

e-dristi  
ई-दृष्टि

# Current Affairs

edristi.in

Day to Day

Vol.-3

Modi Government:

Three Years of Achievements

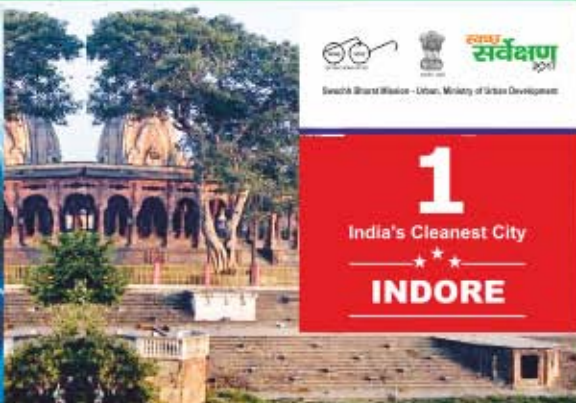


इसरो isro

India Successfully  
Launches  
South Asia  
Satellite GSAT-9



**YOUR MONEY  
OR  
YOUR DATA**



स्वच्छ सर्वोदय  
2014

Swachh Bharat Mission - Urban, Ministry of Urban Development

1

India's Cleanest City

★ ★ ★  
INDORE

**QUESTIONS AND RELATED FACTS**

**1st MAY TO 31st MAY, 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 May to 31st May) 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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## Current Article

### Modi Government: Three years of achievements

Three years of the Modi Government have passed. Evaluation of the achievements of three years of the government has been started particularly with a view to its promise of bringing 'good days'. More than half of the five-year term has passed. In a way, the countdown to the completion of the tenure of Modi government has begun.

Therefore, discussion about the achievements and failures of the government is a timely exercise. One of the most remarkable things during this entire tenure was India's growth rate, which is 7.1% during this period whereas the world's growth rate is 3.1 percent. Most of the works done in three years tenure of the Modi government are related to



economy. Although it is not as visible on the ground as it should be. However, the allocation of funds to states according to the recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission has been increased for the first time by the central government. The states were used to be allocated about Rs. 3 Lakh crore so far, it has now been increased to 6 lakh crore. At the same time, one major achievement of the government is that it has stepped forward in implementing the goods and service tax.

This is the first time since independence, when more than 3,500 million people opened an account in banks; out of which highest numbers of accounts were opened under the Prime Minister Jan-Dhan Yojana. Along with this, these people have become eligible for life insurance directly. Applying the Jeevan Jyoti Yojana on the annual pension scheme for Rs.12/- a month and Atal pension scheme on Rs. 330/- per year could also be considered as a great achievement of this government. This directly benefited more than 1,200 million people. The decision of demonetization taken on November 8, 2016, was considered to be a big step towards curbing black money. Along with this, several stringent measures have been taken to deal with the problem of black money. Tax evasion of about 9 lakh 36 thousand crore has been seized. Bhim App has emerged as one of the most popular app for cashless transactions in the world.

Whereas the UPA government's allocation of mineral blocks attracted controversies in the past, this government auctioned minerals blocks without any dispute. According to Prime Minister Modi's plan, 28 crore LED bulbs were distributed across the country and 6 crore LPG connections were provided to people. Along with this, the government took a big step towards people's welfare by reducing the prices of 500 generic drugs. The government also played a major role in bringing the cost of coronary stent used in the heart bypass surgery, to 30 thousand rupees from 1.5 lakh rupees. This has given direct benefit to those who were unable to undergo heart bypass surgery due to lack of money. The Modi government also claims to

give health benefits to the poor through generic medicines by the medium of 'Amrit' stores. The Government of India has set the goal of getting rid of leprosy and Black fever by 2018 and smallpox by 2020. These three years also witnessed the construction of toilets in the homes of 4.5 crore people. Under Mission Rainbow, vaccination has been provided to 700 million children.

The government also provided constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission and banned the use of red beacon. This government allocated 'patta' land to 52 lakh tribals, increased the MSP of crops for farmers and offered insurance and Soil Health Cards. This has resulted in increased agricultural growth rate in states like Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat and Bihar. Urea production was the highest in the country in 2016-17.

The Modi government succeeded in getting the Enemy Property Act enacted. At the same time, the government sent a strong message to the world with surgical strikes in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir last year. 'Benami property law' can prove to be a giant steps towards prevention of black money. To bring transparency in electoral politics, the limit of donation has been reduced from Rs.20000 to Rs.2000. The government has done a great job by abolishing more than 1100 useless laws. MNREGA has been allocated more than Rs 48,000 crore, which is aimed at providing relief to the poor.

Extending maternity leave to 26 weeks will provide pregnant women an opportunity to take care of their health and their child. Designating 21<sup>st</sup> June as 'Yoga Day' has brought repute to the Indian culture on the global stage. By introducing the Tejas aircraft in the Air Force, the Modi government has worked to strengthen the IAF. India's efforts towards Climate and Environment were appreciated in the Paris Climate Conference. Modi Government has also taken new initiatives to solve public issues through public participation through schemes like Beti Bachao, Namami Gange and Sanitation Campaign. The Government claims that the maximum National Highways were built in 2016-17. Similarly, most of the rural roads were constructed in 2016-17. World Bank's Doing Business Indicator ranking has also been the best for 2016-17.

'Ujjwala scheme' relieved poor women from smoke by providing gas stove to 20 million households. One crore five lakh people left their gas subsidy through the 'Give It Up campaign'. There were 18 thousand villages without electricity. Electricity was provided to 13,000 such villages and government claims to provide electricity to the remaining villages within a year.

The government has also provided loan for self-employment to about 7.5 crore youth through the currency bank. The task of Skill development has been done through Skill India programme. The government has achieved a great success in increasing production and employment through Make in India. The minimum wage has increased by 42 percent and universal PF account has removed many hassles of employees. The Modi government has also done the job

of honoring the poor laborers by providing a thousand rupees of minimum pension. Interview in Grade 3 and Grade 4 jobs of the central government has been removed. India is a fast growing economy. Foreign exchange reserves have risen to \$ 63 billion. The Modi government claims that it has managed to keep industrial growth rate 5.1 and became successful in taking agricultural growth rate out of negative to more than 4 percent. The government claims that it has managed to keep the fiscal deficit at 3.9 percent. Direct and indirect taxes increased by 20 percent. The Modi government claims that the per capita income was 93 thousand last year; it has reached one lakh three thousand this year. Giving E-Visa to 161 countries has resulted in promoting tourism.

During this three years tenure, the Bharatiya Janata Party government came to power in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Goa, Manipur and Assam which can be analyzed as an endorsement of the policies of the government.

**Umesh Chaturvedi**

## Global Cyber Attack- WannaCry

**Question: WannaCry is a ...**

- (a) ransomware that prevents user access to his/her computer and ask for ransom
- (b) software for guidance on scientific topics.
- (c) mobile app.
- (d) name of an online mobile game.



**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 12, 2017 a ransomware attack spread wave of concern across the globe. The ransomware, known as WannaCry or WannaCrypt targeted computers running the Microsoft Windows operating system by encrypting data and demanding ransom payments in the Bitcoin crypto-currency.
- WannaCry appears to have affected computers that had not applied the patch for these vulnerabilities.
- The attack was reported to have infected more than 230,000 computers in over 150 countries within a day. Britain's National Health Service (NHS), Spain's Telefónica, FedEx and Deutsche Bahn were hit, along with many other countries and companies worldwide.
- In India reports of possible attacks came from West Bengal, where the State Electricity Distribution Company's computers were affected. Some ATMs were also shut down as a preventive step. Around 50 thousand systems were estimated to be infected with Wannacry malware in India.

- According to Kaspersky, a Russian anti-virus company, India was among the countries worst affected by the WannaCry attack. According to initial calculations performed soon after the malware struck on May 12th, around five per cent of all computers affected in the attack were in India. In an attempt to be prepared for the threat, India's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) released directives to deal with this particular ransomware.

### **What is Ransomware?**

Ransomware is a type of malware that prevents or limits users from accessing their system, either by locking the system's screen or by locking the users' files unless a ransom is paid. More modern ransomware families, collectively categorized as crypto-ransomware, encrypt certain file types on infected systems and force users to pay the ransom through certain online payment methods to get a decrypt key.

As the name suggests, Ransomware threatens the user of deleting or publishing his/her data to get a ransom. Hackers can take any action once a device or system is infected and there is no guarantee that paying the ransom will return access or not delete the data.

The biggest threat with 'Wannacry' is that it's more than just a ransomware; it can also be classified as a worm. Being a worm, the ransomware has the ability to spread to different systems running on the same LAN network or even spread through emails.

What does a Ransomware do?

There are different types of ransomware. However, all of them will prevent user from using their PC normally and they ask the user for a ransom. The first documented case appeared in 2005 in the United States, but quickly spread around the world

Ransomware can target any PC users, whether it's a home computer, endpoints in an enterprise network, or servers used by a government agency or healthcare provider.

### **Ransomware can:**

- Prevent the user from accessing Windows.
- Encrypt files so that it can not be used.
- Stop certain apps from running (like web browser).

There are two types of ransomware – lockscreen ransomware and encryption ransomware.

Lockscreen ransomware shows a full-screen message that prevents user from accessing computer or files. It says you have to pay money (a "ransom") to get access to computer again.

Encryption ransomware changes files so the user can't open them. It does this by encrypting the files.

### **Ransomware can get on a computer from nearly any source that any other malware (including viruses) can come from. This includes:**

- Visiting unsafe, suspicious, or fake websites.
- Opening emails and email attachments from unknown people.
- Clicking on malicious or bad links in emails, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media posts, instant messenger chats, like Skype etc.

### **Prevention:**

It can be very difficult to restore a computer after a ransomware attack – especially if it's infected by encryption ransomware.

That's why the best solution to ransomware is to be safe on the Internet and with emails and online chat.

- Don't click on a link on a webpage, in an email, or in a chat message unless you absolutely trust the page or sender.
- If you're ever unsure – don't click it!
- Often fake emails and webpages have bad spelling, or just look unusual. Look out for strange spellings of company names (like "PayePal" instead of "PayPal") or unusual spaces, symbols, or punctuation (like "iTunesCustomer Service" instead of "iTunes Customer Service").

Institutional Mechanism to tame cyber attack in India:

The "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) is a part of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). It has been set up for analyzing BOTs/malware characteristics and providing information and enabling citizens for removal of BOTs/malware. In addition, "CyberSwachhta Kendra" also strives to create awareness among citizens to secure their data, computers, mobile phones and devices such as home routers.

CERT-In is the national nodal agency for responding to computer security incidents. Under the Information Technology Act, 2008, CERT-In has been designated to perform functions such as collection, analysis, dissemination of information on cyber incidents and forecast, alert and suggest measures to tackle a situation.

#### **Also Know:**

A computer virus attaches itself to a program or file enabling it to spread from one computer to another, leaving infections as it travels. Like a human virus, a computer virus can range in severity: some may cause only mildly annoying effects while others can damage hardware, software or files. A worm is similar to a virus by design and is considered to be a sub-class of a virus. Worms spread from computer to computer, but unlike a virus, it has the capability to travel without any human action. A worm takes advantage of file or information transport features on a system, which is what allows it to travel unaided. An internet worm is a program that spreads across the internet by replicating itself on computers via their network connections.

Encryption is the translation of data into a secret code. Once the data is encrypted it can be read only with the secret key or password that enables to decrypt it. Unencrypted data is called plain text; encrypted data is referred to as cipher text.

#### **Reference:**

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/portal/mmpc/shared/ransomware.aspx#what>  
[http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in/alerts/wannacry\\_ransomware.html](http://www.cyberswachhtakendra.gov.in/alerts/wannacry_ransomware.html)  
<http://www.cert-in.org.in/>

**Maneesh Pandey**



# NATIONAL

## State Visit of President of Palestine to India

**Question: What is the name of the President of Palestine who was on a state visit to India**

- (a) Beta Szigvalo (b) Mahmoud Abbas (c) Benjamin Netanyahu  
(d) Recep Tayyip Erdogan

**Ans: (b)**

### Related facts



- President of Palestine Mr. Mahmoud Abbas was on a state visit to India from 14-17 May, 2017, at the invitation of India's President Pranab Mukherjee.
- This is the third state tour of President Mahmoud Abbas.
- During this visit, he met President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- During the visit, he addressed the Delhi-based India Islamic Cultural Center.
- On May 16, 2017, the delegation level bilateral talks concluded between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Mahmoud Abbas at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
- After the talks, 5 MoUs were signed between the two countries :
  - I. Memorandum of Understanding on Visa Relief on Diplomatic and Official Passports
  - ii. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Youth Affairs and Sports
  - li. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Agriculture Sector
  - lv. Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Health Sector
  - V. Memorandum of Understanding on Information Technology and Electronics
- India – Palestine relations have been traditionally cordial.
- India's sympathy with the Palestine issue and friendship with the Palestinians have come to the test of time and is an integral part of our foreign policy.
- In the year 1947, India had voted against the partition of Palestine in the United Nations General Assembly.
- India was the first non-Arab country to recognize the PLO as the sole and legal representative of the people of Palestine in the year 1974.
- India was one of the first countries to recognize Palestine state in the year 1988.
- India voted in support of the United Nations General Assembly's resolution in October 2003 against the creation of a wall of the partition by Israel.
- India voted in favor of accepting Palestine as a full time member of UNESCO.
- Apart from this, India supported the establishment of Palestine's flag in the United Nations campus in September, 2015, along with other observer states like the flag of the Member States.

