
- This was the for the first time in the history of Hockey that the ceremony was held to honour the best players, rising stars, goalkeepers, umpires and coaches.
- Belgium captain John-John Dohmen and Netherlands' Naomi Van were named as male and female International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Player of the Year (2016) awards respectively.
- Hockey Stars 2016 female Goalkeeper of the Year: Won by Great Britain's Olympic gold medallist Maddie Hinch.
- Hockey Stars 2016 male Goalkeeper of the Year: Won by Ireland's David Harte. He won the award for the second year in a row.
- Male Rising Star of the Year (2016): Arthur Van Doren(Belgium)
- Female Rising Star of the Year (2016): Maria Granatto(Argentina)
- Coach of Year awards male: Danny Kerry(Great Britain)
- Coach of Year awards female: Karen Brown(Great Britain)
- Umpire of the Year award male: Christian Blasch(Germany)
- Umpire of the Year award female: Laurine Delforge(Belgium)
- Indian player who were nominated but not won the prize are:Harmanpreet Singh (Rising Star of the Year) and captain and goalkeeper PR Sreejesh (for Goalkeeper of the Year)

Reference:

<http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-stars-awards/hockey-stars-2016/hockey-stars/winners/>

26th Vyas Samman 2016

Question: Recently who has been selected for 26th Vyas Samman-2016?

- (a) Dr Narendra Kohli (b) Dr. Kamal Kishore Goenka (c) Dr. Sunita Jain
(d) Surendra Verma

Ans: (d)

**Related facts:**

- On 16 February 2017; renowned Hindi writer Surinder Verma has been chosen for "Vyas Samman" for 2016, for his novel "Kaatna shami ka vriksha padma-pankhuri ki dhar se".
- The K K Birla foundation announced the conferment of prize on the Jhansi-born 76-year-old, who will be the 26th recipient of the award.
- Selection committee constituted under the chairmanship of President Dr Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari of Sahitya Akademi.

- Besides Mr Tiwari, the members of the selection committee included Mridula Garg, Professor Ramji Tewari, Professor Pandey Shashibhushan Shitanshu, Professor Rajendra Gautam and Professor Suresh Rituprana, Director of K K Birla Foundation.
- He has already been decorated with the Sangeet Natak Academi in 1992 and the Sahitya Akademi Samman in 1996.
- The renowned author has penned famous novels like “Mujhe Chand Chahiyae” and dramas like “Surya ki antim Kiran se surya ki pehle kiran tak” and “Kayde hayat”.
- The award was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991.
- It is awarded annually for an exceptional contribution made by Hindi writers towards the language and his work published in past 10 years.
- The award carries monetary award of 3.5 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.

Reference:

<http://www.nayaindia.com/litrature/hindi-litterateur-surendra-verma-vyas-samman-600711.html>
<http://www.univarta.com/noted-hindi-writer-surendra-verma-gets-vyas-samman/india/topnews/783481.html>

Genesis Prize -2017

Question: Recently Britain-based Indian-origin artist and human rights activist Anish Kapoor has been honoured with the 2017 Genesis Prize by which of the following country?

(a) United Kingdom (b) Israel (c) Iran (d) South Africa

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2017; Britain-based Indian-origin artist and human rights activist Anish Kapoor has been honoured with the 2017 Genesis Prize given by the Genesis Prize Foundation.
- The prize was awarded by the Genesis Prize Foundation, the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency on February 5, 2017.
- He was awarded with the \$1 million award money.
- The prize was instituted in 2012, and dubbed the Jewish Nobel.
- It is given to individuals who have attained excellence and international renown in their chosen professional fields, and who inspire others through their engagement and dedication to the Jewish community and/or the state of Israel.

Reference:

<http://www.genesisprize.org/press-center/item/756-2017-jewish-nobel-awarded-to-celebrated-artist-anish-kapoor.html>
<http://www.theweek.in/news/entertainment/anish-kapoor-wins-genesis-prize.html>



Miss Universe-2016

Question: Who won the title of Miss Universe-2016?

- (a) Iris Mittenaaere (b) Raquel Pélissier (c) Andrea Tovar
(d) None of the above

Ans: (a)



Related facts:

- Miss Universe 2016, the 65th Miss Universe pageant, was held on 30 January 2017[a] at the Mall of Asia Arena, Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- Pia Wurtzbach of the Philippines crowned her successor Iris Mittenaaere of France at the end of the event.
- This is the second time in the history of the competition that the pageant skipped the entire year, following the 2014 pageant which was held in January 2015.
- Mittenaaere is the first European to be crowned Miss Universe in 14 years, the last being Oxana Fedorova in 2002.
- First and second runner-ups were Miss Haiti (Raquel Pelissier) and Miss Colombia (Andrea Tovar).
- The top finalists hailed from Kenya, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Colombia, Philippines, Canada, Brazil, France, Haiti, Thailand and the U.S.
- This was the first time Sierra Leone entered the competition and was represented by Hawa Kamara.
- Roshmita Hrimurthy represented India in the competition.
- Malaysia was represented by Indian origin Kiran Jassal.
- Former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen was present in the judging panel of 65th edition of the Miss Universe pageant.

Reference:

<https://www.missuniverse.com/post/2065>

<https://www.missuniverse.com/post/2061>

<https://www.missuniverse.com/competition>

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

Sub-committee of Council of Ministers to prepare a blue print of Integrated Dairy Complexes

Question: Which of the following state has recently decided to constitute a sub-committee of Council of Ministers to prepare a blue print of Integrated Dairy Complexes in all cities of the State?

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

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 14 February 2017; Haryana Cabinet decided to constitute a sub-committee of Council of Ministers to prepare a blue print of Integrated Dairy Complexes in all cities of the State.
- The committee consists of Agriculture Minister Om Parkash Dhankhar, Urban Local Bodies Minister Kavita Jain and Minister of State for Cooperation Munish Kumar Grover.
- The committee will submit its report within a month.
- Areas around the towns where dairy, fodder and vegetable market could be set up would be known as integrated dairying complex.

Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/all-cities-in-haryana-to-get-integrated-dairy-complexes/1/882489.html>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/haryana/panel-to-prepare-blueprint-for-dairy-complexes-in-cities/364178.html>



Scientific Panel on Food Fortification and Nutrition

Question: Recently a scientific panel on food fortification and nutrition has been set up by ...

- (a) FSSAI
(b) Ministry of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

Related Fact:



- According to press release dated 14th February, 2017, Food regulator FSSAI has set up a scientific panel to frame final regulations on fortification of foods and prepare strategies to address malnutrition problem.
- The panel has 11 experts and scientists — Ambrish Mithal from Medanta; CS Pandav and R K Marwaha (Retd) from AIIMS; Anura Kurpad from St John's Medical College; Yogeshwar Shukla from CSIR – Indian Institute of Toxicology Research, HPS Sachdev from Sita Ram Bharatia Institute of Science and Research; KM Nair from NIN; P Ramachandran from Nutrition Foundation of India; Sumit Arora from NDRI; Sirimavo Nair from the MS University, Baroda, and Harsulkar from Bharati Vidyapeeth.
- The Panel will identify critical nutritional gaps in the Indian diet in general as well as in specific target groups based on diet surveys and credible scientific evidence.
- The panel will also address regulatory and related technological issues, review proposals from industry using modern risk assessment methods and prescribe standard sampling and test methods for effective monitoring, surveillance and enforcement of the relevant regulations.
- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has already issued the draft guidelines on fortification for five food items — salt, milk, wheat flour, rice and edible oil — to boost production and consumption of fortified foods.
- The draft rules were operationalised in October even as FSSAI sought comments from stakeholders before finalising the final regulations.
- Standards have been set for fortification of salt with iodine and iron; of vegetable oil and milk with vitamin A and D; wheat flour and rice with iron, folic acid, zinc, vitamin B12, vitamin A and some other micro nutrients
- Fortification is the addition of key vitamins and minerals such as iron, iodine, zinc, Vitamin A & D to staple foods such as rice, milk and salt to improve their nutritional content. These nutrients may or may not have been originally present in the food before processing.

Reference:

<http://www.livemint.com/Science/5jwwOWORaHuHwKvHxakbyH/Regulator-sets-up-scientific-panel-on-food-fortification-and.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/fssai-sets-up-panel-to-finalise-laws-on-food-fortification/1/880956.html>

Supreme Court appointed committee of four administrators to run the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

Question: Recently the Supreme Court appointed committee of four administrators to run the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the committee is headed by –

- (a) Vikram Limaye (b) Amitabh Chaudhary
(c) Anirudh Chaudhary (d) Vinod Rai

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 30 January 2017; the Supreme Court appointed committee of four administrators to run the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- The panel will be headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG), and the current Chairman of Banks Board Bureau, Vinod Rai.
- Committee also includes the legendary women test cricket player, Diana Edulji.
- Besides Vinod Rai and Diana Edulji, the Supreme Court appointed noted historian Ramchandra Guha and IDFC Ltd MD and CEO Vikram Limaye, who will provide the committee with expertise in financial matters.
- Limaye will also represent the BCCI in the International Cricket Council meeting to be held on February 2, 2017, along with BCCI Joint Secretary Amitabh Choudhary and Treasurer Anirudh Chaudhry.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/Committee-led-by-former-CAG-Vinod-Rai-to-run-BCCI/article17116632.ece>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/panel-led-by-ex-cag-vinod-rai-to-run-bcci-117013001325_1.html

PLANNING & PROJECT

9th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme

Question: Tiwa is the name of a ...

- (a) Indian tribe. (b) Indian folkdance. (c) Northeastern language.
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

Related Fact

- On 23rd February, 2017, Minister of State (independent charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated the 9th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme under the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan in Delhi.