### Related Links:-

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit->

[detail.htm?28462/State+Visit+of+President+of+Palestine+to+India+May+1417+2017](http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28462/State+Visit+of+President+of+Palestine+to+India+May+1417+2017)

## Swachh Sarvekshan-2017

**Question:** Consider the following statement regarding recently declared Swachh Sarvekshan 2017 (Swachh Bharat survey 2017):

**Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct-?**

- (i) Indore is India's cleanest city
- (ii) Among the top 50 clean cities Gujarat has most (12) cities.
- (iii) Bhusaval of Maharashtra is the dirtiest city in this list.
- (iv) In the top 50 clean cities, Varanasi is the only city of Uttar Pradesh placed at 32nd place.

**Code:**

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

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 04, 2017 Union Urban Development Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the Sanitation rankings of 434 cities and towns – Swachh Sarvekshan-2017.
- Indore (Madhya Pradesh) was declared as the cleanest city in India.
- Other top 10 cleanest cities of the country are- Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Visakhapatnam (Vizag) (Andhra Pradesh), Surat (Gujarat), Mysuru (Karnataka), Tiruchirapally (Tamil Nadu), New Delhi Municipal Council (Delhi), Navi Mumbai (Maharashtra), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadodara (Gujarat) and Chandigarh.
- Gonda in Uttar Pradesh has been ranked as the dirtiest city among surveyed.
- Gonda is followed by Bhusaval (Maharashtra), Bagaha (Bihar), Hardoi (Uttar Pradesh), Katihar (Uttar Pradesh), Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh), Muksar (Punjab), Abohar (Punjab), Shahjahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), Khurja (Uttar Pradesh) and Hapur (Uttar Pradesh) among the dirtiest cities. 11 cities of Madhya Pradesh and 8 in Andhra Pradesh are among the top 50 cleanest cities of India. In the top 50 cleanest cities, Varanasi is the only city of Uttar Pradesh placed at 32nd place.
- The ranking of other major cities of Uttar Pradesh are Aligarh (145th), Jhansi (166th), Kanpur (175th), Saharanpur (245th), Jaunpur (246th), Allahabad (247th), Ayodhya (252nd), Agra (263rd) and Lucknow (269th).
- The survey was carried out by the Quality Council of India, which had deployed 421 assessors for on the spot assessment of 17,500 locations in 434 cities and towns.
- Another 55 people regularly monitored the survey process in real time.
- The criteria consisted assessment on a) Solid waste management including door-to-door collection, processing, and disposal, ODF (open defecation free) status etc.
- These carried 45 per cent of the total 2,000 marks. b) Citizen feedback – 30 per cent. c) Independent observation – 25 per cent.

**Reference:**

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2017/may/p20175401.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161527>



## EPFO's Civil Charter 2017 and of E-Court Management System Launched

**Question: What is the time frame for claims settlement referenced to EPFO?**

(a) 10 days (b) 15 days (c) 20 days (d) 25 days

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 16, 2017, Minister of State for Labour and Employment (Independent Charge) Bandaru Dattatreya launched Citizen's Charter 2017 and E-Court Management System of Employee's Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) in Bengaluru.
- The objective of Citizen's Charter 2017 is to:
  - Ensuring transparency in executing the work executed on behalf of EPFO and ensuring accountability.
  - Providing social security coverage to all employees.
  - Executing policies for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- This will improve service delivery system and grievance redressal system.
- Through this citizen charter, the goods and services will be made available to all stakeholders in a timely manner.
- This will also reduce the time limit which is currently 30 days.
- It is notable that the deadline for claim settlement is 10 days and the time limit in respect of Grievance Management is 15 days.
- The purpose of introducing the e-courts management system of EPFO is to ensure a transparent and electronic case management system that will meet the expectations of all stakeholders (employers, employees, petitioners).
- Under this system, the court process of EPF and MP Act 1952 and EPFT will be completed through digital medium.
- On the registered mobile number of the petitioners, automatic messages will be sent in relation to the latest status of their immediate matters, which will ensure easy access to their tribunals.
- Through this, stakeholders can get fresh knowledge of various matters.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60986>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161829>

## ESCAP survey on India's growth

**Question: According to 'the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017' India's GDP for 2017 is forecasted at...**

(a) 7.1 (b) 7.5 (c) 7.9 (d) 8.0

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 01, 2017, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its flagship report 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017' forecasted that India is projected to be stable at 7.1 per cent in 2017 before edging up to 7.5 per cent in 2018.



- Inflation is projected to reach 5.3-5.5 per cent in 2017 and 2018, which is somewhat above the official target of 4.5-5 per cent.
- The report noted that a key downside risk for India was heightened financial sector risks related to the concentration of bad loans in public sector banks.
- Launching the survey in Bangkok, ESCAP Executive Secretary Shamshad Akhtar emphasised that better governance for effective mobilisation and use of fiscal resources is critical to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-to-clock-71-gdp-this-year-75-in-2018-un/article9676418.ece>

## Promulgation of Uttar Pradesh District Mineral Foundation Trust Rule 2017

**Question: Uttar Pradesh cabinet recently approved the promulgation of the Uttar Pradesh District Mineral Foundation Trust Regulation, 2017. What percentage of District Mineral Foundation's fund would be spent on high priority fields under the prime minister's mineral sector welfare scheme?**

(a) 45 percent (b) 55 percent (c) 60 percent (d) 65 percent

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 2, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved the promulgation of the Uttar Pradesh District Mineral Foundation Trust Regulation, 2017 for the District Mineral Foundation Trust established in the districts for the development of people and areas affected in the process of mining.
- Under this Regulation, 60 percent of the District Mineral Foundation's fund will be spent on the high priority fields under the Prime Minister's Mineral Sector Welfare Scheme.
- Drinking water supply, environmental protection and pollution control measures, health care, education, women and child welfare, sanitation and skill development are included in high priority fields.
- Apart from this, 40 percent funds will be spent on other priority fields such as physical protection, irrigation etc.
- The amount deposited by the lease holder in the District Mineral Fund will be in addition to the royalty and will not exceed one third of the royalties.
- Funds from trust fund will be deposited in the commercial nationalized bank.
- The transaction of the amount shall be governed by the joint signature of the member nominated by the concerned Mining Officer and the Management Committee.
- It is important to note that the District Mineral Foundation was established on April 25th, 2017.



**Reference:**

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=191](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=191)

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/71125/hi>

## Third Party Audit Report on Station Cleanliness

**Question: According to Third Party Audit Report released by Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu on Station Cleanliness , which station of the country is the Cleanest Station in A-1, category?**

(a) Beas (b) Secunderabad (c) Vijayawada (d) Visakhapatnam

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 17, 2017, union minister of railways, Suresh Prabhu released Third Party Audit Report on Station Cleanliness and Inaugurated Swachh Rail Portal.
- According to this report, Vishakhapatnam Railway Station of Andhra Pradesh is the Cleanest Station out of 75 Stations in A-1, category.
- Other Clean Railway Stations in the A-1 category are respectively Secunderabad, Telangana , Jammu Tawi, Jammu Kashmir, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, Anand Vihar Terminal, Delhi and Lucknow,
- Beas in Punjab is the Cleanest Station out of 332 stations in A category Stations.
- Other clean railway stations in the A category of the country are Khammam, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra, Durgapur, Mancheri, and Badnera.
- South East Central is the Cleanest Railway Zone out of 16 railway zones.
- South East Central zone is followed by Eastern Coastal Railway Zone, Central Railway Zone, South Central Railway Zone, Western Railway Zone and South Western Railway Zone respectively.
- 407 major stations have been given rankings based on the survey on the cleanliness of stations in this Report.
- Minister of Railways launched a “SWACHH RAIL PORTAL” to showcase rankings of stations and trains, methodology adopted for rankings and stations/trains specific dashboards. This web portal is <http://www.railswachh.in>
- On this occasion, the Union Railway Minister dedicated the “ a clean rail portal “and station / train special dashboard to the country.
- It is important to note that Indian Railways is the third largest rail network with 66,000 route kilometer stretch covering more than 8000 stations.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161888>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=61005>

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Visit to Sri Lanka

**Question: Who was the chief guest at the 14th International Vesak Day celebration hosted by Sri Lanka?**

(a) Narendra Modi (b) Bidya Devi Bhandari (b) Maithripala Sirisena  
(c) Ranil Wickremesinghe

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on visit to Sri Lanka on May 11-12, 2017, on the invitation of Sri Lankan President





Maithripala Sirisena.

- This is the second visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Sri Lanka. Earlier, he visited Sri Lanka in March 2015.
- During this visit, Narendra Modi participated as the chief guest at the 14th International Vesak Day celebrations.
- This is the first occasion when Sri Lanka is hosting the International Vesak Day.
- Prime Minister also went at the well-known Ganga-Ramaiyya Temple in Colombo to participate in a lamp lighting ceremony.
- During this visit, he inaugurated a 150 bed multi-specialty hospital (being built with the assistance of Government of India) at Dickoya.
- Sri Lanka has long been a priority destination for direct investment from India.
- Sri Lanka is India's largest trade partner in South Asia.
- India in turn is Sri Lanka's largest trade partner globally.
- Trade between the two countries grew rapidly after the entry into force of the India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement in March 2000.
- According to Sri Lankan Customs data, the bilateral trade amounted to US \$ 4.7 billion in 2015.
- During 2015 India's exports to Sri Lanka amounted to US \$ 4.1 billion while India's imports from Sri Lanka amounted to US \$ 645 million.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?28455/Transcript+of+Media+Briefing+on+PMs+upcoming+visit+to+Sri+Lanka>

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest river Bridge

**Question: Which of the following is India's longest River Bridge?**

- (a) Dhola-Sadiya Bridge (b) Mahatma Gandhi Setu  
(c) Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link (d) Vikramsila Setu

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact:**

- On May 26, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge – the 9.15 km long Dhola-Sadiya Bridge in Assam.
- The bridge has been named after iconic singer Bhupen Hazarika.
- The bridge is built across the Lohit river, which is a tributary of the Brahmaputra. It will connect Assam and eastern Arunachal Pradesh.
- The total length of the project, including the approach roads on each side, is 28.50 km.
- It connects Sadia town in Assam's Tinsukia district with Dhola village in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The bridge will reduce the travel time between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh from six hours to just one hour as the distance will shrink by 165 km.



- The construction of the Dhola-Sadiya Bridge began in 2011 by the Ministry of Road Transport along with Navayuga Engineering Company Ltd., under the public-private-partnership agreement with total expenditure of 2056 Crore.
- The bridge, which has a three-lane carriage way, will also cater to the strategic requirements of the country in the border areas of Arunachal Pradesh
- It is notable that Dhola-Sadiya Bridge is now the longest bridge of the country. Mahatma Gandhi Setu with total length of 5750 meters has become the second longest and Bandra-Worli sea link in Mumbai officially known as Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link is the third longest bridge with total length of 5575 meters.

**Reference:**

[http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/dhola-sadiya-bridge-10-things-to-know/article18582536.ece?utm\\_source=pushnotifications&utm\\_campaign=pushnotifications](http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/dhola-sadiya-bridge-10-things-to-know/article18582536.ece?utm_source=pushnotifications&utm_campaign=pushnotifications)  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162149>

## Open defecation, dumping of waste on Yamuna floodplains banned

**Question: Which of the following has banned open defecation and dumping of waste on the floodplains of the Yamuna river?**

- (a) National Green Tribunal (b) Delhi High court  
 (c) Supreme Court (d) Allahabad High court

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- The National Green Tribunal banned open defecation and dumping of waste on the floodplains of the Yamuna River on May 19, 2017.
- The directions came as the NGT was hearing a plea on the monitoring of the implementation of the 'Maili se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project 2017'.
- The tribunal announced an environment compensation of Rs. 5,000 for those violating the order.
- A Bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar also constituted a committee headed by the Delhi Jal Board CEO to oversee the execution of work pertaining to the cleaning of the river and asked it to submit reports at regular intervals.
- The Green Panel noted that almost 67% of the pollution reaching the Yamuna would be treated by the two sewage treatment plants (STP) located at the Delhi Gate and Najafgarh under Phase 1 of the 'Maili se Nirmal Yamuna Revitalisation Project 2017'.
- The tribunal was informed that a total of 14 STPs are to be constructed to clean wastewater. Of these, seven are to be built by the Delhi Jal Board with its own funds.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/ngt-bans-open-defecation-waste-dumping-on-yamuna-floodplains/article18505049.ece>



## Integrated Bio-Solar-Wind Micro grid Centre and Centre for Water and Environment Research

**Question: Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology (IEST), Shibpur is situated in ...**

- (a) Shibpur, West Bengal (b) Pune, Maharashtra  
(c) Ranchi, Jharkhand (d) Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 19, 2017, the President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated a Bio-Solar-Wind Micro grid Centre and Centre for Water and Environment Research at Indian Institute of Engineering Science & Technology (IEST), Shibpur, West Bengal.
- IEST is a historic institution and amongst the first few higher learning centres to be established in the country.
- Since its existence, this premier institution has been imparting high quality education in the field of civil and mechanical engineering.
- Integrated Bio-Solar-Wind Micro-grid centre and Centre for Water and Environment Research are crucial from the perspective of socio-economic development.
- Since resource sustainability and environmental protection have become pressing global issues, centres such as these are the need of the hour.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161964>

## Cabinet approved Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program

**Question: The Maternity Benefit Program was extended to all districts of the country on**

- (a) 1st January 2017. (b) 26th January, 2017.  
(c) 15th August, 2016. (d) 1st July, 2016.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 17, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave ex-post facto approval to Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program which now has been extended to all districts of the country w.e.f. 01.01.2017.
- The Prime Minister in his address to the nation on 31.12.2016 had announced Pan-India implementation of Maternity Benefit Program.
- The Maternity Benefit Program will provide compensation for the wage loss in terms of cash incentives so that the women can take adequate rest before and after delivery and not be deprived of proper nutrition.
- All eligible Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding those who are in regular employment with the Central Government or State Government or Public Sector Undertakings will receive benefit of Rs.5000/- in three installments for the birth of the first live child by Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- First installment will be given on early registration of pregnancy, second installment on at least one antenatal check-up (after 6 months of pregnancy) and third installment when



child birth is registered and child has received first cycle of BCG, OPV, DPT and Hepatitis-B or its equivalent/substitute.

- The government aims to ensure that on an average a woman gets Rs. 6000 for adequate support and health care during pregnancy and at the time of delivery
- The conditional cash transfer scheme would be in DBT mode.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161857>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/good-governance/centre/pan-india-implementation-of-maternity-benefit-program/articleshow/58716605.cms>

## Cabinet approved amendment to the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971

**Question: What is the time line for evacuating the government residence under the proposed amendment to Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971?**

(a) 30 days (b) 90 days (c) 45 days (d) 3 days

**Ans: (d)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 17, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for amendment in Section 2 and Section 3 of the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1971 (PPE Act, 1971).
- The Amendment will enable the Estate officer to apply summary proceedings for evicting unauthorised occupants from residential accommodations allotted for a fixed tenure.
- Estate Officer can make such inquiry as he deems expedient in the circumstances of the case and thus do not have to follow the elaborate procedures prescribed as per sections 4, 5 and 7 of the Act.
- Estate Officers can even make an order for the eviction of such persons forthwith following the procedure proposed in the new section.
- If such persons refuse or fail to comply with the said order of eviction, Estate Officer may use force to evict them.
- The changes also seek to debar such occupants to move any court below the high court with their appeals for overstay.
- Currently, it takes around a month to issue the vacation orders after issuing notices and hearing out the occupants.
- Once the vacation order is issued, another up to 30 days are given to the occupants for leaving the premises.
- In between, the occupants move the courts, especially the lower courts, to get a stay order. With the amendments, the process will end in three days.



- The amendment will thus facilitate smooth and speedy eviction of unauthorised occupants from government residences.
- The Government of India has to evict unauthorized occupants from Government accommodations under the provisions of PPE Act, 1971. However, the eviction proceedings take unusually long time, thereby reducing the availability of govt. accommodations to new incumbents.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161853>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cabinet-nod-to-changes-in-law-to-stop-overstay-of-mps-babus/1/956448.html>

## Narmada Sewa Mission

**Question: The River Narmada originates in**

- (a) Raisen district (b) Rajgarh district (c) Vidisha district  
(d) Anuppur district

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Narmada Sewa Mission for the conservation of Narmada River at Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.
- He also addressed a large gathering at the conclusion of “Namaami Narmade – Narmada Seva Yatra.”
- The yatra was launched on December 11, 2016 and concluded on May 15, 2017 encouraging huge public participation and awareness for river conservation.
- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan had also launched a campaign “Namami Devi Narmade Sewa Yatra” on December 11, 2016.
- The source of the Narmada is a small reservoir, known as the Narmada Kund, located at Amarkantak on the Amarkantak Plateau in the Anuppur District, Shahdol zone of eastern Madhya Pradesh.
- The Narmada River is also known as Rewa. Narmada is the fifth longest river in the Indian subcontinent. It is the third longest river that flows entirely within India, after the Godavari, and the Krishna.
- It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India and flows westwards over a length of 1,312 km (815.2 mi) before draining through the Gulf of Khambhat into the Arabian Sea.
- It is also known as “Life Line of Madhya Pradesh” for its huge contribution to the state of Madhya Pradesh.



**Reference:**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-to-launch-river-conservation-project-in-madhya-pradesh-to-ensure-pollution-free-narmada/story-tnqNCAT73wSKd6TjpGTmQK.html>

<http://www.namamidevinarmade.mp.gov.in/english/Default.aspx>



## National Contact Centre

**Question: National Contact Centre has been recently launched by ...**

- (a) Election Commission of India (b) The Supreme Court of India  
(c) Ministry of Law and Justice (d) None of the above.

**Ans:(a)**

- On May 11, 2017, the Election Commission of India launched National Contact Centre with a toll-free No. 1800111950.
- National Contact Centre provides telephonic service to citizen on issues related to election. Citizen from any part of the country can call on the toll-free in English or Hindi with any query or complaint at any time of the day.
- Callers can also enquire on subjects such as elections, voting dates, EPIC, electoral roll, online registration etc.
- One can lodge a complaint also by simply dialing in to the toll free no.
- Executives of the centre can make outbound calls for educating the electors and spreading voter awareness.
- The National Contact Centre is operated on a National Grievance Redressal System Software. This software is a single window platform to manage complaints and feedback received through calls, emails, sms and website access in an integrated and time-bound manner.
- Each state and UT will also soon setup dedicated State Contact Centre (SCC) and District Contact Centre (DCC) to ensure seamless flow of information across the contact centers for handling issues/ query from citizens.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161722>

<http://www.uniindia.com/ec-launches-national-contact-centre/india/news/868106.html>

## Madhya Pradesh

**Question: Recently Madhya Pradesh government gave the status of living entity to which of the following river?**

- (a) Shipra River (b) Narmada River (c) Tapti River (d) Tawa River

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017 Madhya Pradesh government accorded the status of living entity to Narmada River.
- A resolution to this effect was passed by the state assembly during its special one day session on May 03, 2017.
- This would ensure conservation of aquatic bio-diversity linked with the purity and incessant flow of Narmada River.
- The Narmada, which originates at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh, is the fifth largest river in Indian sub-continent.



- The river is known as “the Life Line of Madhya Pradesh” for its huge contribution to the state in many ways.
- It forms the traditional boundary between North India and South India and flows westwards over a stretch of 1,312 km before draining through the Gulf of Khambhat into the Arabian Sea.
- Narmada Waterfall at Bedaghat near Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh is one of the famous waterfalls in India.

**Reference:**

<https://twitter.com/CMMadhyaPradesh/status/859465367051132929>

<http://zeenews.india.com/madhya-pradesh/madhya-pradesh-passes-resolution-granting-living-entity-status-to-narmada-2001988.html>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rainath-calls-for-living-entity-status-for-narmada-river-117042401257\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rainath-calls-for-living-entity-status-for-narmada-river-117042401257_1.html)

## Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra

**Question: Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra will be set up at which of the following place?**

(a) Porbandar (b) Rajghat (c) Gandhinagar (d) Dandi

**Ans. (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 3 May 2017 Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism announced to set up “Rashtriya Swachhata Kendra” at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), Rajghat.
- It will be set up by “Swachh Bharat Mission” Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- It may be recalled that Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched on 2nd October, 2014.
- Till date more than 4 crore individual household latrines have been built and one lakh, 94,000 villages and 135 districts have become Open Defecation Free, ODF.
- Apart from Sikkim, Kerala and Himachal Pradesh which are ODF States, 6 to 7 more States will soon declare them ODF as the work is going on a rapid scale.
- The total budget for Swachh Bharat Mission is now Rs 19,300 crore with a Central share of Rs 14,000 crore and Rs 5,300 crore is the budgetary provision declared by all government departments.
- To create awareness on “Swachhata”, Ministry of Culture has developed “e-guide (Audio-Visual)” App to create awareness for the tourists visiting National Museum.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161471>

<https://twitter.com/i/web/status/859720814807076865>

## PM releases Commemorative Stamp on Birth Anniversary of Sri Ramanujacharya

**Question:** Recently PM has released a stamp on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the great social reformer and Saint Shri

**Ramanujacharya. This was his-**

- (a) 1050th birth anniversary (b) 500th birth anniversary  
(c) 1000th birth anniversary (d) 1500th birth anniversary

**Ans. (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1 May 2017 Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a stamp on the occasion of the one thousandth birth anniversary of the great social reformer and Saint Shri Ramanujacharya.
- The central message of Saint Shri Ramanujacharya's life was inclusive society, religion and philosophy.
- He was born in 1017 BC in a Tamil Brahmin family in the village of Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu.
- Shri Bhashya, Vedarthasangraha and the Bhagavad Gita Bhashya are some of his famous writings.

**Reference:**

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-address-at-the-release-of-commemorative-stamp-on-1000th-birth-anniversary-of-sri-ramanujacharya/](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-the-release-of-commemorative-stamp-on-1000th-birth-anniversary-of-sri-ramanujacharya/)

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-releases-stamp-on-1000th-birth-anniversary-of-sri-ramanujacharya/649304/>



## Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia to India

**Question:** From March 30 to April 4, 2017 Malaysia's Prime Minister was on state visit to India. The Prime Minister of Malaysia is-

- (A) Mohammed Abdul Razak (B) Rosmah Mansoor  
(C) Mohammad Najeeb Bin Tun Abdul Razak  
(D) Mohamed Nasheed

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- From March 30 to April 4, 2017, Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mohammad Najeeb Bin Tun Abdul Razak and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, were on state visit to India.
- This is his third visit to India as Prime Minister.
- This visit is in reference to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Malaysia.
- Prime Minister Najib's delegation included 10 cabinet ministers in addition to senior officials.
- Prime Minister Najib was formally welcomed at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 1, 2017.