- Under this exchange Programme youth from tribal belts of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh will get to visit various places in the capital and know more about the culture and life style.
- During their interaction with the Minister, the participating youth shared their concerns and issues such as Naxal terror and lack of proper educational institutes etc. which are creating hindrance in their career progress.
- During their stay in the Capital, youth will explore the walled city and get to know more about the rich history and heritage of Delhi.
- NYKS has already conducted successful exchange programmes in 8 states. The current batch of around 250 students will also get to meet the President of India and share their ideas and stories during their stay in Delhi.
- It is to be noted that Tiwa is an ethnic group/indigenous tribe inhabiting the states of Assam and Meghalaya in Northeast India. A striking peculiarity of the Tiwa is their division into two sub-groups, Hill Tiwa and Plains Tiwas, displaying contrasting cultural features.

Reference:

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

<http://www.uniindia.com/goel-inaugurates-tribal-youth-exchange-programme-under-nyks/sports/news/791388.html>

Supreme Court's Middle Income Group Scheme

Question- What is the income limit for a person to be entitled to avail the benefit of Supreme Court's recently announced Middle Income Group Scheme?

- (a) 60, 000 per month (b) 30,000 per month
(c) 45,000 per month (d) 50,000 per month

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- According to a press release issued by Ministry of Law & Justice dated 16th February, 2017, Supreme Court of India has introduced the Middle Income Group Scheme.
- It is a self supporting scheme which provides legal services to the middle income group citizens i.e. citizens whose gross income is not exceeding Rs.60, 000 per month or Rs. 7, 50, 000 per annum.
- The members of the governing body to whom the management of the Society is entrusted as required under Section 2 of the Societies Registration Act, 1860, includes Hon'ble Chief Justice of India as Patron-in-Chief, Attorney General for India as Ex-officio Vice-President, Solicitor General of India as Honorary Secretary and other senior advocates of the Apex Court as its members.

Provisions of the Scheme:

- As per the Supreme Court rules it is only through advocates on record cases can be filed before it.



- A sum of Rs.500/- shall be payable to the Supreme Court Middle Income Group Legal Aid Society (SCMIGLAS) as service charges.
- It is the Secretary, who will register the case under the MIG Legal Aid Scheme and proceed to forward the papers to the Advocate-on-Record/Arguing Counsel/Senior Counsel on the panel for opinion.
- If Advocate-on-Record is satisfied that it is a fit case to be proceeded with, then the Society will consider that the applicant is entitled to legal aid. The view expressed by the Learned Advocate-on Record will be final insofar as the eligibility of the applicant for obtaining the benefit of the Scheme is concerned.
- In case the advocate thinks that the case is not fit one for an appeal to the Supreme Court, then the entire amount after deduction Rs.750/- towards minimum service charges of the Committee shall be refunded to the applicant by way of cheque.
- If the Advocate appointed under the Scheme is found negligent in the conduct of the case, then he will be required to return the brief together with the fee which he may have received from the applicant under the scheme.
- However, the Society will not be responsible for the negligent conduct of the case but the entire responsibility will be that of the Advocate vis-a-vis the client. The name of the Advocate will, however, be struck off from the panel prepared under the Scheme.

Benefits:

Under the scheme, middle class people who can't afford the expensive litigation in the Supreme Court can avail the services of the society for a nominal amount. The person desirous of availing the benefit of the Scheme shall have to fill up the form prescribed and accept all the terms and conditions. A large number of poor people would approach the Supreme Court for aid to sort out their cases, file cases on their behalf and get justice. This scheme will make filing petitions easy for the underprivileged strata of the society.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158509>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Supreme-Court-makes-legal-services-affordable/article17314346.ece>

Pre-loaded SIM Card for Tourists with E-Visa

Question: What does SIM stand for in context to a mobile phone?

- (a) Subscriber Identity Module (b) System Identity Metric
(c) Shared Identity Module (d) None of the Above.

Ans:(a)



- On 15th February, 2017, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India launched the initiative for providing pre-loaded SIM Card to foreign tourists arriving in India on e-Visa.
- This initiative has been launched in association with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. BSNL would distribute pre-loaded SIM Cards to foreign tourists arriving in India on e-Visa.
- This facility will be initially available at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (Terminal-3), New Delhi and later cover remaining 15 international airports.
- This unique initiative will facilitate the foreign tourists in communicating with their acquaintances immediately after their arrival in India.
- To avail pre-loaded SIM Card, BSNL will collect e-Visa copy and the first page of passport from foreign tourists on arrival at the airport. This facility is only available for tourists arriving in India on e-Visa.
- SIM cards will be pre-loaded with a value of Rs. 50 talk time and 50 MB data and will be activated immediately.
- Earlier, the Ministry of Tourism had also launched a 24 x 7 Tourist Helpline 1800111363 in twelve foreign languages so that the foreign tourists can get the required information in their own language.
- It is to be noted that SIM stands for Subscriber Identity Module. It contains subscriber information. It is used to identify and authenticate subscribers on mobile telephony devices.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158477>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=59571>

Orientation programme for Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras

Question: Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras will be implemented by ...

- (a) Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India
- (b) Central Drugs Standard Control Organization
- (c) Drug Regulatory Agency (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 10th February, 2017, Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Ananth Kumar inaugurated and presided over the orientation programme for the district conveners of National Yuva Cooperative Society for launching of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) in the country.



- The scheme of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras will be implemented by Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India.
- The workshop was targeted to educate and channelize youth to synergize their efforts for taking ahead the mission to open 3000 PMBJKs by March 2017.
- As a follow up activity to the MoU signed earlier between Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) and NYCS for establishing 1000 PMBJKs in the country, the workshop served the purpose of laying the details of the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- Representatives from 24 States and 106 districts from across the country attended the programme to further help spread the scheme in their respective zones and bring momentum in opening of PMBJKs.
- PMBJKs, are inspired to be based on 3As – Authenticity, Availability and Affordability.
- Background:
- The branded (Generic) medicines are sold at significantly higher prices than their un-branded generic equivalents in the market. These medicines are identical in the therapeutic value. Given the widespread poverty across the country, making generic medicines available at reasonable price in the market would benefit poor.
- With this objective, the Pharma Advisory Forum in its meeting held on 23rd April, 2008, decided to launch the Jan Aushadhi Campaign – starting with the sale of generic medicines through dedicated sales outlets called Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendra in various districts of the country.
- Role of Bureau of Pharma Public Sector Undertakings of India:
- Make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices for all
- Marketing of generic drugs through the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya
- Janaushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) Procurement of medicines from Central pharma PSUs and Private Sectors
- Monitoring proper running of PMBJK

Reference:

http://janaushadhi.gov.in/data/Individuals_December_2016.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158371>

TAMRA Portal and Mobile Application

Question: TAMRA Portal and Mobile Application has been launched by the ministry of ...

(a) Mining (b) Steel (c) Sports (d) Shipping

Ans:(a)



- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal will launch TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) portal and Mobile Application on 10th February, 2017.
- The objective of the portal and app is to enhance transparency and accountability as a part of the Ease of Doing Business in the Mining sector.
- TAMRA Portal and Mobile Application is a step to speed up mining activity in India and facilitate all the stakeholders to track the status of the statutory clearances associated with mining blocks.
- TAMRA covers block-wise, state-wise and mineral-wise information of the blocks to be auctioned, monitors various statutory clearances, and also highlights the additional resources generated through e-Auction.
- TAMRA will be an interactive platform for all the stakeholders to compress the timelines for statutory and other clearances as it would help minimize the gestation period for commencing production.
- In case of delay in obtaining any clearances, TAMRA will send triggers to the concerned authority so that the remedial steps can be taken immediately.
- The Ministry of Mines will also receive triggers generated by TAMRA and will facilitate in expediting clearances. This portal also enables successful bidder to give suggestions/inputs.
- This initiative will help in facilitating Ease in Doing Business by providing a tool to digitally check the progress.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158229>

India's first social innovation hub

Question: India's first social innovation center has been launched in which of the following state?

(a) Bihar (b) Odisha (c) Telangana (d) Kerala

Ans:(c)

- On 5th February, 2017, the Telangana government launched India's first social innovation centre — The 'Kakatiya Hub For Social Innovation' in Nizamabad, Telangana.
- Kakatiya Hub for Social Innovation' funded by the Telangana government and implemented through Kakatiya Sandbox will function like a rural incubator to encourage entrepreneurship at the grassroots level.
- The government will ensure that the rural incubator in Telangana is run exactly in the same as any other high-end incubator like the T-Hub, the country's biggest, located in Hyderabad.
- The move is expected to create a model for promoting entrepreneurs in rural and semi-urban areas in the country.



Reference:

<http://www.it.telangana.gov.in>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/telangana-launches-countrys-first-social-innovation-hub-in-nizamabad/article9522810.ece>

First ever training center dedicated for Para Athletes

Question: Recently Sports Minister Vijay Goel laid the Foundation Stone for the first ever training center dedicated for Para Athletes at which of the following place?

(a) Gujarat (b) Haryana (c) Karnataka (d) Odisha

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2017; Sports Minister Vijay Goel laid the Foundation Stone at Gandhinagar, Gujarat for the first ever training center dedicated for Para Athletes.
- The center is proposed for an estimated budget of over Rs. 50 crores.
- It will have the World Class facilities where Para athletes will be trained for various International Competitions including Asian Games, Common Wealth Games and Olympic Games and will also here Classification center.



- The center will also hold Seminars, Educational Programmes and Workshops throughout the year with the help of International Paralympic Committee.
- The center will have the following facilities for Para athletes like Indoor Hall (64m x 42m) fully AC, Elite Hostel (100 bedded) fully AC, VIP Accommodation for Foreign Guest (20 nos) AC and Open land for warmup.
- The entire project will be constructed by CPWD in coordination with the various Experts and Consultants having full accessibility as per the norms of IPC.
- STC Para training center will provide facilities for training in the following identified sports disciplines in the age group 14 – 20 years.
- With a total strength of 50 (Boys & Girls), Annual budget for this scheme is Rs. 50 lacs, all the selected para athletes will be accommodated in Elite Hostel.
- Facilities like Lodging / Boarding, Sports Kits, Competition exposure, Medical Insurance will be provided under the STC Scheme.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158069>

Measles and Rubella Immunization Programme

Question: Recently Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Measles Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in the country, the campaign against these two diseases will cover how many children five States/UTs?

(a) 2.5 Crore (b) 3 Crore (c) 3.5 Crore (d) 3.6 Crore

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2017; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched Measles Rubella (MR) vaccination campaign in the country at a function in Bengaluru.
- The campaign against these two diseases will start from five States/UTs (Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Goa and Lakshadweep) covering nearly 3.6 crore target children.
- Following the campaign, Measles-Rubella vaccine will be introduced in routine immunization.
- It will replace the currently given two doses of measles vaccine, at 9-12 months and 16-24 months of age.
- The MR campaign targets around 41 crore children across the country, the largest ever in any campaign.



- All children aged between 9 months and less than 15 years will be given a single shot of Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination irrespective of their previous measles/rubella vaccination status or measles/rubella disease status.
- MR vaccine will be provided free- of- cost across the states from session sites at schools as well as health facilities and outreach session sites.
- Measles is a deadly disease and one of the important causes of death in children. It is highly contagious and spreads through coughing and sneezing of an infected person.
- Rubella is generally a mild infection, but has serious consequences if infection occurs in pregnant women, causing congenital rubella syndrome (CRS), which is a cause of public health concern.
- In 2010, an estimated 1,03,000 children were born with CRS (congenital rubella syndrome) globally, of which around 47,000 children.
- Globally, in 2015, measles killed an estimated 1, 34,200 children—mostly under-5 years. In India, it killed an estimated 49,200 children.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158067>

DARPGSEVA

Question: Recently twitter Handle 'DARPGSEVA' is started by-

- (a) Department of Commerce
- (b) Department of Panchayati Raj
- (c) Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
- (d) Department of Women and Child Development

Ans: (c)



Related facts:

- On 1 February 2017; Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has started its Twitter Seva.
- The Twitter Handle is 'DARPGSEVA'.
- The Twitter Seva aims to address issues relating to the DARPG like Public Grievances and Administrative Reforms etc.
- The Twitter Seva will enable the DARPG to reach out to the common public and various stakeholders for facilitating redress of grievances and other issues of importance relating to the department.

- The mission of DARPG is to foster excellence in governance and pursuit of administrative reforms through improvements in Government policies as well as processes, promoting citizen-centric governance with emphasis on grievance redressal.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157884>

Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY)

Question: Chief Minister of which of the following state has recently started the Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY)?

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

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2017 Chief Minister Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal launched Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana (CMSGUY).
- Chief Minister Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana is a mega mission with a financial outlay of Rs. 30,000 crore.
- It will be implemented in all the villages in Assam in the next five years culminating in 2021-22.
- Through this mission it has been aimed at bringing in revolutionary changes by doubling the farm income in the State.
- Government has decided to launch CMSGUY to put in concerted efforts in a time bound manner by facilitating massive investments in rural areas for complete rural transformation in a period of 5 years to stimulate rural productivity.



Reference:

<http://www.theshillongtimes.com/2017/02/06/assam-launches-rs-30000-cr-village-development-scheme/>

<http://finance.assam.gov.in/schemes/cmsguy>

India Innovation Index

Question: India Innovation Index is launched by-

(a) NITI Ayog (b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of Human Resource Development (d) None of the above

Ans. (a)



Related facts:

- On 2 February 2017 NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant on launched “India Innovation Index”.
- It is country's first online innovation index portal which will rank states based on their innovations.
- It will be a “first-of-its-kind online platform” where Global Innovation Index (GII) indicators and India-centric data from various states will be updated periodically.
- This will be a one-stop data warehouse and will track progress on each indicator at the National level and the State level on real-time basis.
- The access to the portal will be hosted on the NITI Aayog website.
- The index was launched in collaboration with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The India Innovation Index Framework will be structured based on the best practices followed in Global Innovation Index (GII) indicators and additionally by adding India-centric parameters those truly reflect the Indian innovation ecosystem.
- This initiative will be the point of reference for all international agencies to collect India's up to date data points for global indices and analytic.
- India Innovation Index, which will be jointly developed by NITI Aayog, DIPP and CII, in consultation with World Economic Forum, the World Intellectual Property Organization, Cornell University, OECD, UNIDO, ILO, UNESCO and ITU .

Reference:

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/niti-ayog-launches-india-innovation-index/articleshow/56940608.cms>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157941>

National Action Plan for Children, 2016

Question: Which of the following is not included in the four key priority areas in the recently launched National Action Plan for Children, 2016 (NPAC)?

- (a) Survival (b) Health and nutrition (c) Education and development
(d) Yoga and Development



Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; National Action Plan for Children, 2016 (NPAC) was launched in New Delhi.

- The Action Plan has four key priority areas; survival, health and nutrition; education and development; protection and participation.
- The NPAC defines objectives, sub-objectives, strategies, action points and indicators for measuring progress under the four key priority areas and also identifies key stakeholders for the implementation of different strategies.
- The plan also puts focus on new and emerging concerns for children such as online child abuse, children affected by natural and man-made disasters and climate change, etc.
- The strategies and action points largely draw upon the existing programmes and schemes of various Ministries/Departments.
- However, for new and emerging issues related to children; it also suggests formulation of new programmes and strategies, as required.
- The plan takes into account the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provides a roadmap towards achieving them through co-ordination and convergence with different stakeholders.
- The National Policy for Children (2013) provides for formation of a National Co-ordination and Action Group (NCAG) under the Ministry of Women and Child Development to coordinate and implement the plan and monitor the progress with other Ministries concerned as its members.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157640>

Film Condition Assessment Project

Question: Recently Ajay Mittal, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Ministry has launched Film Condition Assessment Project under-

- (a) National Film Mission (b) National Film Heritage Mission
(c) National Film Development Mission (d) None of the above

Ans:(b)

Related facts:

- On 28 January 2017; Ajay Mittal, Secretary, Information and Broadcasting Ministry has launched Film Condition Assessment Project in Pune.
- It was launched to preserve films and non-filmic material for posterity as per global standards.
- Under this project the condition of about 1, 32,000 film reels at NFAI would be assessed and necessary measures would be taken to prolong their life.
- During the first phase each film reel will be tracked and monitored through RFID tagging.



- NFHM is the prestigious mission of Government of India, for preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration of rich cinematic heritage of the country.
- National Film Archive of India (NFAI) is the nodal organization for the implementation of this project.
- Rs.597.41 crore has been allotted towards implementation of the project, which was kick-started with launch of the first phase of the mission, Film Condition Assessment.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157735>

FI@School

Question: FI@School programme has been recently started in which of the following state?

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

Ans:(b)



Related facts:

- On 20 January 2017; Revenue Minister of Kerala, E. Chandrasekharan inaugurated programme called FI@School Assisi Vidhyanikethan Public School Kakkanad.
- The program is by Kerala Gramin Bank.
- The programme is aimed at propagating financial literacy among school children.
- Under this programme, financial literacy clubs will be formed at every school. It is implemented jointly with NABARD and Child and Youth Finance International (CYFI), Amsterdam.
- 500 branches out of the total 602 branches of the bank will identify and enter into a virtual tie up with a school in its locality.
- The bank anticipate coverage of nearly one lakh students through the project.
- It will organise various programmes such as account opening camps at schools, junior debit card distribution, financial literacy related classes, distribution of financial literacy booklets, competition on financial literacy, etc.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/kerala-gramin-bank-to-propagate-financial-literacy-among-school-children/article9493490.ece>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

Agreement between Tata Motors and Microsoft India

Question: Recently Tata Motors and Microsoft India signed an agreement with the vision to redefine connected and personalized driving experiences for Indian customers. The first vehicle showcasing the vision for these enhanced driving experiences will be unveiled at-

- (a) Dubai International Motor Show
- (b) 87th Geneva International Motor Show
- (c) Tokyo Motor Show (d) None of the above

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2017; Tata Motors and Microsoft India today announced a strategic agreement to redefine connected and personalised driving experiences for Indian customers.
- Tata Motors will leverage Microsoft's connected vehicle technologies that bring together artificial intelligence (AI), advanced machine learning, and the Internet of Things (IoT) capabilities on the global hyper-scale Azure cloud, to traverse the digital and physical worlds and create a highly personalized, smart and safer driving experience across the digital life of a vehicle owner.
- The first vehicle showcasing the vision for these enhanced driving experiences will be unveiled at the 87th Geneva International Motor Show on 7th March 2017.
- This will be via Tata Motors' unique user interface application and services suite utilizing Microsoft enabled functionality like advanced navigation, predictive maintenance, telematics and remote monitoring features.
- In the future, Tata Motors vehicles will offer drivers and passengers a highly digital driving experience. Microsoft Azure cloud computing technologies will allow advanced navigation, predictive maintenance and vehicle centric services, remote monitoring of car features, external mobile experiences and over-the-air updates.
- These will be powered by Microsoft Azure cloud and services such as advanced analytics, machine learning, IoT and artificial intelligence.

Reference:

<http://www.tatamotors.com/press/tata-motors-and-microsoft-india-collaborate-to-redefine-the-connected-experience-for-automobile-users/>
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/auto/miscellaneous/tata-motors-microsoft-ink-technology-collaboration-deal/articleshow/57184927.cms>



Cabinet approves MoU between India and Australia

Question: The recent Memorandum of Understanding between India and Australia approved by the Union Cabinet pertains to ...

- (a) Civil aviation security (b) Nuclear Plant Security
(c) National infrastructure security (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related Fact:

- On 22nd February, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Australia for promotion and development of cooperation in civil aviation security.
- The MoU will provide an opportunity to Indian aviation security authorities to share the expertise of their Australian counterparts and enhance the overall aviation security environment in India.
- The MoU will provide compliance of international obligation as well as enhance promotion in the area of security cooperation between the two countries.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158625>

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-Mg/MzAxMDc2/cabinet-approves-signing-of-mou-between-india-and-australia-in-development-sector.html>

Cabinet approved signing of an Agreement between India and Poland

Question: Warsaw is a historic famous city of ...