- Later, he went to Rajghat and paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.
- During this visit, he met President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Hamid Ansari.
- Delegation level bilateral talks were held on April 1, 2017 at Hyderabad House, New Delhi, between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Najib.
- **After the talks, the following seven MoU agreements were signed in different important areas between the two countries-**
  1. Air Service Agreement between the two countries
  2. Agreement on cooperation in proposed development of urea and ammonia manufacturing plant in Malaysia and agreement on export of additional surplus urea from Malaysia to India
  3. Memorandum of cooperation in the field of sports.
  4. Memorandum of understanding between Malaysian Human Resource Fund (HRDF) Pembangunan Sambar Manusia Berhad (PSMB) and EDII for cooperation in training.
  5. Memorandum of Understanding between Association for Indian University (AIU) India and Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) Malaysia for the Interpersonal Identity of Educational Qualifications.
  6. Memorandum of Understanding between Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and Chemical Technology Institute (ICT) India
  7. Memorandum of understanding between the MIGHT technology Malaysia and the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board on the implementation of fourth generation technology park in Andhra Pradesh.
- There is a close and friendly relationship between India and Malaysia and peak-level meetings are held at regular level.
- India established diplomatic relations with the Malayan Confederation (the predecessor state of Malaysia) in the year 1957.
- Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had officially visited Malaysia on November 23, 2015.
- About 2.9 million or more people in Malaysia are of Indian origin, it is the third largest Indian Diaspora in the world, most of which are Tamil.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-info.htm?1/952/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Malaysia+to+India+30+March++04+April+2017>

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### The Global Game Changers List 2017

**Question: Who was on top of 'The Global Game Changers List 2017' released by Forbes on May 16, 2017?**

- (a) Mark Zuckerberg (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Anil Ambani  
(d) Azim progeny

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 16, 2017, the 'Global Game Changers List-2017' was released by the famous American magazine Forbes.
- In the second annual list of the magazine 25 adventurers have been included.
- Those who have brought changes in the lives of millions of people around the world through their enterprises.
- Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited, has been named in the list for bringing Internet within the reach of the common people in India.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbespr/2017/05/16/forbes-launches-2017-global-game-changers-list/#7789128453c5>

<https://www.forbes.com/pictures/5915da2ba7ea434078d3efdb/2017-global-game-changers/#60e9d71b3f6a>

## Japanese cabinet approved Bill allowing the king to step down

**Question: The Japanese Cabinet recently sanctioned the bill allowing King to step down.**

**Currently the King of Japan is-**

- (a) Yoshihito (b) Akihito (c) Naruhito (d) Maruhito

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 19, 2017, the Cabinet of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe approved the bill allowing the king to step down.
- Under which the elderly King Akihito of Japan could leave the throne.
- This would be the first case of abandonment by any king of Japan in the past two centuries.
- This bill will be sent to Japan Parliament 'Diet' for final approval.
- Significantly, there is no provision for quitting the throne in the existing Japanese law.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/05/japan-cabinet-approves-emperor-kihito-abdication-bill-170519033810354.html>

## Manchester Terrorist Attack

**Question: Recently, during whose pop concert suicide bombing was carried out in Manchester City, UK?**

- (a) Justin Bieber (b) Ariana Grande (c) Madonna (d) Lady Gaga

**Ans: (b)**





**Related facts:-**

- On May 22, 2017, a suicide attack was carried out during the American singer Ariana Grand's pop concert at Manchester Arena in Manchester City, UK.
- In this suicide attack, 22 people lost their lives and about 59 were injured.
- The blast took place around 10.30 pm (Indian time at 3 am).
- This is the most horrific terrorist incident since the year 2005 in the UK.
- Earlier in July 2005, more than 50 people were killed in the serial bomb blasts in London.
- Manchester Arena is the largest indoor stadium in the city with a capacity of 18 to 21 thousand.
- The Islamic State (IS) has taken responsibility for this suicide terror attack.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-40010124>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/22/manchester-arena-evacuated-reports-gunshots-explosion/>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2017/05/23/manchester-terror-attack-everything-know-far/>

## Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Question- Where was the meeting of 'Global Forum for Reducing Disaster Risk' (GPDRR) held?**

- (a) New York, US (b) Cancun, Mexico (c) Antalya, Turkey  
(d) Sendai, Japan

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- During 22-26 May, 2017, the meeting of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in Cancun Mexico.
- GPDRR is a platform that reviews progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).
- This framework was passed in the third United Nations Global Disaster Risk Mitigation Conference held in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.
- This was the first time after 2015, when the global leaders and the parties to disaster reduction risks will have an opportunity to review the global progress in the implementation of SFDRR in collaboration with the international community.
- More than 5,000 delegates including Presidents, Ministers, Chief Executive Officers, Disaster Specialists and volunteers representatives from areas such as Science and Technology and educationists participated in the event.
- Indian delegation was led by Union Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijju.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/about>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161983>



## Arctic Energy Summit 2017

**Question: Where will the Arctic Energy Summit 2017 be organized?**

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

**Ans : (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- The 4th biennial Arctic Energy Summit 2017 will be hosted by Finland from 18-20 September 2017.
- Finland will chair the Arctic Council from 2017 to 2019.
- The AES is a multi-disciplinary event expected to draw several hundred industry officials, scientists, academics, policy makers, energy professionals and community leaders together to collaborate and share leading approaches on Arctic energy issues. The 2017 Summit will address energy in the Arctic as it relates to:
  - Small and off-grid community energy solutions
  - Oil and gas development
  - Renewable energy
  - Regulation and Financing
  - Transportation and transmission
- The conference will be organized jointly by the Institute of North and the Ministry of Economic and Employment, Finland.

**Related Links:-**

[http://arcticenergysummit.com/story/Finland\\_to\\_Host\\_2017\\_Arctic\\_Energy\\_Summit](http://arcticenergysummit.com/story/Finland_to_Host_2017_Arctic_Energy_Summit)

<https://www.institutenorth.org/programs/arctic-advocacy-infrastructure/energy/arctic-energy-summit/>

## India ranks 24th in International Tourist Arrivals

**Question: What is India's ranking in Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2017 released by the World Economic Forum?**

(a) 40<sup>th</sup> (b) 52<sup>nd</sup> (c) 41<sup>st</sup> (d) 50<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (a)**

- As per UNWTO assessment for March 2017, Rank of India in International Tourist Arrivals in both 2014 and 2015 is 24 as against the previous rank of 41 and 40 in the year 2014 and 2015, respectively.
- As per the UNWTO definition, International Tourist Arrivals (ITA) comprises two components namely Foreign Tourist Arrivals and Arrivals of Non-Resident Nationals.
- The UNWTO in its barometer ranks countries in terms of their ITAs. So far only the figures of FTAs were compiled in India. However, now India has started compiling the data arrivals of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), also.
- The number of NRI arrivals during 2014 and 2015 were 5.43 million and 5.26 million, respectively.
- Accordingly, the numbers of ITAs in India during 2014 and 2015 were 13.11 million and 13.28 million, respectively.
- Due to this inclusion, UNWTO has acknowledged India's improved rank.
- Earlier India's rank in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI), 2017 had also shown a 12 places jump from 52nd in 2015 to 40th in 2016. Rank of India in TTCI Report of 2017 was 40th as compared to 52nd in 2015, 65th in 2013 and 68th in 2011.



- It is notable that UNWTO and TTCI rankings are based on different parameters. UNWTO gives ranking in terms of numbers of ITAs whereas TTCI provides rank on 14 pillars organized into four sub-indices of 'Enabling Environment', 'Travel & Trade Policy and Enabling Conditions', 'Infrastructure' and 'Natural and Cultural Resources'.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161959>

## India elected to head UN-Habitat

**Question: The twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat was held from 8 – 12 May 2017, at the United Nations Offices in which of the following country?**

- (a) Nairobi, Kenya (b) New Delhi, India (c) Jakarta, Indonesia  
(d) None of the above

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 08, 2017, India was unanimously elected as the President of the UN-Habitat after 10 years. UN-Habitat reports to the United Nations General Assembly.
- UN-Habitat is an organ of the United Nations' Organisation (UNO) that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements across the world.
- This is the third time that India has been elected to lead this important UN programme after 2007 and 1988.
- The twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat was held from 8 – 12 May 2017, at the United Nations Offices in Nairobi, Kenya.
- This session of the Governing Council followed the adoption of the New Urban Agenda during the Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.
- The theme of the 26th Meeting of the Governing Council was "Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda".



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161631>

<https://unhabitat.org/gc26/>

## Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017

**Question: What is India's GDP forecast for 2017, as per latest UN report 'the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017'?**

- (a) 7.1% (b) 7.6% (c) 7.5% (d) 7.3%

**Ans(a)**

**Related facts:**



- On May 01, 2017, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) released its annual flagship report 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017'.
- The report projects India's economic growth to be stable at 7.1 per cent in 2017 before edging up to 7.5 per cent in 2018.
- The rate of India's economic growth moderated to 7.1 per cent in 2016 from 7.6 per cent in 2015.
- Inflation is projected to reach 5.3-5.5 per cent in 2017 and 2018, which is somewhat above the official target of 4.5-5 per cent.
- The report, however, noted that a key downside risk for India was heightened financial sector risks related to the concentration of bad loans in public sector banks.
- The gross non-performing assets ratio in public sector banks reached almost 12 per cent in 2016.
- The report highlights that despite a broadly positive economic outlook for 2017, Asia-Pacific economies are vulnerable to rising global uncertainty and trade protectionism.
- The region's developing economies are projected to grow at 5 per cent and 5.1 per cent in 2017 and 2018 up from 4.9 per cent 2016.
- China's growth rate is projected at 6.5 per cent in 2017 against 6.7 per cent in 2016.

**Reference:**

<http://www.unescap.org/sites/default/files/INDIA.pdf>

<http://www.unescap.org/news/effective-governance-will-sustain-asia-pacific-economic-growth-and-improve-its-quality-says-un>

<http://www.unescap.org/publications/economic-and-social-survey-asia-and-pacific-2017>

## Tourist visas to Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War veterans

**Question: Recently, India decided to grant tourist visas to Bangladesh's 1971 Liberation War veterans. Duration of this visa will be of –**

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

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 26, 2017, India decided to grant tourist visas to Bangladesh's freedom fighters 1971.
- The duration of this visa will be 5 years.
- Grant of visa has been made in recognition of the special connection between Bangladesh Muktiyodhas (freedom fighters) and India.
- Presently, Bangladesh nationals above the age of 65 years are eligible for long-term multiple entry tourist visas of 5 years.
- "Five year multiple entry Tourist visas" for freedom fighters is announced during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to India.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bangladeshi-1971-veterans-to-get-5-year-india-visa-117042600867\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bangladeshi-1971-veterans-to-get-5-year-india-visa-117042600867_1.html)

## ECONOMICS

### Cabinet approval for raising Bonds of Rs. 2360 crore for Renewable Energy

**Question: What is energy efficiency?**

- (a) Reduction in units of energy consumed per unit of output by a device or equipment by changing technology deployed.
- (b) Suggesting new methods for using energy.
- (c) Using the total energy output
- (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 24, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for raising of Bonds of Rs. 2360 crore for Renewable Energy.
- The Bonds will be raised by the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) during the 2017-18.
- These funds will be used by MNRE in the approved programmes/schemes for solar park, green energy corridor, wind projects, CPSU and defense solar projects, viability gap funding for solar projects, roof-top solar and investment in corporations and autonomous bodies etc.
- The investment would boost infrastructure in renewable sector and facilitate achievement of ambitious targets for the renewable energy sector.
- The Government had declared additional finance mobilization of Rs. 31,300 crore bonds through NHAI, PFC, REC, IREDA and IWAI in the budget for FYT 2016-17.
- As a part of this, the Government had allocated Rs. 4000 crore to IREDA to raise "GOI fully serviced taxable Bonds" on behalf of the MNRE during the FY 2016-17.
- Out of this allocation, IREDA had raised Rs. 1640 crore as per the requirement of MNRE. The MNRE subsequently approached the Cabinet, to approve raising the balance Rs. 2360 crore in the year 2016-17.
- It is notable that Energy Efficiency is reduction in energy consumption (units of energy consumed per unit of output) of a device or equipment by changing the technology deployed. For example, if we change the incandescent lamp by a Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL), it will result in same illumination level with less power consumption. Thus, this is a case of improving energy efficiency.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162100>

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/47292>

### LIC launches two Aadhaar based policies

**Question: Recently, LIC introduced an endowment assurance plan 'Aadhaar Stambh' for individuals having Aadhaar card. The plan 'Aadhaar Stambh' is designed for-**

- (a) For women (b) For men (c) For children
- (d) For both men and women



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

### Answer- (b)

#### Related facts:

- On April 24, 2017, LIC introduced two endowment assurance plans for individuals having Aadhaar card.
- These two plans are 'Aadhaar Shila' and 'Aadhaar Stambh'.
- Plan 'Aadhaar Shila' is a plan exclusively designed for women.
- Scheme Aadhaar Stambh is meant for men.
- Absolute amount assured on death under Aadhaar Stambh is 100 per cent whereas for Aadhaar Shila it is 110 per cent of basic sum assured.
- **Both the plans have the following similarities: –**
- Age eligibility is 8-55 years.
- The sum assured under the plans shall not be less than Rs. 75,000 and shall not exceed to 3 lakhs.
- The maximum age of maturity is 70 years and the terms available are from 10 to 20 years.
- Both plans are available to standard healthy lives without any medical examination.

#### Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/lic-launches-two-aadhaar-based-policies-4626343/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/lic-launches-two-aadhaar-based-policies/1/936876.html>

<http://www.jagran.com/uttarakhand/nainital-15915382.html>

## SCIENTIFIC

### DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

#### Successful test of missile attack from Tejas

**Question: Which missile was successfully tested from the indigenously built small combat plane 'Tejas' recently?**

- (a) Akash (b) Dhanush (c) Trishul  
(d) Derby air-to-air Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile

**Ans: (d)**

#### Related facts:-

- On May 12, 2017, a successful test of the Derby, air-to-air Beyond Visual Range (BVR) missile was conducted from the indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.
- It was tested from the Interim Test Range (IIR), Chandipur.
- The purpose of this test was to assess the integration and performance of the Derby missile system with the Avionics, Fire control radars, launchers and missile weapon systems for the aircraft on Tejas.
- It is known that 'Tejas' is an indigenously built fighter jet with many types of roles.
- It is a single seat and a single jet engine aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- It has been developed under a program called 'Light Combat Aircraft' (LCA) which began in the 1980s.
- It will replace the old MiG-21 aircraft of the Indian Air Force.





### Related Links:-

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/tejas-successfully-test-fires-derby-air-to-air-beyond-visual-range-missile/1/952546.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161752>

<http://aajtak.intoday.in/story/tejas-successful-testing-beyond-visual-range-missile-bvr-1-928950.html>

## Simbex-17

**Question: SIMBEX-17 is being organized from 18th to 24th May, 2017 between navies of Singapore and India in...**

- (a) Indian Ocean (b) South China Sea (c) Bay of Bengal  
(d) Arab Sea

**Ans: (b)**

### Related Fact :

- Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises, 'SIMBEX-17', is being organized in the South China Sea from 18th to 24th May, 2017.
- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik, Sahyadri, Jyoti and Kamorta and one P8-I Maritime Patrol and Anti-Submarine Warfare Aircraft are participating in the exercise. Singapore Navy is represented by RSN Ships Supreme, Formidable and Victory and Maritime Patrol Aircraft Fokker F50 in addition to the RSAF F-16 aircraft.
- The scope of the current exercise includes wide-ranging professional interactions during the Harbor Phase scheduled from 18 May to 20 May and a diverse range of operational activities at sea during the Sea Phase to be held from 21 May to 24 May.
- Bilateral cooperation between Singapore and India was first formalized when RSN ships began training with the Indian Navy in 1994.
- This year's edition of SIMBEX-17 being held in the South China Sea is the 24th in the series and is aimed to increase interoperability between the RSN and IN as well as develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- The two navies share a long standing relationship with regular professional interactions that include exchange programs, staff talks and training courses.



### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161920>

<http://www.naval-technology.com/news/newsindian-and-singapore-navies-begin-maritime-bilateral-exercise-2017-5818835>

## Spyder surface-to-air missile test fired

**Question: India recently test fired a surface-to-air missile 'Spyder'. What does the word 'spyder' stand for?**

- (a) Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby  
(b) Surface-to-air PANther and DERby  
(c) Surface-to-air PYthon and SPyder  
(d) None of the above



**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 11, 2017, India successfully test fired a surface-to-air missile 'Spyder' from a test range in Odisha as part of missile launch practice of a series of tests of the short-range quick reaction.
- Spyder was test fired from a mobile launcher at launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.
- It targeted a pilot-less target aircraft.
- Spyder (Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby) is an acquired missile system from Israel.
- It is a short-range, quick reaction surface-to-air missile.
- It can be used to neutralise enemy targets up to a distance of 15 km and at height between of 20-to-9,000 metres.
- However, it is shorter than India's indigenously developed surface-to-air 'Akash' missile, which has a 25 km strike range.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/spyder-surface-to-air-missile-test-fired/1/951712.html>  
<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/spyder-surface-to-air-missile-test-fired/story-vQYdhN692MsDKZ3JsDMPXI.html>

## 29th India- Indonesia Co-ordinated Patrol (Corpat)

**Question: The 29th series of Co-ordinated Patrol (Corpat) is scheduled from 09 – 25 May, 17 at Port Blair with which of the following Countries?**

(a) Thailand (b) Malaysia (c) Indonesia (d) Sri Lanka

**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 29th series of India–Indonesia CORPAT is scheduled from 09 – 25 May 17 at Port Blair under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command.
- Its aim is to secure the trade sea route; the Coordinated Patrol also serves to enhance mutual understanding and inter-operability between the two navies.
- The CORPAT also reflects the shared concerns between the two countries for a peaceful Indian Ocean for the benefit of international community.
- Indonesian Navy and the Indian Navy have been carrying out co-ordinated patrolling twice a year since 2002 near the International Maritime Boundary Line to keep this part of the Indian Ocean region safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade.
- The closing ceremony of the CORPAT is scheduled at Belawan, Indonesia from 22 – 25 May 17.
- The Indonesian Naval Ship KRI Sutedi Senoputra has arrived to take part in the 29th series of IND–INDO CORPAT.
- The Indian Navy is represented by INS Utkarsh.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161662>

<https://twitter.com/indiannavy/status/861874338873491457>

## Successful test of Agni-III missile

**Question:-Consider the following statements about Agni-III:-**

1. It is a surface-to-surface missile and its range is more than 3,000 km.
2. It is a two-stage missile and is capable of carrying 1.5 tons of warheads with itself.
3. It has been deployed in the Armed Forces.
4. Its successful test was done by Indian Navy.

**Choose the correct option from the codes given below.**

**Code:**

- (a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 1, 2 and 4 (c) Only 1, 2 and 3  
(d) All of the above

**Ans :-(c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 27, 2017, a successful experimental test was conducted for the nuclear-capable ballistic missile 'Agni-III' from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island (Wheeler Island) of Odisha.
- The indigenously built missile was launched from Launch Pad number-4 of the Integrated Test Range.
- The successful test of the Agni-III missile was carried out under the Technical Supervision of the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) scientists by 'Strategic Force Command' (SFC) of the Indian Army.
- It is surface-to-surface missile; its range is more than 3,000 km.
- The Agni-III missile is equipped with two-tier solid propellant system.
- Its length is 17 meters, diameter is 2 meters, and weighing around 2200 kilograms.
- It is capable of carrying 1.5 ton weighing warhead.
- It is worth mentioning that it has been deployed in the Armed Forces in 2011.
- Last successful test of Agni-III prior to this was conducted on April 16, 2015.

**Related links:-**

<https://odishatv.in/odisha/body-slider/agni-iii-ballistic-missile-successfully-test-fired-from-balasore-209981/>



## SPORTS

### TENNIS

#### Madrid Open 2017

**Question-Winners of the Madrid Open 2017 is –**

- (A) Rafael Nadal (B) Roger Federer (C) Novok Djokovic  
(D) Dominic Thiem

**Ans : (a)**



**Related facts:-**

- From 5 to 14 May 2017, the tennis tournament Madrid Open 2017 was organized in Madrid (Spain).
- Spanish player Rafael Nadal defeated Austria's Dominic Thiem in the final.
- This is Nadal's fifth Madrid Open and 30th Masters-1000 titles.
- With this victory, Nadal has consistently captured the third title.
- Earlier, he also earned the title of Barcelona Open and Monte Carlo Masters.
- Nadal also equaled Novak Djokovic's record by winning the 30th Masters -1000 title.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.madrid-open.com/en/mutua-news/nadal-wins-his-fifth-mutua-madrid-open/>

<http://www.madrid-open.com/en/mutua-news/record-breaking-attendance-at-the-mutua-madrid-open/>

## CRICKET

### IPL Twenty20 tournament

**Question: Who was the winner of recently concluded IPL-10?**

- (A) Kolkata Knight Riders (B) Mumbai Indians  
(C) Rising Pune Supergiant (D) Sunrise Hyderabad

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- Tenth IPL, sponsored by Vivo, was conducted in various cities of India from April 5 to May 21, 2017.
- Mumbai Indians, led by Rohit Sharma, won the tournament for the third time, defeating Rising Pune Supergiant led by Steve Smith (Australia), by 1 run in the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in Hyderabad.
- Kunal Pandya of Mumbai Indians was elected 'Man of the Match' of the final match.



- 'Ben Stokes' (England) of Rising Pune Supergiant was selected as 'Most Valuable Player'.
- **IPL-10: Key facts-**
- Orange Cap (for making the most runs) – David Warner (641 runs), Sunrisers Hyderabad
- Purple Cap (for taking most wickets) – Bhuvneshwar Kumar (26 wickets), Sunrisers Hyderabad
- Fair Play Trophy – Gujarat Lions
- Most individual score- (in an innings) -David Warner (126), Sunrisers Hyderabad; Against Kolkata Knight Riders
- Fastest Fifties – Sunil Narayan (Kolkata Knight Riders), at 15 balls.
- Fastest century – David Warner (Sunrisers Hyderabad), in 43 balls
- Most Sixes – 26, Glenn Maxwell (Kings XI Punjab)
- Most Fours-63, David Warner (Sunrisers Hyderabad)
- Emerging Player-Basil Thampi (Gujarat Lions)
- The 4 players who hit the century in the IPL-10 are David Warner (Sunrisers Hyderabad), Hashim Amla (Kings XI Punjab), Ben Stokes (Rising Pune Supergiant) and Sanju Samson (Delhi Daredevils)

**Related Link:-**

<http://www.iplt20.com/news/108571/match-report-final-rps-vs-mi>

## FOOTBALL

### Hero Federation Cup

**Question- Who was the winner of the recently concluded Hero Federation Cup, 2017?**

(a) Mohan Bagan (b) Aizawl FC (c) Bengaluru FC (d) None of these

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- The 38th edition of the Football Competition Federation Cup, 2017 organised by the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and sponsored by Hero Moto Corp, was completed in May, 2017.
- In the final match played in Cuttack on May 21, 2017, Bengaluru FC defeated Mohun Bagan Football Club by 2-0 and won the title for the second time.

**Related Links: –**

<https://www.the-aiff.com/news-center-details.htm?id=8178>

<https://www.the-aiff.com/news-center-details.htm?id=8179>



# ATHLETICS

## London Marathon

**Question: Who won the men's title of the 37th London Marathon?**

(a) Illud Kipong (b) Mark Kosiu (c) Daniel Vanzaru (d) Michael style

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- 37th London Marathon, sponsored by Virgin Mary concluded on April 23rd, 2017.
- Kenyan Daniel Wanjiru, 24, won the men's race in 2:05:48, with Kenenisa Bekele of Ethiopia second.
- Mary Kateni of Kenya won the women's title while making a world record.
- Katni took 2 hour 17 minute and 01 second to finish the marathon.
- Mary broke the world record of 2 hours 17 minutes and 42 seconds of Paula Radcliffe set by her in the year 2003.



**Reference:**

<http://results-2017.virginmoneylondonmarathon.com/2017/?pid=leaderboard>

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/39683756>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/athletics/2017/04/23/london-marathon-2017-watch-live-race-updates-plus-track-friends/>

# SHORT NOTES

## PERSONALITIES

### WHO's new Director General

**Question: Who was recently elected as the new Director General of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.)?**

(a) Dr. Margaret Chan (b) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus  
(c) Dr. Lin Don (d) Antony Lake

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 23, 2017, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus was appointed the new Director General of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.).
- He was nominated by Ethiopian government.
- He will take charge on July 1, 2017, which will be of 5 years.
- He served as the Foreign Minister of Ethiopia during the year 2012-16 and the Health Minister during 2005-12.