- (a) Poland (b) The Netherlands (c) Turkey (d) Oman



Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 22nd February, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved signing of an Agreement between India and Poland on cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- The agreement covers various activities in the field of agriculture and allied sector including exchange of information on the current situation in agriculture, the phytosanitary conditions of crops, threats posed by harmful organisms and the threats posed by animal infectious diseases.

- It also covers the participation in fairs, exhibitions, seminars and conferences related to agriculture and agri-food processing; undertaking and developing joint economic initiatives including the support or agri -food trade between the states of the Contracting Parties.
- The Agreement provides for constitution of a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising of representatives from both countries. The JWG will prepare plans of cooperation and to provide solutions to the problems arising during the implementation of the Agreement.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158623>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cabinet-clears-decks-for-india-poland-agri-pact/1/888836.html>

Cabinet approved Air Services Agreement between India and Greece

Question: Greece is officially known as

(a) The Hellenic Republic (b) Hellas (c) Athens (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related Fact

- On 22nd February, 2017, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Greece.
- The Agreement has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries bringing it in tune with the developments in the civil aviation sector.
- It will create environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity while providing commercial opportunities to the carriers of both the sides ensuring greater safety and security.
- The essential features of the agreement are as follows:
 - Both countries shall be entitled to designate one or more airline.
 - The designated airlines of either country shall have the right to establish offices in the territory of the other country for the promotion and sale of air services.
 - The designated airlines of the two countries shall have fair and equal opportunity to operate the agreed services on specified routes.
 - The designated Airline of each party can enter into cooperative marketing arrangements with the designated carriers of same party, other party and third country.
 - As per the Route Schedule, the Indian carriers can operate to Athens, Thessaloniki, Heraklion and any 3 points to be specified later in Greece from points in India, whereas

the carriers of Hellenic Republic can establish direct operation to 6 metros viz. New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai.

- Any points shall be available as intermediate and beyond point for the designated carriers of India as well as the designated carriers of Greece.
- At present there is no such agreement between India and Greece. The delegations of two sides met in New Delhi on 6-7th September, 2016 and finalized the text of Air Services Agreement.
- The agreement is as per latest International Civil Aviation Organisation template keeping in view the latest developments in civil aviation sector and with an objective to improve the air connectivity between the two countries.
- It is to be noted that Greece is officially known as The Hellenic Republic.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158628>

http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-signing-of-air-services-agreement-between-india-and-greece/

Cabinet approved India – Rwanda Air Services Agreement

Question: Rwanda does not share its border with which one of the countries below ?

(a) Burundi (b) Uganda (c) Congo Republic (d) Kenya

Ans: (d)



- On 15th February, 2017, The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of Air Services Agreement between India and Rwanda.
- The Agreement has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between India and Rwanda.
- It will provide environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity while providing commercial opportunities to the carriers of both the sides ensuring greater safety and security.
- Air service agreement is an agreement which two nations sign to allow international commercial air transport services between their territories.
- The bilateral system has its basis under the Chicago convention signed in December 1944 and associated multilateral treaties.
- Rwanda is an African country which shares its border with Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and Congo Republic.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158498>

MoU between India and Senegal

Question: Senegal is a country in ...

(a) South East Asia (b) West Asia (c) Europe (d) West Africa

Ans:(d)



- On 8th February, 2017 The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved signing of an agreement between India and Senegal in the field of health and medicine.
- A working group will be set up to further elaborate the details of cooperation and to oversee the implementation of this agreement.
- The areas of cooperation include medical research, hospital management, drugs and pharmaceutical products and hospital equipments, traditional medicine and other areas of mutual interest.
- Besides, Aids control, Emergency Relief and Integrated Disease Surveillance are also on agenda for cooperation.
- Apart from this, the Cabinet was also apprised of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between Technology Development Board, Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Bpifrance, a Public Investment Bank of France.
- This agreement will ensure exchange of best practices and setting up of coordinated measures to foster technological exchanges in the field of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158288>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cabinet-approves-signing-of-mou-india-senegal-in-health/1/878317.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158290>

Agreement between India and Austria

Question: Recently India and Austria signed an agreement in which of the following field?

(a) Terrorism (b) Double taxation (c) Export (d) Tourism

Ans: (b)



Related facts:

- On 6 February 2017; India and Austria signed a Protocol amending the existing Convention between the two countries for Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income.
- The Protocol was signed by Shri Sushil Chandra, Chairman CBDT on behalf of India and Mr. Georg Zehetner, Charge d' Affaires, Embassy of Austria on behalf of Austria.
- The Protocol will broaden the scope of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance between the two countries and will also enable mutual assistance in collection of taxes.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158129>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-austria-amend-double-taxation-avoidance-convention/540072/>

MoU between Ministry of Defence and Reliance Infrastructure Ltd

Question: Recently Reliance Infrastructure Ltd has signed a contract worth Rs 916 crore with the Defence Ministry for making how many fast patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard?

(a) 10 (b) 13 (c) 14 (d) 15

Ans: (c)



Related facts:

- On 30 January 2017; Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL) has signed a contract worth Rs 916 crore with the Defence Ministry for making 14 fast patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard.
- RDEL is a wholly-owned arm of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra).
- This is the first time a private sector shipyard has been awarded a contract to design and build such class of ships for Indian Armed Forces.
- RDEL will be developing the design in-house.
- Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) are medium range, high speed vessels; they are primarily utilised for patrol within Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), coastal patrol, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, search and rescue operations.
- Reliance Shipyard, with the largest dry-dock of the country, has successfully mastered the block-construction technique through unique 'modular construction technology' for building large ships for both commercial usage and Navy.

Reference:

<http://www.rinfra.com/pdf/RDELMR.pdf>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/business-news/reliance-defence-bags-rs-916-cr-contract-from-defence-ministry/story-sGBKbNo05Q08Tujapu5PrO.html>

CBDT signs four more unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements

Question: what is the total number of the advance pricing agreements entered into by the Central Board of Direct Taxes so far?

(a) 130 (b) 140 (c) 150 (d) 500

Ans: (a)



Related Fact

- On 6th February, 2017, The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance entered into four more unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs).
- The four APAs signed are related to Manufacturing, Financial and Information Technology sectors of the economy. The international transactions covered in these agreements include Contract Manufacturing, IT Enabled Services and Software Development Services.
- With this, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 130. This includes 8 bilateral APAs and 122 Unilateral APAs.
- In the current financial year, a total of 66 APAs (5 bilateral APAs and 61 unilateral APAs) have already been entered into. The CBDT expects more APAs to be concluded and signed before the end of the current fiscal. The APA Scheme was introduced in the Income-tax Act in 2012 and the "Rollback" provisions were introduced in 2014.
- An advance pricing agreement (APA) is an ahead-of-time agreement between a taxpayer and a tax authority on an appropriate transfer pricing methodology (TPM) for a set of transactions at issue over a fixed period of time.
- The scheme endeavors to provide certainty to taxpayers in the domain of transfer pricing by specifying the methods of pricing and determining the prices of international transactions in advance.
- Since its inception, the APA scheme has evinced a lot of interest from taxpayers and that has resulted in more than 700 applications (both unilateral and bilateral) being filed so far in about five years.
- The progress of the APA Scheme strengthens the Government's resolve of fostering a non-adversarial tax regime. The Indian APA program has been appreciated nationally and internationally for being able to address complex transfer pricing issues in a fair and transparent manner.

Reference:

<http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/cbd-t-signs-four-advance-pricing-agreements-today/540683/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158141>

Agreement between India and Sri Lanka

Question: Recently India and Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to construct a new multi-ethnic tri-lingual secondary school in which of the following district of Sri Lanka?

(a) Jaffna. (b) Polonnaruwa (c) Mannar (d) Ampara

Ans. (b)



Related facts:

- On 01 February 2017 India and Sri Lanka signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to construct a new multi-ethnic tri-lingual secondary school in Polonnaruwa District.
- High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Taranjit Singh Sandhu, and Secretary to the Ministry of Education Sunil Hettiarachchi signed the MoU in Colombo.
- The School will be constructed using a grant of Rs. 300 million from the Government of India.
- The project envisages construction of class rooms, laboratories and library, as well as procurement of furniture and other equipment.
- The school would provide opportunities to Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim students to learn in a multi-ethnic, multi-cultural environment.
- The project would also contribute to President Maithripala Sirisena's efforts to promote and strengthen reconciliation and unity in Sri Lanka.
- Polonnaruwa is President Maithripala Sirisena's home district.

Reference:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/academy/report-india-to-construct-multi-ethnic-tri-lingual-school-in-lanka-2308467>

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_17A/Feb02_1486045155CH.php

MOU between India and Italy

Question: Recently Ministry of Railways and Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane Group (FS Group) a Government Company of Italy has signed an MoU for technical cooperation in which of the following field?

(a) Rail Sector(Safety) (b) Space(Safety) (c) Medical field (d) None of the above



Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2017; Ministry of Railways and Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane Group (FS Group) a Government Company of Italy managing the Italian railway sector have signed

an MoU for technical cooperation in rail sector especially in the areas safety in train operations.

- On behalf of Ministry of Railways the agreement has been signed by Shri Vinod Kumar, Executive Director/Safety (coordination), Railway Board whereas it has been signed by Shri Renato Mazzoncini, CEO of FS Group, Italy.
- The cooperation areas identified in this MoU includes:
 1. Safety audit of Indian Railways and measures required for enhancing safety in train operation,.
 2. Assessment and certification of advanced technology based safety products and systems to Safety Integrity Level (SIL4).
 3. Training and competency development with focus of safety, Modern trends in Maintenance and diagnostic etc.
- Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane Group (FS Group) is a fully owned company of the Italian Government working in the Railway Sector and is under Ministry of Treasury, Italy.
- The Group, with its technical and managerial railway expertise, widely recognized at international level, is one of the most advanced worldwide player in many field, such as design and realization of High Speed and Conventional Lines, Safety Systems, Certification, Training and Operation and Maintenance.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?relid=157944>

MoU between India and World Bank

Question: Name the project for which the Government of India and the World Bank recently has signed a US\$ 201.50 million credit agreement?