- In this post, he will replace Dr. Margaret Chan, who has been the Director General of WHO since January 1, 2007.
- The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations, which was established on April 7, 1948.
- Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Related links:-**

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2017/director-general-elect/en/>

## S. Ramaswamy

**Question- S. K. Ramaswamy, who passed away recently, was formerly the Chief Minister of**

(a) Tamilnadu (b) Karnataka (c) Puducherry (d) Kerala

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 15, 2017, former Chief Minister of Puducherry S.K. Ramaswamy passed away.
- He became chief minister in 1974 heading the AIADMK-CPI coalition ministry for a brief period.
- He was also the Chief Minister in the AIADMK government in 1977, which lasted in office for a little over one year.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/former-puducherry-chief-minister-ramassamy-passes-away-4656294/>

<http://www.uniindia.com/ex-cm-ramaswamy-passes-away/states/news/871062.html>

## Roger Moore

**Question- Roger Moore, who passed away recently, was a ...**

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

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 23, 2017, famous British actor Roger Moore passed away. He was 89 years old.
- He played the role of British intelligence agent James Bond in seven films of the James Bond series from 1973 to 1985.
- The record of most often playing James Bond is in his name.
- The year 1973's 'Live and Let Die' was the first film in this series.
- While the 1985 'A View to Kill' was the final film of this series.
- In addition, he played an unforgettable role of Simone Templar in television series 'The Saint' between 1962 and 1969.
- In the year 1991, he was made UNICEF's Goodwill Ambassador.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000549/>

## First CEO of the Paytm Bank

**Question- Who has been appointed as the first CEO of the Paytm Payment Bank Ltd.?**

- (a) Renuka Chowdhury (b) Shiksha Sharma  
(c) Renu Satti (d) Renuka Sharma

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 17, 2017, Renu Satti was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Paytm Payment Bank Ltd.
- Reserve Bank of India has approved her name as CEO.
- Paytm Payment Bank Ltd. got license from RBI and it started from May 23, 2017.
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of Paytm Wallet's company One -97 Communications for digital transactions.
- Paytm will transfer the entire business of its wallet to the payment bank.
- Paytm payment Bank can accept deposits up to Rs 1 lakh per account from individuals and small businessmen.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/paytm-to-start-payments-bank-from-may-23-renu-satti-to-be-ceo/1/956269.html>

<http://www.livemint.com/Companies/oqiQhSMwWNIO9hCgKqrCoL/Paytm-to-start-payments-bank-operations-from-23-May.html>

## Chandraswami

**Question- Recently, the famous Tantric Chandraswami passed away. What was his real name?**

- (a) Premchandra (b) Nemichand (c) Devi Chand  
(d) Mahesh Chand

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 23, 2017, the famous Tantric Chandraswami passed away. He was 66 years old.
- His real name was Nemichand Jain. He was born in 1948 and came from Behror in Rajasthan.
- His name is most closely associated with former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Chandrashekhar.
- Chandraswami was accused of several financial irregularities and was ordered by the Supreme Court to pay penalty in several Foreign Exchange Management Act violation cases registered by the Enforcement Directorate.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/godman-chandraswami-passes-away/article18530934.ece>

<http://www.iansatta.com/national/chandraswami-spiritual-leader-and-tantrik-died-at-66-know-how-he-caught-in-sting/330535/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/spiritual-guru-chandraswami-godman-dead/1/961032.html>

## Anshu Jamsenpa

**Question- Mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa, who recently succeeded in climbing Mount Everest for the fifth time, belongs to ...**

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 21, 2017, Anshu Jamsenpa from Arunachal Pradesh became the first woman to climb Mount Everest twice in 5 days. She had returned from the 8,848-metre (29,028-feet) peak on May 16, 2017.
- Along with this, she climbed Mount Everest five times in six years.
- She is the first Indian woman to achieve this achievement.
- Earlier, she had completed the climb on Everest from 12 to 21 May 2011 for two consecutive times and on May 18, 2013 for the third time.



**संबंधित लिंक**

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/arunachal-s-anshu-jamsenpa-is-first-woman-to-scale-mt-everest-twice-in-5-days/story-dZlirF2ljwhJBIBCOFg2sO.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indian-woman-tops-everest-twice-in-week-breaks-record/articleshow/58773763.cms>

## A.K. Viswanathan

**Question: Senior Police Officer AK Viswanathan has taken charge as the Police Commissioner of ...**

(a) Mumbai (b) Delhi (c) Bangalore (d) Greater Chennai

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 15, 2017, senior IPS officer AK Viswanathan took charge as Police Commissioner of Greater Chennai.
- A 1990 batch IPS officer, Mr. Viswanathan succeeded Karan Singh on this post.



**Related Links:-**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/a-k-viswanathan-is-new-chennai-police-commissioner/articleshow/58659176.cms>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/akviswanathan-is-new-chennai-police-commissioner/article18447169.ece>

## Mauno Koivisto

**Question: Mauno Koivisto who passed away recently, was the former President of ...**

(a) Norway (b) Sweden (c) Finland (d) Canada

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Former President of Finland Mauno Koivisto passed away on May 12, 2017, at the age of 93.
- Koivisto served two six-year terms between 1982 and 1994 as Finnish president.



- Apart from this, he also served twice as prime minister of Finland (1968-1970 and 1979-1982).

**Reference:**

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2017/05/12/former-finnish-president-mauno-koivisto-dies-at-3.html>

<http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/finnish-president-mauno-koivisto-dies-93-47379955>

## Anil Madhav Dave

**Question: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Anil Madhav Dave, who passed away recently, was elected to Rajya Sabha from ...**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Uttarakhand

**Ans: (c)**

- On May 18, 2017, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Anil Madhav Dave passed away. He was 60.
- He was elected to Rajya Sabha twice (2009-16, 2016 to present) from Madhya Pradesh.
- He was member of various Committees of Parliament including the Committee on Water Resources and the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. He was also a Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Global Warming and Climate Change.
- As an environmentalist, he worked tirelessly for conservation of Narmada river.
- It is notable that Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan has been given additional charge of Environment Ministry.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161926>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/harsh-varadhan-gets-additional-charge-of-environment-ministry/article9706966.ece>

## Reema Lagoo

**Question: Reema Lagoo, who passed away recently, was a ...**

(a) musician (b) film Actor (c) dancer (d) educationist

**Ans: (b)**

- Veteran actor Reema Lagoo passed away on May 18, 2017. She was 59.
- Her real name, Nayan, was changed to Reema Lagoo post her marriage to actor Vivek Lagoo.
- Her film career span almost four decades in films, television and theatre.
- Shyam Bengal launched her in Hindi films with Kalyug opposite Shashi Kapoor. She then did films like Aakrosh, Nasoor and Rihaai.
- The actor was famous for playing moms in both movies and television. Her most popular movies were Hum Aapke Hain Koun..!, Hum Saath-Saath Hain, Maine Pyar Kiya and Kal



Ho Naa Ho. She also made a name for herself in TV shows like Tu Tu Main Main and Shrimaan Shrimati.

- She won four Filmfare Awards for best supporting actress.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/reema-lagoo-death-films-television-roles/1/956764.html>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/bollywood/reema-lagoo-bollywood-s-favourite-mom-dies-at-59-of-cardiac-arrest/story-VD6fKhUMMD1w0Ev4ibJlqM.html>

## Pooja Kapur

**Question: Senior officer of Indian Foreign Service, Pooja Kapur, has been appointed India's ambassador to which of the following countries?**

(a) Republic of Bulgaria (b) Germany (c) Mongolia (d) South Korea

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 08, 2017, senior IFS officer Ms. Pooja Kapur was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Bulgaria.
- She is Indian Foreign Service officer of 1996 batch and presently holds the office of Joint Secretary at the Ministry of External Affairs.
- She is expected to take up her assignment shortly.
- Ms. Kapur will succeed Rajesh Kumar Sachdeva on this post.



**Reference:**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/press-](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28446/Pooja+Kapur+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Bulgaria)

[releases.htm?dtl/28446/Pooja+Kapur+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Bulgaria](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28446/Pooja+Kapur+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Republic+of+Bulgaria)

## New President of France

**Question: Who among the following has been elected as the new President of France recently?**

(a) Emmanuel Macron (b) Marine Le Pen (c) Nicolas Sarkozy  
(d) Patrick Strzoda

**Ans: (a)**

- Emmanuel Macron took oath as the new President of France on May 14, 2017.
- He is the 25th President of France and was preceded by François Hollande.
- Mr. Macron defeated the National Front's Marine Le Pen, with 66.1% of votes in the run-off poll.
- Emmanuel Macron (39) is the youngest President of France.
- Macron was appointed Deputy Secretary-General in François Hollande's first government in 2012. He has also been a member of the Socialist Party from 2006 to 2009.
- He was appointed Minister of Economy, Industry and Digital Affairs in 2014 in the François Hollande government.
- Mr. Macron founded an independent political movement "En Marche" ("On the Move") in April 2016. En Marche is a centrist political movement.
- Mr. Macron is married to divorcee Brigitte, a chocolate maker heiress.



- During his election campaign, Mr. Macron had promised a substantial reduction in corporation tax to 25pc from its current 33.3pc. , reduction in public spending by €60bn and cut 120,000 public sector jobs. He has also vowed to get tough on unemployment benefits for those who repeatedly turned down job offers.
- He had also proposed a €50bn public investment programme on green energy, training of tradesmen to reduce youth unemployment, transport, public sector administration and justice.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39912104>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/0/emmanuel-macron-running-independent/>

## New Members of the Central Board of Excise and Customs

**Question: Who have been recently appointed as the new members of Central Board of Excise and Customs?**

- (a) R K Mahajan and Mahender Singh (b) Ajit Seth and Kaushal Singh  
(c) Ajeet Kumar Shrivastav and Shabri Bhattshali  
(d) Rajendra Kumar and VN Sarna



**Ans: (a)**

- Senior bureaucrats R K Mahajan and Mahender Singh were appointed as members in the Central Board of Excise and Customs on May 09, 2017.
- Mr. Mahajan is the director general of Central Excise Intelligence and Mr. Singh is the director general (audit).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved their appointment as members in CBEC.
- CBEC, the apex policy-making body for indirect taxes, has only two members — Ananya Ray and S Ramesh — against the sanctioned strength of six.
- With the appointment of Mahajan and Singh, only two posts are left to be filled up.
- Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Vanaja N Sarna is the CBEC's chairperson.
- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) is a part of the Department of Revenue under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It deals with the tasks of formulation of policy concerning levy and collection of Customs & Central Excise duties and Service Tax, prevention of smuggling and administration of matters relating to Customs, Central Excise, Service Tax and Narcotics to the extent under CBEC's purview.
- The Board is the administrative authority for its subordinate organizations, including Custom Houses, Central Excise and Service Tax Commissionerates and the Central Revenues Control Laboratory.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/gst-r-k-mahajan-mahender-singh-appointed-cbec-members-117050900344\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/gst-r-k-mahajan-mahender-singh-appointed-cbec-members-117050900344_1.html)



## Leading wicket-taker in Women's ODIs

**Question: Who among the following is the highest wicket-taker in women's One day International Cricket?**

- (a) Jhulan Goswami (b) Anjum Chopra (c) Mithali Raj  
(d) Amita Sharma

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 09, 2017, former Indian women's cricket captain Jhulan Goswami became the leading wicket-taker (181 wickets) in Women's One-Day International Cricket.
- Her 181st wicket was that of South Africa's Raisibe Ntozakhe in the Women's Quadrangular one-day match at Potchefstroom.
- She broke the world record of Cathryn Fitzpatrick for the most wickets (180 wickets) in 50-over international women's cricket.
- With 271 International wickets (Tests, ODIs and T20I), Goswami is the all-time leading wicket-taker in women's cricket.
- She hails from a middle-class family in Chakdaha, a small town in West Bengal's Nadia district.



**Reference:**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/jhulan-goswami-becomes-the-leading-wicket-taker-in-womens-odis/articleshow/58594182.cms>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/who-is-jhulan-goswami/article18419326.ece>

## Pradip Kumar Amat

**Question: Pradip Kumar Amat has been recently elected as the Speaker of the ...**

- (a) Odisha Assembly. (b) West Bengal Assembly. (c) Karnataka Assembly.  
(d) Assam Assembly.

**Ans: (a)**

- Senior Biju Janata Dal MLA Pradip Kumar Amat was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the Odisha Assembly on May 16, 2017.
- He took the charge of the state legislative Assembly Speaker for the second time.
- Earlier, he was Speaker of the Assembly from May 25, 2009 till May 20, 2014.
- Prior to taking over as Assembly Speaker for the second time, Amat was finance and health minister.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/amat-elected-odisha-assembly-speaker-117051600838\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/amat-elected-odisha-assembly-speaker-117051600838_1.html)

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/odisha-assembly-unanimously-elects-pradip-kumar-amat-as-speaker/articleshow/58701517.cms>

## Venu Rajamony

**Question: Venu Rajamony has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to ...**

- (a) The Kingdom of the Netherlands. (b) The United Kingdom  
(c) Spain (d) Mexico

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 08, 2017, senior IFS officer Venu Rajamony was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of the Netherlands.
- He is Indian Foreign Service officer of 1986 batch.
- He is expected to take up her assignment shortly.
- Mr. Rajamony will succeed J S Mukul on this post.



**Reference:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28445/Venu+Rajamony+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Kingdom+of+the+Netherlands>

## Chris Cornell

**Question: Famous singer Chris Cornell, who died recently, belonged to...**

- (a) USA (b) UK (c) France (d) Germany

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- Famous American musician, singer, and songwriter Chris Cornell died on May 18, 2017. He was 52.
- He was best known as lead vocalist for the bands Soundgarden and Audioslave. He was also known for his numerous solo works.
- He won two Grammy awards in 1995 in Best Metal Performance and Best Hard Rock Performance category.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-39960066>  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/18/arts/music/chris-cornell-dead-soundgarden.html?\\_r=1](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/18/arts/music/chris-cornell-dead-soundgarden.html?_r=1)

## Air Marshal PN Pradhan took over as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations)

**Question: Which one of the following is the second highest peacetime gallantry award?**

- (a) Kirti Chakra (b) Ashok Chakra (c) Paramveer Chakra  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 12, 2017, Air Marshal PN Pradhan took over as Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Operations).
- He was commissioned as a pilot in the Transport stream of the Indian Air Force in 1981.