- (a) T B eradication project (b) Polio eradication project
(c) Health education program
(d) Third Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP III)



Ans:(d)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2017; Government of India and the World Bank today signed a US\$ 201.50 million credit agreement for Third Technical Education Quality Improvement Project (TEQIP III).
- The objective of this project is as follows:
 - (1) To enhance the quality and equity of engineering education across several focus states in India.
 - (2) To strengthen engineering education in India's low-income, hill states and states of the North East viz. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal

Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

(3) To produce higher quality and more employable engineers.

(4) To scale up post-graduate education, research, development and innovation at these institutions.

- The closing date of TEQIP III is March 31, 2022.

Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/02/01/project-signing-world-bank-government-sign-new-agreement-improve-quality-education-across-200-engineering-institutes>

Agreement for Third Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme

Question: India signed a financing agreement for US\$201.50 million for the “Third Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme” with which of the following international organization?

- (a) World Bank. (b) Asian Development Bank
(c) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (d) European Investment Bank



Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- On 1st February, 2017 India signed a financing agreement for US\$201.50 million (equivalent) for the “Third Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme” with the World Bank.
- The World Bank Board has already approved the US\$ 201.50 million Technical Education Quality Improvement Project to enhance the quality and equity of engineering education across several focus states in India on 24 June 2016.
- The Financing Agreement was signed by Mr. Raj Kumar (Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs) on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Junaid Kamal Ahmad, Country Director, World Bank (India) on behalf of the World Bank.
- The objective of the Program is to enhance quality and equity in participating Engineering Education Institutes and improve the efficiency of the Engineering Education System in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, 8 North Eastern States and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- **The Project has two main components:**
 - (i) Improving quality and equity in engineering institutes in those states
 - (ii) System-level initiatives to strengthen sector governance and performance.

What is TEQIP III

This is the third phase of an envisioned 15-year phased program initiated with the first phase of TEQIP from 2002 to 2009. TEQIP III builds on the significant results achieved in the two phases of the project which supported over 250 engineering institutes and thousands of faculty members from institutes such as NIT Rourkela, College of Engineering Pune, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Hyderabad, and BIT Mesra. It has made a considerable impact on the quality of education by implementing institutional and policy reforms focusing on institutional autonomy and accountability. The project will support approximately 200 engineering education institutes in the focus states to produce higher quality and more employable engineers.

Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/06/24/world-bank-approves-us-20150-million-for-improving-the-quality-of-engineering-education-in-select-indian-states>
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157904>

CWC Signs MoU with two major institutions

Question: Recently Central Water Commission (CWC) Signed MoU with which of the following two institutions to Support Their Dam Safety Capacity Building?

- (a) IIT Bombay and the Indian Institute of Water
- (b) IIT Patna and Indian Institute of Management, Pune
- (c) IIT Madras and Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru
- (d) IIT Madras and Indian Institute of Science, New Delhi

Ans:(c)

Related facts:

- On 27 January 2017; Central Water Commission (CWC) under the Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation signed two separate MoUs with IIT Madras and IIS Bengaluru in New Delhi.
- This will help them for the procurement of specified equipment and software for enhancing their capability to support dam rehabilitation efforts of CWC.
- Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has taken on board selected premier academic and research institutes, for capacity building in the areas of dam safety through World Bank assisted Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP).



- The scope includes strengthening the testing laboratories, enhancing analytical capabilities, exposure visits to best global institutions and on ground exposure to dam safety concerns to the faculty of these institutions.
- DRIP is assisting rehabilitation of 250 dams in seven States which are experiencing different levels of distress. Owners of these dams require technical support for the investigation of site conditions and supporting rehabilitation efforts.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157721>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/water-commission-signs-mous-with-iit-iis-on-dam-safety/articleshow/56821276.cms>

CONFERENCE

Third National Dam Safety Conference

Question: The third National Dam Safety Conference was held in which of the following city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Roorkee (c) Guwahati (d) Hyderabad

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2017; the third National Dam Safety Conference was organized at Roorkee, Uttarakhand.
- It was organized by Central Water Commission in association with Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam and IIT Roorkee.
- The Conference was inaugurated by Dr Amarjit Singh, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development, Government of India.
- The conference focused on key challenges in dam safety field that are being encountered in the on-going Dam Safety Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) implementation. Sharing of the knowledge, experience, innovations, novel technologies etc.
- The conference received an overwhelming response with over 400 delegates attending and submission of over 70 technical papers from experts within and outside India.
- About 40 national and overseas organizations showcased their technologies, products and services through Exposition organized at the conference venue.
- The professionals from USA, Australia, Japan, UK, France, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, and Germany attended this event.



- National Dam Safety Conference (NDSC) is organized in different States as an annual event.
- These Conferences propagate the concepts, techniques, instruments, materials, etc. for design and construction of new dams, as well as for monitoring, surveillance, operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of existing dams.
- The Second National Dam Safety Conference was held on 12-13 January 2016 JN Tata Auditorium, IISc, Bengaluru.

Reference:

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

Second edition of “Hunar Haat”

Question: What is the theme of the second edition of “Hunar Haat”?

- (a) Craft & Technology (b) Cuise Aur Craft Ka Sangam
(c) Craft Aur Cuisine Ka Sangam (d) None of the above

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 11 February 2017; Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) and Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi inaugurated the second edition of “Hunar Haat”.
- With the theme “Craft Aur Cuisine Ka Sangam”, the second “Hunar Haat” is being organized from 11th to 26th February, 2017 at State Emporia Complex, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught Place.
- It is being organized by the Minority Affairs Ministry to encourage, promote and provide national and international market to master artisans/craftsmen belonging to the Minority communities from across the country.
- “Hunar Haat” is being organized through National Minorities Development & Finance Corporation (NMDFC) under USTTAD (Upgrading the Skills & Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development) scheme of Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- A total of 100 artisans and 30 culinary experts from about 24 states and Union Territories are participating at about 130 stalls in the second “Hunar Haat”, which also has “Bawarchikhana” where various cuisine from different parts of the country are being showcased and the visitors can enjoy them.
- For the first time in this exhibition very exquisite pieces of Handicraft & Handloom work like Makrana Marble products, Bandhej from Sikar, Mojri from Rajasthan, Banjara Embroidery from Telangana, Handmade Locks & Door Handles along with Phool-Patti



works from Aligarh, Cocoon decorated products from Nagaland, Mizoram Traditional Crafts, etc are being showcased and sold.

- The first “Hunar Haat”, was organized in November, 2016 during International Fair at Pragati Maidan.
- He also launched Facebook Page of second “Hunar Haat” as <https://www.facebook.com/hunarhaat17/>.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158391>

Indian Seed Congress – 2017

Question: The seventh edition of mega seed event- Seed Congress 2017 was recently organized in Kolkata by

- (a) Ministry of Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- (b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- (c) National Seed Association of India
- (d) None of the above.



Ans: (c)

Related Fact:

- The National Seed Association of India organized the seventh edition of the mega Seed Industry event- Seed Congress 2017 on 12 – 14 February 2017 in Kolkata.
- The theme of Seed Congress is “Seed of Joy” which is very much in line with vision of this government to bring happiness and prosperity in the lives of farmers by doubling their farm income by 2022. The availability of certified / quality seeds in the country has increased from less than 40 lakh quintal during decade of 60 to 370 lakh quintal in 2015-16. India has great potentiality to produce hybrid seeds specially costly vegetable seeds on cheap rates as compared to the seeds of the other countries.
- The Indian Seed Congress has emerged as a much awaited annual event to project the latest trends and views of the Seed Industry sector; voice their concerns and deliberate on the new technological advances.
- It also provides a chance to showcase new product ranges and services and network for better business development.
- The Indian Seed Congress provides a platform for the Seed Industry to interact closely with technology developers, sector development officials and policy makers.

Reference:

<http://nsai.co.in/isc2017/index.php>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158415>

17th International Counter Terrorism Seminar

Question: The 17th International Seminar on Counter Terrorism is being organised by National Security Guard in which of the following city?

(a) Manesar (b) Jaipur (c) Hyderabad (d) Jaisalmer

Ans: (a)

Related facts:

- On 8 February 2017; Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore inaugurated the 17th International Seminar on Counter Terrorism, in Manesar, Haryana.
- The two day (8-9 February 2017) International Seminar on Counter Terrorism is being organised by National Security Guard.
- The theme of the two-day seminar is synergizing the national and international Special Forces to meet challenges of terrorism and Improvised Explosive Devices (IED).
- During the event, a Counter Terrorism Expo is being organized to showcase the latest equipment in the field of counter terrorism.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158243>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158138>

BES EXPO 2017

Question: Recently Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the ceremony of the 23rd International Conference & Exhibition on Terrestrial and Satellite Broadcasting . What is the theme of the Conference?

(a) The relevance of Digital India (b) Information and Broadcasting
(c) Hybrid Technologies in Broadcasting (d) Hybrid technology in India

Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2017: Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated the ceremony of the 23rd International Conference & Exhibition on Terrestrial and Satellite Broadcasting – BES EXPO 2017.
- The theme of the conference is “Hybrid Technologies in Broadcasting- BES EXPO 2017”.
- On this occasion Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore along with the other dignitaries felicitated the winners of the awards constituted



by Broadcast Engineering Society in various categories such as broadcasting, engineering, training and innovation.

- The life time achievement award was conferred to BB Srivastava for his outstanding contributions to the FM industry.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157922>

Annual Maritime Power Conference – 2017

Question: In which one of the following cities will the Annual Maritime Power Conference-2017 be conducted?