- He is a Qualified Flying Instructor and has been a pilot examiner on the Boeing and AN-32 aircraft.
- He was closely associated with the induction and operationalisation of Embraer-135, BBJ and C-130 fleets in the IAF.
- He has had four command tenures including command of two operational bases & an Air Force Selection Board. He has held several important appointments at Command and Air Headquarters which include Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Transport and Helicopters) and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Personal Airmen & Civilians) at Air Headquarters and served as the Senior Air Staff Officer of Southern Air Command.
- For his distinguished service of an exceptionally high order he was awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal on Jan 26, 2014.
- It is notable that the peacetime gallantry awards in order of their precedence are Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra. Param Vir Chakra is the highest Wartime gallantry awards.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161962>

## Amitabh Bachchan

**Question: World Health Organization recently appointed legendary Indian film star Amitabh Bachchan as its Goodwill Ambassador for-**

- (a) Polio eradication Awareness programs
- (b) Hepatitis Awareness Program
- (c) TB Awareness Program
- (d) Malaria awareness program

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 12, 2017, World Health Organization appointed legendary Indian film star Amitabh Bachchan as its Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in South-East Asia Region.
- He has been appointed to boost awareness and intensify action to arrest the hepatitis epidemic.
- As WHO Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis in the Region, Mr. Bachchan will lend his voice and support to public awareness programmes that aim to scale up preventive measures and advocate for early diagnosis and treatment of viral hepatitis to reduce the disease burden.
- Amitabh has earlier served as Unicef Goodwill Ambassador for the polio eradication campaign in India.

**Reference:**

<http://www.searo.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2017/1649/en/>

<https://twitter.com/WHOSEARO/status/862942746033610753>

<https://twitter.com/SrBachchan/status/863100203062009856>

<http://zeenews.india.com/health/bollywood-actor-amitabh-bachchan-appointed-who-ambassador-for-hepatitis-in-southeast-asia-2004516>



## Karan Singh

**Question:** Karan Singh who passed away recently, was a minister of which of the following state?

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

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 12, 2017, Himachal Pradesh Ayurveda and Cooperation Minister Karan Singh passed away at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Delhi.
- He represented the Banjar Assembly constituency in the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.
- He was a member of the Kullu royal family.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8698464\\_Himachal-minister-Karan-Singh-passes-away.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8698464_Himachal-minister-Karan-Singh-passes-away.html)

<http://www.uniindia.com/hp-cabinet-minister-karan-singh-passes-away/states/news/868283.html>



## New Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University

**Question:** Who has been appointed as Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University?

(a)Kasturirangan (b)M.S. Swaminathan (c)Vijay Kumar Saraswat  
(d)S Kiran Kumar

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 12, 2017, Scientist and former director general of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), V K Saraswat, was appointed as Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru
- Saraswat succeeds ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan.
- He has been appointed for a term of five years.
- He was awarded the Padmashri in 1998, and Padmabhushan in 2013.
- Currently, he is also serving as a member of NITI Aayog.
- He has also held the posts of Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, and secretary to Department of Defence (research and development).

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/v-k-saraswat-appointed-new-jnu-chancellor-4651920/>

<http://www.ndtv.com/education/v-k-saraswat-named-as-new-jnu-chancellor-1693114>

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newswire/story/former-drdo-chief-vijay-kumar-saraswat-named-as-new-chancellor-of-jnu/969225>



## New chairman of FIFA Governance committee

**Question:** Who was elected as the Chairman of FIFA Governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress held in Bahrain's capital city of Manama?

- (a) Justice Deepak Mishra (b) Justice Mukul Mudgal  
(c) Vinod Rai (d) None of the above

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 11, 2017, Justice Mukul Mudgal was elected as the Chairman of FIFA Governance committee.
- He was elected in the world football governing body's 67th Congress held in Bahrain's capital city of Manama.
- He will replace Miguel Maduro.
- Justice Mudgal was appointed deputy chairman of the governance committee in May 2016 during the FIFA Congress in Mexico.
- Olli Rehn of Finland, former Vice-President of the European Commission, will be now deputy chairman.



**Reference:**

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/46242>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/justice-mukul-mudgal-to-head-fifa-governance-committee-117051200092\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/justice-mukul-mudgal-to-head-fifa-governance-committee-117051200092_1.html)

## Vinay Mohan Kwatra

**Question:** Vinay Mohan Kwatra was recently appointed as the next Ambassador of India to which of the following countries?

- (a) Nepal (b) Germany (c) France (d) Belgium

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to a release published on May 11, 2017, Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to France.
- He is an officer of Indian Foreign Service batch of 1988.
- Kwatra is the joint secretary in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- He will succeed Mohan Kumar who is retiring from service.



**Reference:**

[http://mea.gov.in/press-](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28454/Vinay+Mohan+Kwatra+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+France)

[releases.htm?dtl/28454/Vinay+Mohan+Kwatra+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+France](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28454/Vinay+Mohan+Kwatra+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+France)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/vinay-mohan-kwatra-named-new-ambassador-to-france/1/951366.html>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/vinay-mohan-kwatra-to-be-next-india-s-envoy-to-france-117051100740\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/vinay-mohan-kwatra-to-be-next-india-s-envoy-to-france-117051100740_1.html)

## Sanjay Mitra

**Question: IAS officer Sanjay Mitra appointed as the new-**

- (a) Foreign Secretary (b) Defence Secretary (c) Home Secretary  
(d) None of the above

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 10, 2017, Senior IAS officer Sanjay Mitra was appointed as the new Defence Secretary.
- Mitra an IAS officer of 1982 batch and from the West Bengal.
- He will have fixed two year tenure.
- Presently he is Road Transport & Highways Secretary.

**Reference:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/sanjay-mitra-appointed-defence-secretary/india/news/866938.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/sanjay-mitra-next-defence-secretary/article18420833.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/sanjay-mitra-defence-secretary-ias/1/950679.html>



## New president of South Korea

**Question: Recently who was sworn in as the new president of South Korea?**

- (a) Ahn Cheol-soo (b) Hong Jun-pyo (c) Moon Jae-In  
(d) None of the above

**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 10, 2017, Moon Jae-in, the Democratic Party's candidate was sworn in as the new president of South Korea.
- Out of 100% of the votes counted, Moon won with 41.08%.
- 13,423,800 voters selected Moon Jae-in as their preference for President.
- He will replace Park Geun-hye, who has been removed from his post by impeachment in charge of corruption.
- His tenure will be of 5 years.
- It is notable that the President's House of South Korea is called 'Blue House'.
- The capital of South Korea is Seoul.

**Reference:**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/05/09/asia/south-korea-election/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-39866696>





## Neil Chatterjee

**Question: US President Donald Trump has appointed Neil Chatterjee to which of the following commissions?**

- (a) Federal Communications Commission
- (b) Agricultural Advisory
- (c) Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- (d) Nuclear Energy Commission



**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 08, 2017 US President Donald Trump appointed Neil Chatterjee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission oversees electricity, natural gas and oil at the national level.
- His appointment will be confirmed by the Senate.
- His term will end on June 30, 2021.

**Reference:**

<http://www.connectedtoindia.com/usinpac-congratulates-indian-americans-neil-chatterjee-rohit-chopra-1479.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/trump-appoints-indian-american-key-energy-post/1/949166.html>

## New chairperson of parliament's Public Accounts Committee

**Question: Who has been appointed new chairperson of parliament's Public Accounts Committee?**

- (a) KV Thomas
- (b) P. Chidambaram
- (c) Mallikarjun Kharge
- (d) None of the above



**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to official release published on May 02, 2017, Mallikarjun Kharge has been appointed new chairperson of parliament's Public Accounts Committee.
- He will succeed KV Thomas.
- Apart from Kharge, the PAC has 14 members from Lok Sabha and seven from Rajya Sabha.
- The Committee on Public Accounts is the oldest Parliamentary committee that examines the accounts showing the appropriation of sums granted by
- Parliament for expenditure of Government of India and such other accounts of autonomous and semi-autonomous bodies.
- The committee also examines the Reports of Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on various subjects like Civil, Defence, Posts, Railways and Taxation. Besides, the Committee examines the CAG reports on performance appraisals of various centrally sponsored schemes.
- The PAC has presented 1,571 reports since it became a Parliamentary committee on January 26, 1950.

- Since 1967, a convention has been established whereby an eminent leader from the opposition in Lok Sabha is appointed as its chairperson.
- The term of the office of the member is of one year.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/mallikarjun-kharge-new-chairman-of-pac-4637621/>  
<http://zeenews.india.com/india/mallikarjun-kharge-appointed-pac-chairperson-2001600.html>

## Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India

**Question: Recently who has been appointed as Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India?**

- (a) Abdul Basit (b) Sohail Mahmood (c) Abdul Qadir  
 (d) Abbas Niazi

**Ans:(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 08, 2017, Sohail Mahmood was appointed as Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India.
- He has been Pakistan's ambassador to Turkey.
- He will replace Abdul Basit who has already completed his three-year tenure.
- He joined the Foreign Service of Pakistan in 1985.

**Reference:**

<http://nation.com.pk/national/08-May-2017/sohail-mahmood-pakistan-s-new-envoy-to-india>



## Ustad Raees Khan

**Question: Ustad Raees Khan, who recently passed away, was a**

- (a) Tabla player (b) Sitar player (c) Clarinetists (d) None of the above

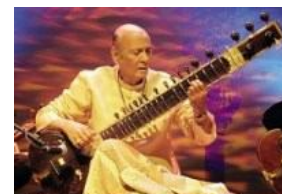
**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 06, 2017, renowned Pakistani sitarist (Sitar Player) Ustad Raees Khan passed away.
- He was born in Indore in Madhya Pradesh in 1939 in Mewat Gharana, a family of famous musicians. In 1968, he moved to Pakistan.
- He was the 13th ustad of Mewat family.
- He learned music from his uncle, Walayat Ali Khan and father Muhammad Khan.

**Reference:**

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1403595/renown-sitarist-ustad-raees-khan-passes-away/>  
<http://zeenews.india.com/people/pakistani-sitar-maestro-ustad-raees-khan-dead-2003206.html>  
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/pakistani-sitarist-ustad-raees-khan-dies/1/947970.html>



## Justice Leila Seth

**Question:** Recently, the famous law maker and Judge Justice Leila Seth passed away. Consider the Following statements related to her.

- I. She was the first woman Chief Justice of any High Court.
- II. Her autobiography is “ On Balance”
- III. She was the first woman judge of the Delhi High Court.
- IV. She was the first woman judge of the Supreme Court.

Which of the statements above are correct?

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

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 05, 2017 the famous lawmaker and Judge, justice Leila Seth passed away. She was 86.
- Justice Seth, who became the first woman to top the London Bar Exam in 1958, was also an IAS Officer.
- In 1978, she became the first woman Judge of the Delhi High Court.
- In 1991, she was appointed as the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
- She was the first woman to become chief justice of a High Court.
- Leila Seth was the mother of famous novelist Vikram Seth.
- She was herself an author and her autobiography ‘On Balance’ was a bestseller.

**Reference:**

<https://barandbench.com/justice-leila-seth-dies/>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/justice-leila-seth-first-woman-judge-of-delhi-high-court-passes-away/articleshow/58549114.cms>

<http://www.livelaw.in/justice-leila-seth-first-woman-high-court-chief-justice-passes-away/>



## New Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

**Question:** Who has been appointed as Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)?

- (a) S K Thorat (b) Ved Prakash Agarwal (c) Braj Bihari Kumar  
(d) P.S.Kamath

**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017 Union government appointed Braj Bihari Kumar as Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR).
- He will have a tenure of 3 years. He will replace S.K. Thorat.
- Dr. Kumar is a famous writer, academician and thinker. He has written, edited and co-authored 136 books. He is also the editor of quarterly journals ‘Dialogue’ and ‘Chintan Srijan’.
- ICSSR was established in the year of 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.