(a) New Delhi (b) Vishakhapattanam (c) Kojhikod (d) Puri

Ans: (a)



Related Fact

- The National Maritime Foundation is conducting its Annual Maritime Power Conference-2017 at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) Auditorium, Development Enclave, New Delhi, on 09-10 February 2017.
- The theme for the conference is 'The Blue Economy: Concept, Constituents and Development'.
- The Blue Economy encompasses various traditional marine sectors such as fisheries and aquaculture, shipping, port infrastructure, ship building and repair, island development, seabed exploration, hydrocarbon extraction and marine tourism industry.
- There are also many emerging sectors such as marine renewable energy, deep seabed mining, salt water desalination, marine bio-technology and provisioning specialized Information and Communications Technologies services for the marine industry.
- In order to fully harness the potential of the blue economy, India needs to envision the seas and oceans as development spaces. This involves an integrated approach towards oceanic resources comprising marine spatial planning and integrated coastal zone management.
- This conference aims to add to the understanding of the discourse on Blue Economy and intends to discuss its constituents in an attempt to develop a common understanding of the concept.
- The National Maritime Foundation was established in 2005 to provide a common platform for discourse between maritime-related institutions, organizations and disciplines, within the country and abroad.

- The Foundation conducts independent academic research and provides policy-relevant recommendations to advance the nation's maritime goals.
- During the International Fleet Review, 2016, the Hon'ble Prime Minister recalled India's vision for the Indian Ocean through 'SAGAR' (meaning ocean), which stands for 'Security and Growth for All in the Region'.

The conference will be conducted over five sessions, namely:-

- Session 1: Blue Economy and Sustainable Development
- Session 2: Habitat Protection and Ocean Ecology
- Session 3: Ocean Governance and Marine Resources
- Session 4: Maritime Security and Industry
- Session 5: Enablers of Blue Economy
- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff and Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, will deliver the opening address.
- Members from academia, representatives from maritime related trade bodies and industry, stakeholders in various Governmental and non-Governmental organizations, related to the maritime domain, and members of the strategic community in India have been invited to attend this conference.

Reference:

<http://www.maritimeindia.org/National-International-Conferences.aspx>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158143>

Festival of India being organised in Senegal

Question: Name the capital city of Senegal.

(a) Touba (b) Louga (c) Dakar (d) Kolda

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- A Festival of India is being organized in Senegal from 26 January – 28 February, 2017.
- The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music and Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi.
- It held in the capital City of Dakar.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157919>

<http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/festival-india-senegal-events>



North East Film Festival-2017

Question: The Three-day (28th to 30th January 2017) North East Film Festival-2017 was held at-

(a) Shillong (b) New Delhi (c) Guwahati (d) Pune

Ans. (d)

Related facts:

- The three-day (28th to 30th January) North East Film Festival (NEFF) National Film Archive of India, Pune.
- Secretary, I&B, Ajay Mittal has inaugurated the event.
- It served as a unique window to the films, food, and culture and handicrafts diversity of North East and enabled the cultural amalgamation of the region with the rest of the country.
- The objective was to sensitise people from other regions to the culture of the North East.
- The opening film for this festival "Kothanodi" by the debut director Bhaskar Hazarik.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157740>



53rd Session of the SAARC Programming Committee

Question: What is the number of SAARC members currently?

(a) 9 (b) 8 (c) 7 (d) 10

Ans: (b)

Related Fact:

- The two-day Meeting of the 53rd Session of the SAARC Programming Committee was held in Kathmandu on 1st -2nd February, 2017.
- All SAARC Member States participated in the Meeting.
- The Meeting delegations were led by Joint Secretaries of the Ministries of External Affairs of the SAARC Member States.
- The meeting will deliberate on SAARC's activities since mid-April 2016, operation of the SAARC Secretariat and the budget for the next year.
- As one of the Charter bodies entrusted primarily with the responsibility to deal with the administrative and financial matters of the SAARC Secretariat and its Bodies, the Committee also considered the reports emanating from the various SAARC Bodies.
- The meeting will mark the beginning of the annual calendar of events of the organisation which failed to meet in Islamabad for a summit in 2016.
- SAARC is regional inter-governmental organization and a geopolitical union in South Asia. It promotes economical development and regional integration.



- SAARC has currently 8 members which are- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.
- SAARC comprises 3% of the world's area, 21% of the world's population and 3.8% (US\$ 2.9 trillion) of the global economy, as of 2015.
- SAARC was founded in Dhaka on 8th December, 1985. Its secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Reference:

<http://saarc-sec.org/press-releases/53rd-Session-of-the-Programming-Committee/128/>
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/Kathmandu-meet-to-finalise-SAARC-budget-agenda/article17124647.ece/amp/>

Digital Radio Round Table Conference

Question: Recently Digital Radio Round Table Conference was held at-

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

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 31 January 2017; the Digital Radio Round Table Conference was held in New Delhi.
- It was inaugurated by M Venkaiah Naidu, Minister for Information & Broadcasting.
- Digital Radio for All Round Table Conference organised by Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) along with Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited (BECIL).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157795>
<https://twitter.com/MVenkaiahNaidu/status/826295301396893697>



ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board to be constituted

Question: Recently Madhya Pradesh Tourism under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan decided to constitute Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board, which of the following is not the function of the board?

- (a) To invite private investment in tourism sector
- (b) To avail grant and facilities to investors as per the policy
- (c) To provide protection to wildlife
- (d) To perform all responsibilities under Tourism Policy-2016



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 14 February 2017; Madhya Pradesh Tourism Cabinet under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan decided to constitute Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board.
- The meeting was held in famous tourist place Panchmarhi.
- Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board will be constituted for tourism expansion and promotion in the meeting.
- As part of Tourism Department, a separate institution, Madhya Pradesh Tourism Board will be constituted under the company act, as a non-profit company.
- The main functions of the board decided in the meeting is to perform all responsibilities under Tourism Policy-2016, to invite private investment in tourism sector, investors facilitation, to avail grant and facilities to investors as per the policy, to frame, to execute and to monitor new policies for inviting investors, to increase land bank by selecting appropriate places for increasing tourism projects with the help of private investment.
- Also, to develop work plan for all tourism related places like archeological places, wildlife places, caves with natural beauties, parks, water reservoirs and other amusement places and take measures for their supervision, to promote private investors by participating in different national and international programmes for tourism promotion, to promote rural tourism through fair, local dishes, culture, dress, handicrafts, to make necessary arrangements for eco-tourism etc.
- Chairman of board of directors will be Chief Minister and Vice-Chairmen will be Tourism Minister and Chief Secretary.

Reference:

<http://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20170214N28&LocID=1&PDt=2/14/2017>

http://www.ptinews.com/news/8408112_MP-govt-to-set-up-Tourism-Board.html

LAW & JUSTICE

Contempt notice against HC Judge

Question: The Supreme Court recently issued contempt of court notice against sitting Calcutta HC judge. What is the name of the High Court judge?

(a) C.S. Karnan (b) Markandey Katju (c) Dipak Mishra (d) Ranjan Gogoi

Ans:(a)



- On 8th February, 2017, a seven-judge Bench of the senior most judges of the Supreme Court issued contempt of court notice against sitting Calcutta HC judge C.S. Karnan for impeding justice administration and bringing discredit to the judicial institution of the country by writing scurrilous letters about sitting and retired judges.
- The Bench, led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar, ordered Justice Karnan to appear in person before it on February 13 to show cause to the court why contempt proceedings should not be taken against him.
- The Bench comprised Justices Dipak Misra, J. Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B. Lokur, P.C. Ghose and Kurian Joseph.
- The Bench directed Justice Karnan to forthwith refrain from undertaking any judicial or administrative work and return all his official files to the Calcutta HC Registry.
- Supreme Court as the apex judiciary is empowered under Articles 129 read with its extraordinary powers under Article 142 (2) to punish a member of the High Court and subordinate judiciary for contempt.
- This is the first time in judicial history that Supreme Court has issued contempt notice to a sitting Calcutta High Court Judge.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/In-a-first-SC-issues-contempt-notice-against-HC-Judge-Karnan/article17245716.ece>

<http://ddinews.gov.in/National/National%20-%20Headlines/Pages/wages.aspx>

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

International Condom Day

Question: International Condom Day is celebrated on-

(a) 12 February (b) 17 February (c) 13 February (d) 16 February

Ans: (c)

Related facts:



- On 13 February 2017; International Condom day was celebrated across the world.
- The theme for this year was “Condoms: ‘Always in Fashion!’”.
- It was celebrated to promote prevention of STDs (Sexual Transmitted Disease), HIV and unwanted pregnancies through free condom distribution and safer sex awareness events and activities.
- AIDS Healthcare Foundation (AHF), the largest global AIDS organization in collaboration with various institutions celebrate this day globally.

Reference:

<https://www.aidshealth.org/#/archives/29239>

<http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20170209006318/en/Condoms-%E2%80%98Always-Fashion!%E2%80%99-AHF-International-Condom-Day%E2%80%94Feb>

<http://www.nationalheraldindia.com/images/2017/02/14/international-condom-day-2017-condom-fashion-gallery-in-delhi-safe-sex-practises-awareness-youth>

International Mother Language Day

Question- What was the theme of the International Mother Language Day?

- (a) Promoting your Mother Language
- (b) Promoting English as medium of conversation
- (c) Learning through Mother Language
- (d) Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education



Ans: (d)

Related Fact :

- UNESCO celebrated International Mother Language Day (IMLD) on February 21, 2017.
- The theme of this year's International Mother Language Day was “Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education”.
- In line with the theme of this day education in mother tongue and other languages was encouraged to foster sustainable development.
- It is through the mastery of the first language or mother tongue that the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy are acquired.
- Local languages, especially minority and indigenous, transmit cultures, values and traditional knowledge and play an important role in promoting sustainable futures.

Reference:

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/international-mother-language-day/>

World Radio Day 2017

Question: World Radio day is observed on ...

(a) 13th February (b) 12th February (c) 11th February (d) 10th February

Ans: (a)

Related Fact:



- World Radio Day was observed on 13th February, 2017. World Radio Day is now in its 6th year.
- The Theme for World Radio Day 2017 is “Radio is You”.
- Radio is still the most dynamic, reactive and engaging medium. It is adapting to 21st century changes and offering new ways to interact and participate.
- Radio is uniquely positioned to bring communities together and foster positive dialogue for change. It provides the diversity of views and voices needed to address the challenges we all face.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted all Radio lovers on this occasion and asked to keep the medium active and vibrant.

Reference:

<http://en.unesco.org/events/world-radio-day-2017>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/keep-radio-active-and-vibrant-pm-narendra-modi-on-world-radio-day/articleshow/57121031.cms>

National Deworming Day

Question: What is the purpose of observing National Deworming Day?

- (a) To deworm children between the ages of (1-19) from soil-transmitted helminthes
- (b) To spread awareness to stop using pesticides
- (c) To raise awareness on clean drinking water
- (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

- The National Deworming Day is observed on February 10 every year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Its main objective is to deworm children between the ages of (1-19) from parasitic intestinal worms also known as soil-transmitted helminths (STH).
- This year for the first time, the Ministry has decided to give the deworming tablets to the private schools children also besides schools and anganwadis.
- The government of India had launched the initiative in 2015, making it one of the largest single-day public health initiatives in India.

- **Background:**
- According to WHO, Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH) or parasitic worms are among the most common infections worldwide. It lives in human intestines and consume nutrients meant for the human body. India has the highest burden of Soil-Transmitted Helminths in the world, with 220 million children aged 1-14 estimated to be at risk of worm infections. Almost 7 in 10 children between 6 month and 5 years are anaemic, with even higher rates of anaemia in rural areas, as per the 2006 National Family Health Survey.
- **Deworming tablet:**
- Children at the age of (1-2) are given half a tablet of albendazole (400mg), and above the age of 2 are given 1 full tablet of albendazole (400mg) to chew. Albendazole is very safe and has very few side effects and it occurs with mild side effects like nausea and diarrhea and passes quickly.

Reference:

http://www.nhp.gov.in/National-Deworming-Day_pg

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/national-deworming-day/1/592208.html>

World Cancer Day

Question: World Cancer Day is celebrated on-

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

Ans. (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2017 World Cancer Day was celebrated across the world.
- The World Cancer Day 2017 has a theme called 'We can. I can'.
- The main aim of the World Cancer Day is to reduce the problems caused due to the deadly disease by 2020.
- It is a three-year campaign for the World Cancer Day in 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- The campaign was created to focus on how people on an individual or collective level can do their bit to reduce the increasing cases of cancer.
- World Cancer Day was founded by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008.
- Union for International Cancer Control was in 1933 and based in Geneva, Switzerland, UICC has a membership of over 800 organisations across 155 countries, and features the world's major cancer societies, ministries of health, research institutes and patient groups.



- Currently, 8.2 million people die from cancer worldwide every year, out of which, 4 million people die prematurely (aged 30 to 69 years)

Reference:

<http://www.worldcancerday.org/about>

<http://www.uicc.org/convening/world-cancer-day>

World Wetlands Day

Question: What is the theme of World Wetlands Day for 2017?

- (a) Wetlands for disaster risk reduction
- (b) Wetlands to serve as buffer
- (c) Wetland for a disaster free future
- (d) None of the above.



Ans: (a)

Related Fact :

- 2 February each year is World Wetlands Day. This day marks the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar on the shores of the Caspian Sea.
- This year World Wetland Day is being celebrated in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh at Bhoj Wetlands, Bhopal, which is one of the 26 Ramsar sites that India has designated under the Ramsar Convention.
- The theme of World Wetlands Day for 2017 is 'Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction'. This theme has been selected to raise awareness on the vital roles of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events on communities and in helping to build resilience.
- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), Chennai, under the Ministry of Environ and Forest, has planned two events to spread public awareness about conservation of Wetlands. The first is a radio-outreach and awareness generation campaign and second a school outreach programme.

Importance of Wetlands:

- Wetlands support human well-being in a number of ways. As 'kidneys of landscape', wetlands receive flows of water and waste from upstream sources. They help stabilize water supplies, cleanse polluted waters, protect shorelines and recharge groundwater aquifers.
- Wetlands are our natural buffers against increasing risk of floods, droughts and tropical cyclones. Wetlands can act as sponges, storing peak rainfall and releasing water gradually during lean season.

- The floods in Kashmir Valley in September, 2014 and Chennai city in December, 2015 are reminders of the ways wetland destruction can make lives vulnerable.
- Super Cyclone Kalinga of 1999, Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 and Phailin of 2013 underline the role coastal wetlands can play in buffering communities from impacts of these cyclones and wave surges.
- **Wetland convention and India:**
- India is a party to the Convention since 1982 and committed to the Ramsar approach of wise use of wetlands.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forest accords high priority to wetlands conservation, and has a dedicated scheme of 'National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems' (NPCA) to support State Governments in integrated management of these ecosystems. Till date, over 170 wetlands have been covered under the programme.
- The Ministry has also introduced Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2010 as the regulatory framework for conserving wetlands of the country.

Reference:

<http://www.worldwetlandsday.org/documents>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157912>

MISCELLANEOUS

Solar Power Systems Mandatory for Private Schools

Question: Government of which of the following state has made Solar Power Systems Mandatory for Private Schools?

(a) Haryana (b) Telangana (c) Punjab (d) Odisha

Ans: (a)



Related facts:

- On 23 February 2017; Haryana government has made it mandatory for all private schools to install solar systems.
- It has been done so, to make the schools self-sufficient in the field of electricity.
- A special grant at the rate of Rs 20,000 per kilowatt is being given to these schools for installing solar power plants.
- This exercise will cut down the electricity bills of the schools and this process will help to generate more power.

Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/education/haryana-government-makes-solar-power-systems-mandatory-for-private-schools-1662842>

Fairy Queen' Ready to Haul Heritage Train Once Again

Question: World's oldest working steam engine is also known as

(a) Fairy Queen (b) Iron Horse (c) Prabal (d) Shaktiman

Ans: (a)

- The 'Fairy Queen', the oldest surviving functional steam engine in the world is once again ready to haul a heritage train from National Capital Delhi to Rewari, Haryana after a gap of 5 years.
- This train will run between Delhi Cantt. Station and Rewari from 11th February 2017 for a single day trip.
- The locomotive was constructed by Kitson, Thompson and Hewitson at Leeds, in England, in 1855, and reached Kolkata in the same year.
- On arrival, it was given fleet number "22" by its owner, the East Indian Railway Company, not receiving a name until 1895.
- Initially, the 5 ft 6 in (1,676 mm) gauge locomotive was used to haul light mail trains in West Bengal, operating between Howrah and Raniganj, and during the Indian Rebellion of 1857 hauled troop trains. It was later consigned to line construction duty in Bihar, where it served until 1909.
- It was restored and given a special spot in the newly built National Rail Museum at Chanakyapuri, in New Delhi which was opened to public 40 years back on 1st February, 1977.
- It was certified by the Guinness Book of Records in 1998 as the world's oldest steam locomotive in regular operation. The following year, the train received a National Tourism Award for the most innovative and unique tourism project.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158386>

Braille Atlas for Visually Impaired

Question: Braille Atlas has been recently launched by ...

(a) Ministry for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
(b) Ministry of Social Justice and Welfare
(c) Youth Affairs Ministry (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)



- On 10th February, 2017, The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the Special Edition of “Atlas for Visually Impaired (India)” in English Braille in New Delhi.
- This Braille Atlas has been prepared by National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) under Department of Science & Technology.
- These atlases will be distributed to various schools across the country for educating the students with visual challenges.
- The atlas has 20 maps on different themes like physical, socio-economic, river system, crops pattern, natural vegetation, cultural, metropolitan areas, roads and railways, and crops.
- The Braille atlas has been made using indigenously developed silk-screen painting technology.
- In the Braille Atlas, maps are raised and embossed with simple lines and point symbols to facilitate its users to realize the location and area coverage easily distinguishable in terms of shapes and textures.
- This Atlas has been bestowed with National award for S&T intervention in empowering the physically challenged by the Prime Minister on 3rd January, 2017 in Indian Science Congress held in Tirupati.
- **What is NATMO?**
- National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) is the premier agency of applied Geo-Spatial technology and pioneer in Thematic Mapping and Atlas Cartography under Department of Science & Technology (Ministry of Science & Technology) engaged in preparing different thematic maps and atlases and other documents on national, state, district, block level and many other monograms.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=158369>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/first-comprehensive-braille-atlas-prepared/1/879796.html>

National Testing Agency to conduct entrance exams

Question: The Union Budget 2017-18 was presented in the parliament on ...

- (a) 1st February, 2017 (b) 31st January, 2017 (c) 2nd February, 2017
(d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- Human Resource Development Ministry is set to constitute National Testing Agency which would conduct examinations for higher education as well as secondary education.



- On 1st February, 2017, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley proposed in the budget speech 2017 to establish a National Testing Agency as an autonomous and self-sustained premier testing organisation to conduct all entrance examinations for higher education institutions.
- The reason behind setting up NTA is to free CBSE, AICTE and other premier institutions from these administrative responsibilities so that they can focus more on academics.
- The government will undertake reforms in UGC and will give autonomy to colleges and institutions.
- The Union Government will also introduce a system of annual learning outcome in schools and innovation fund for secondary education will be set up.

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/hrd-ministry-to-set-national-testing-agency-to-conduct-various-exams/india/news/772325.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/national-testing-agency/1/875665.html>

Facebook, Oculus to pay \$500 million to ZeniMax

Question: Oculus is a ... of Facebook.

(a) subsidiary (b) owner (c) partner (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

- On 1st February, 2017, a U.S. jury in Texas ordered Facebook Inc, its virtual reality unit Oculus, and other defendants to pay a combined \$500 million to ZeniMax Media Inc.
- ZeniMax Media Inc is a video game publisher that had claimed that Oculus stole its technology.
- Facebook acquired Oculus for about \$2 billion in 2014.
- The jury in federal court in Dallas found Oculus used ZeniMax's computer code to launch the Rift virtual-reality headset.
- ZeniMax alleges that video game designer John Carmack developed core parts of the Rift's technology while working at a ZeniMax subsidiary.
- Though the jury ruled that none of the defendants misappropriated ZeniMax's trade secrets, it found Oculus' use of computer code directly violated ZeniMax's copyright.

Reference:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-facebook-lawsuit-idUSKBN15G5N6>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/facebooks-oculus-facing-500-million-bill-in-copyright-case-4503625/>



Qatar Airlines: World's longest commercial flight

Question: Recently Qatar Airways started world's longest commercial flight between which of the following places?

- (a) Dubai to Auckland (b) Dubai to Perth (c) Doha to Auckland
(d) Doha to Perth



Ans: (c)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2017; Qatar Airways launched world's longest commercial flight to Auckland, New Zealand, from Doha.
- The world's longest commercial flight has landed in New Zealand after a 9,032-mile (14,535 km.) flight from Doha.
- In keeping with international tradition to welcome inaugural flights, the Auckland airport rescue service showered the plane with water cannons on arrival.
- In 2015 Emirates airline launched what was then world's longest non-stop scheduled commercial flight, with a service from Dubai to Auckland, spanning 14,200 km.

Reference:

http://www.qatarairways.com/global/en/press-release.page?pr_id=pressrelease_alkarrival

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/feb/06/worlds-longest-non-stop-commercial-flight-lands-new-zealand-doha>

<http://fortune.com/2017/02/06/worlds-longest-flight/>

UIDAI shutdown fraud sites offering Aadhaar services

Question: Recently Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) directed authorities for the closure of how many fraud websites offering Aadhaar services?

- (a) 60 (b) 50 (c) 100 (d) 80

Ans. (c)

Related facts:



- On 3 February 2016 Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has shut down 12 fraud websites offering Aadhaar services and 12 mobile apps available on the Google Playstore.
- The UIDAI has further directed authorities for the closure of another 26 such fraudulent and illegal websites and mobile applications.

- It should be known that some websites and mobile apps were luring citizens to share their basic information and Aadhaar number under the pretext of getting them Aadhaar card or offering other Aadhaar related services.
- At present, any Aadhaar-related demographic information can only be shared following the procedures laid down in the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
- Any violation is punishable under Section 38 and Chapter VII of the Aadhaar Act that provides punishment for "Whoever, not being authorised by the Authority, intentionally accesses or secures, downloads, copies or extracts any data from the Central Identities Data Repository or stored in any removable storage medium.
- These illegal websites and mobile applications (downloadable through Google Playstore) were providing unauthorised Aadhaar-related services such as downloading online Aadhaar card, providing the status of Aadhaar generation, PVC (plastic) Aadhaar Card, to residents. In the process, these agencies were illegally obtaining the Aadhaar number and enrolment details from the residents.
- It should be noted that UIDAI has not authorised the owners of these mobile applications or websites to extend any Aadhaar-related services on its behalf.
- [Www.Uidai.Gov.In](http://www.uidai.gov.in) is the only authorised website of UIDAI.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a central government agency of India.
- Its objective is to collect the biometric and demographic data of residents, store them in a centralised database, and issue a 12-digit unique identity number called Aadhaar to each resident.
- It is considered the world's largest national identification number project.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/uidai-clamps-down-on-50-fraud-sites-offering-aadhaar-services-117020300719_1.html

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/uidai-clamps-down-on-50-fraud-sites-offering-aadhaar-services/articleshow/56959864.cms>

Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017

Question: The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was approved on-

- (a) 01 February 2017 (b) 02 February 2017 (c) 03 February 2017
(d) 04 February 2017

Ans. (a)



Related facts:

- On 01 February 2017 Union Cabinet has given its approval for introduction of The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Parliament.
- The amendment Bill provides for inclusion of Indian Institute of Information Technology Design and Manufacturing (IIITDM), Kurnool along with the other IITs in the Principal Act.
- Subsequently, IITDM Kurnool will be declared as an institute of National Importance with the power to award degrees to students.
- The expenditure for the operationalization of IITDM Kurnool is incurred from the Plan funds of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=157828>

Nepal launches 10-yr-plan to cut vegetable imports from India

Question: Nepal imports vegetables every year from India worth rupees-

(a) 50 billion (b) 55 billion (c) 60 billion (d) 65 billion

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 January 2017; Nepal government has launched a 10-year-plan to cut dependence on vegetable imports from India and make the land-locked country self-reliant in food.
- Vegetable imports from India have continued to increase even despite the far-western region seeing a rise in commercial vegetable farming.
- According to the report, the region imports vegetables worth 55 billion rupees every year from India.
- Exports volume, however, was negligible.
- According to the Regional Plant Quarantine at Gadda Chauki – the second important border trading point with India after Birgunj.
- Potatoes worth 370 million rupees were imported annually.
- Green vegetable imports stand at 180 million rupees.
- Belauri, Krishnapur, Jhalari, Mahendranagar and Mahakali are some of the major vegetable producing areas in Nepal.
- According to District Agriculture Development Office (DADO), vegetable is cultivated on 4,450 hectares in Kanchanpur and the output is 56,000 metric tonnes annually.



Reference:

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nepal-launches-10-yr-plan-to-cut-vegetable-imports-from-india/1/864331.html>

Digital Ambassador

Question: Which of the following country has recently announced to appoint the world's first Digital ambassador?

(a) Norway (b) Denmark (c) Switzerland (d) France

Ans: (b)

Related facts:

- On 27 January 2017; Foreign Minister of Denmark, Anders Samuelsen revealed the plans to appoint Digital ambassador.
- The appointment of Digital Ambassador will help in better management of its relationship with tech giants such as Google, Apple, IBM and Microsoft.
- The tech ambassador will carry out similar duties to other Danish ambassadors, and negotiate on behalf of the country and will also talk to tech companies about issues such as data security and privacy.



Reference:

http://politiken.dk/udland/art5806849/Danmark-f%C3%A5r-som-det-f%C3%B8rste-land-i-verden-en-digital-ambassad%C3%B8r?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter
<http://www.thelocal.dk/20170127/in-world-first-denmark-to-name-a-digital-ambassador>
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/emmawoollacott/2017/01/28/why-denmarks-appointment-of-a-digital-ambassador-is-a-terrible-idea/#469159317f16>

Successful flight test of Ballistic Missile Ababeel

Question: Recently Pakistan has conducted its first successful flight test of Ballistic Missile “Ababeel”, it is a-

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

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 24 January 2017; Pakistan has successfully test-fired indigenously-developed surface to surface nuclear-capable missile Ababeel.



- It is a Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile Ababeel having maximum range of 2200 kilometers.
- The missile is capable of delivering multiple warheads, using Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.
- The test flight was aimed at validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system.
- Pakistan is the seventh country in the world to achieve this potential.
- Other country in this club is Britain, France, Russia, USA, China and India.

Reference:

https://www.ispr.gov.pk/front/main.asp?o=t-press_release&id=3705#pr_link3705

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1305179/pakistan-conducts-first-flight-test-surface-surface-missile/>

<https://en.dailypakistan.com.pk/headline/pakistan-conducts-first-successful-flight-test-of-ababeel-surface-to-surface-long-range-missile/>

New world record by singing the national anthem

Question: Recently 3.5 lakh people set a new world record by singing the national anthem in which of the following state of India?

(a) Gujarat (b) Bihar (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

Ans:(a)



Related facts:

- On 21 January 2017; over 3.5 lakh people set a new world record by singing the national anthem at an event at Kagvad in Rajkot, Gujarat.
- The occasion was the installation of the idol of goddess Khodiyar at the newly-built Khodal Dham temple in Rajkot.
- The record was registered in the Guinness Book of World Records.
- Earlier, 2, 54,537 people had sung the national anthem in Bangladesh in 2014 and set a record.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/With-national-anthem-on-their-lips-they-create-world-record/article17075751.ece>

Karnataka: Demands to lift Ban on Kambala

Question: Kambala is held in Karnataka during-

- (a) January to March (b) March to June (c) August to November
(d) November to March

Ans: (d)

Related facts:

- Recently Karnataka are demanding to lift ban on Kambala.
- Kambala — a traditional sport in which water buffaloes are made to race down a track filled with mud and water.
- The sport generally starts in November and lasts until March.
- The game was being held in Karnataka since almost 800 years.
- Under the same order in 2014, the Supreme Court had banned both Jallikattu and Kambala following complaints by animal welfare groups PETA, which had pointed to the cruelty and stress inflicted on the animals in both sports.
- Kambala used to be held in coastal regions of Karnataka.
- It was especially popular in Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts.
- In Kambala, two water buffaloes, yoked together, were made to run at top speed down a muddy, water-filled route. They were guided and whipped along by a man who ran with them.
- People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) are an American animal rights organization based in Norfolk, Virginia, United States of America.

Reference:

https://twitter.com/ANI_news/status/824830852072951808/photo/1

<http://www.ndtv.com/karnataka-news/jallikattu-back-why-not-kambala-asks-karnataka-protests-begin-1651934>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/after-jallikattu-row-settled-in-tamil-nadu-karnataka-turns-to-centre-wants-kambala-ban-lifted/519452/>



ATM facility onboard country's biggest ship

Question: Indian Navy's only operational aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya got an ATM onboard. Which of the following Bank has launched ATM facility?

- (a) State Bank of India (b) Allahabad Bank
(c) Central Bank of India (d) Union Bank of India

Ans:(a)

Related facts:

- On 21 January 2017; India's biggest aircraft carrier ship became the nation's first warship to have an ATM onboard the vessel via satellite.
- The ATM belonging to the State Bank of India (SBI) will be operated through satellite link.
- It was inaugurated in ceremony held at Naval Base Karwar.
- Russia built INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in Indian Navy in November 2013.
- Earlier, telephone link based ATM was launched on the INS Virat with some drawbacks.



Reference:

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/INS-Vikramaditya-to-Become-First-Ever-Warship-With-ATM-Onboard-250013>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/ins-vikramaditya-to-have-atm-will-operate-through-satellite-link-4483867/>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/ins-vikramaditya-to-be-india-s-first-warship-to-have-atm-onboard/story-nQQ7Njwko7hmoh64o1qZ6M.html>