## New chairman appointed for Tea Board

**Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new chairman for Tea Board of India?**

- (a) Santosh Sarangi (b) Prabhat Kumar Bezbaruah (c) Prabhat Kumar  
(d) None of the above

**Ans. (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 4 May 2017 the Commerce Ministry has appointed Chairman of Tea Research Association (TRA) Prabhat Jamal Bezbaruah as the Chairman of Tea Board.
- He will replace Santiago Sarangi.
- He is the first non-IAS to become the chairman of Tea Board.
- He will be in office till November 1, 2018.
- The Tea Board of India is a state agency of the Government of India established to promote the cultivation, processing, and domestic trade as well as export of tea from India.
- The present Tea Board set up under section 4 of the Tea Act 1953 was constituted on 1st April 1954.
- It is headquartered in Kolkata, West Bengal.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/new-chairman-appointed-for-tea-board-117050500767\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/new-chairman-appointed-for-tea-board-117050500767_1.html)



## New President of Coca-Cola India

**Question: Recently who has been appointed as the president of Coca-Cola India?**

- (a) T. Vijayan (b) Venkatesh Kini (c) TTK Krishnakumar  
(d) Indra Nooyi

**Ans. (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 28 April 2017 Coca-Cola India appointed TTK Krishnakumar as the president of the company's India and South West Asia operations .
- He will take over the charge from Venkatesh Kini.
- Coca-Cola India Pvt. Ltd., is a subsidiary of Atlanta based The Coca-Cola Company that sells concentrates for wide range of juice and juice drinks and aerated beverages.
- It is headquartered in Gurgaon, India.

**Reference:**

<https://www.coca-colaindia.com/coca-cola-announces-new-leadership-india-south-west-asia-promotes-key-leaders/>

<http://www.coca-colacompany.com/our-company/operations-leadership-t-krishnakumar>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/research/stocks/private/person.asp?personId=39694087&privcapId=26642>



## New Controller General of Accounts

**Question: Recently who has been appointed as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA)?**

- (a) Boyapati Venkat Sudhakar (b) Anant Narayan Nanda



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

(c) Anthony Lianzuala

(d) Upma Shrivastav

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 01, 2017 Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA).
- Government of India had appointed Mr. Anthony Lianzuala, a 1982-batch Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS) Officer, as the new Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance.
- He will be the First person from the North-Eastern Region to hold this position.
- Before this he worked at higher positions in the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Rural Development.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161418>

<http://www.cga.nic.in/Page/cga.aspx>

## Vinod Khanna

**Question: Recently, the famous actor and Lok Sabha member Vinod Khanna passed away. He was MP from which state?**

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Punjab (d) Maharashtra

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 27, 2017, famous actor and Lok Sabha member Vinod Khanna passed away in Mumbai. He was 70 years old.
- He was born on 6 October 1946 in Peshawar (now Pakistan) of undivided India.
- Besides being a successful actor, he was also a politician.
- He was a BJP MP from Gurdaspur Lok Sabha constituency of Punjab.
- He acted in more than 140 films.
- In the year 1968, he started his film career with the film 'Man ka Meet'.
- Specially remembered for his roles he played in films such as 'Mere Apne', 'Mera Gaaun Mera Desh', 'Amar Akbar Anthony', 'Kurbani', 'Dayavaan', 'Inkaar', 'Kachche Dhage' and 'Jurm'.
- Lastly, he starred in the film 'Dilwale', starring Shah Rukh Khan in 2015.
- He was awarded the Filmfare Life Time Achievement Award in 1999.



**Related Links:-**

<http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Members/MemberBioprofile.aspx?mpsno=197>

<http://aajtak.intoday.in/story/vinod-khanna-died-1-925895.html>

<http://zeenews.india.com/people/actor-politician-vinod-khanna-passes-away-1999878.html>

## Justice Subal Vaidya

**Question: Recently, Justice Subal Vaidya took charge as the new Lokayukta of which state?**

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) West Bengal (d) Tripura



**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 27, 2017, Justice Subal Vaidya took charge as the new Lokayukta of Tripura.
- At a function in the Raj Bhavan, Tripura Governor Tathagat Roy administered him oath of office and secrecy.
- In this post, he replaced Justice Pradeep Kumar Sarkar.
- It is notable that Justice Subal Vaidya has been a former judge of Agartala, Kolkata and Andhra Pradesh High Courts.
- Tripura government had formed the Tripura Lokayukta Act, 2008 to deal with corruption cases.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/new-tripura-lokayukta-assumes-office-2075313/>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/new-tripura-lokayukta-assumes-office-117042700579\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/new-tripura-lokayukta-assumes-office-117042700579_1.html)

<http://liveindia.live/business/tripuras-new-lokayukta-takes-charge/160789.html>

## New Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)

**Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?**

- (a) Krishna Chaudhary (b) RK Pachananda (c) Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar  
(d) K.J. Ramesh

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 26, 2017, the Central Government appointed senior IPS officer Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar as the new Director General (DG) of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- He is currently the Director General of Narcotics Control Bureau.
- On this post he will replace K. Durga Prasad, who retired on February 28, 2017.
- Prior to his appointment Sudip Lakhatia was the Caretaker DG.
- Rajeev Ray Bhatnagar is the IPS officer of UP cadre of 1983 batch.
- His tenure will be from the date of assumption till December 31, 2019 or until further orders.
- It is notable that the Central Reserve Police Force came into existence on July 27, 1939 as the Imperial Representative Police.
- This became the Central Reserve Police Force on December 28, 1949 after the implementation of the CRPF Act.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60634>



## Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan

**Question: Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan died recently. He was-**

- (A) Sitar player (B) Tabla player (C) Flute player (D) Clarinetist

**Ans : (b)**

**Related facts:-**





- On April 22, 2017, the famous tabla player, Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan passed away. He was 85 years old.
- He was a senior musician of Ajrara Gharana (UP).
- He was born on February 3, 1932 in Meerut (UP).

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/a-true-master/article18198846.ece>

<http://www.livehindustan.com/news/merrut/article1-hashmat-ali-khan-is-no-more-796366.html>

## Renuka Ramnath

**Question: Renuka Ramnath, a private equity veteran, was recently elected as the new Chairperson of the Board of Directors of ....**

- (a) Tata Communications (b) Tata Motors (c) Wipro Ltd.  
(d) Hero Moto Company Ltd.

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 26, 2017, Tata Communications announced the election of Ms. Renuka Ramnath as the new Chairperson of the Board of Directors
- She will be successor to Subodh Bhargavaat on this post.
- She is an Independent Director of the Board since December 2014.
- She set up Private Equity Platform Multiples in 2009.
- Today Multiples is a US \$ 1 billion Independent Private Equity platform.



**Reference:**

<https://www.tatacommunications.com/article/renuka-ramnath-elected-chairperson-tata-communications-board>

## PLACES

### Sailani Island: New Water Tourism Site

**Question- Sailani Islands (New Water Tourism Site) is located in which of the following districts of Madhya Pradesh?**

- (a) Ratlam (b) Khandwa (c) Jabalpur (d) Indore

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 24, 2017, Sailani Island, developed by Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation, was opened for public.
- This island has been developed in Khandwa district at the cost of more than Rs. 15 crore.
- It is located near the Omkareshwar Dam project built on the river Narmada.
- Surrounded by water throughout the year, this island of about three acres has built restaurants, boat clubs, conference halls, bird watching centers, watch towers etc.
- It is noteworthy that this island is the second water tourism center to be started after Hanuwantia Island in Khandwa district.
- The distance between the two Islands located on the river Narmada is about 60 km.



## Kamrup

**Question: Where is the new All India Institute of Medical Sciences being set up in Assam as recently approved by the Cabinet?**

(a) Haflong (b) Tezpur (c) Silchar (d) Kamrup

**Ans : (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 24, 2017, the Union Cabinet gave its approval to the establishment of the new 'All India Institute of Medical Sciences' (AIIMS) in Kamrup (North Guwahati Revenue Area) Assam.
- This institute will be set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) with expense of Rs. 1123 crore .
- The Institute will have a 750-bed hospital comprising trauma center, medical college, nursing college, specialty and super specialty departments.
- Apart from this, it will also have the AYUSH department to provide treatment facilities in traditional medicine.
- Prime Minister's Health Protection Scheme was announced in the year 2003.
- Under this scheme, AIIMS has been established in Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Raipur, Jodhpur, Rishikesh and Patna while the work of AIIMS in Rae Bareilly is in progress.
- In addition, the Union Cabinet had approved the establishment of AIIMS in Nagpur (Maharashtra), Mangalagiri (Guntur, Andhra Pradesh) and Kalyani (West Bengal) in the year 2015 and in the year 2016 in Bathinda (Punjab) and Gorakhpur (UP)

**Related links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162094>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-new-aiims-in-kamrup-assam/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-new-aiims-in-kamrup-assam/?comment=disable)

<http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/cabinet-approval-for-aiims-in-kamrup-assam/articleshow/58827674.cms>



## Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) to be established in Assam

**Question: Assam stands at which position in term of literacy rate as per census 2011?**

(a) 26<sup>th</sup> (b) 10<sup>th</sup> (c) 13<sup>th</sup> (d) 20<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam on May 17, 2017.
- The institute will be set up on 587 acre of land provided by the Govt. of Assam.



Cabinet approves setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam.  
May 17, 2017  
Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the setting up of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in Assam. IARI Assam would be a Post Graduate Institution of higher learning in Agricultural Education. It will have the hallmark identity of an IARI including all services of agriculture like field crops, horticultural crops, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry, sericulture, etc.

- This institute would be a Post-Graduate Institution of higher learning in Agricultural Education. It will have the hallmark identity of an IARI including all sectors of agriculture like field crops, horticultural crops, agro-forestry, animal husbandry, fisheries, poultry, piggy, silk rearing, honey production, etc.
- It will be an off-campus of IARI, New Delhi and integrated multi-disciplinary research would be undertaken in school mode i.e. Schools of Crop Sciences, Natural Resource Management, and Animal Sciences & Fisheries.
- ARI-Assam would work on the agrarian challenges and complexities of North Eastern India in collaboration with all existing Central and State Government R&D Institutions and Private sector enterprises.
- It is notable that Assam stands at 26th position in terms of literacy rate according to the 2011 census.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161881>

<http://www.narendramodi.in/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-indian-agricultural-research-institute-lari-in-assam-535462>

## Plastic Park to be set up in Haryana

**Question: Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar announced setting up of a Plastic Park in which of the following districts of Haryana?**

(a) Panipat (b) Karnal (c) Gurugram (d) Faridabad

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 16, 2017, Union Chemicals and Fertilisers Minister Ananth Kumar announced setting up of two centres of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in west and south Haryana.
- These centres will help make the country self-sufficient in the field of Plastic technology required for agriculture and space exploration.
- These centres will also help meet industry requirements for plastic engineers and technicians.
- Officers of Chemicals and Fertilisers Ministry have been directed to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by the Central and the Haryana governments for associating Saksham Yuva Yojana with CIPET.
- Mr. Ananth Kumar also announced setting up of Plastic Park in Panipat at a cost of Rs 1,500 crore and a pharma park in Karnal.
- The Union government will provide all general facilities in the Pharma Park.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/cipet-will-be-set-up-in-haryana-ananth-kumar/1/955093.html>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/education/cipet-to-be-set-up-in-haryana/article9701978.ece>

## West Bengal made Bengali mandatory till class 10

**Question: Which of the following Articles of Indian Constitution empowers a State to adopt any one or more of the languages as the official language of that State?**

(a) Article 330 (b) Article 312 (c) Article 335 (d) Article 345

**Ans: (d)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017, the West Bengal Education Minister Partha Chatterjee announced that all the students from Class 1 to Class 10 regardless of boards or mother tongue will have to learn three languages i.e. Hindi, English and Bengali.
- According to the announcement, English medium schools affiliated to boards other than the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education will have to make provisions for teaching Bengali as a second or third language.
- Earlier it was not mandatory to learn Bengali during school education.
- It is noteworthy that the Kerala government also promulgated an ordinance in April, 2017 making the teaching of Malayalam compulsory in all schools of the State.
- With regard to the question above, Article 345 provides that subject to the provisions of Article 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that State.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/mamta-banerjee-govt-makes-bengali-mandatory-till-class-10/1/954893.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/bengal-government-makes-bengali-compulsory-in-all-schools-of-state/article18464100.ece>

## First state to switch to the January-December financial year

**Question: Recently which of the following states became the first state to switch to 'January-December financial year' from the existing 'April-March cycle'?**

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017, Madhya Pradesh became the first state to switch to January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle.
- It may be recalled that the central government had constituted a high-level committee under former Chief Economic Advisor Shanker Acharya to examine "desirability and feasibility" of having a new financial year.
- The April-March financial year has been followed in India since 1867 from the time of the British Raj.
- It was adopted to coincide with the British financial year.



- Prior to that, India's financial year was May-April.

**Reference:**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/shivraj-singh-chouhan-niti-aayog-prime-minister-narendra-modi-budget-madhya-pradesh-changes-financial-year-to-january-december-from-2018-4637340/>

## Maoist attack in Sukma

**Question: Name the battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) which was recently attacked by Maoist in Sukma.**

- (a) 74th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- (b) 76th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- (c) 75th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)
- (d) 77th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)



**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 25 April 2017 the 74th battalion of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was attacked by Maoist near Chintagufa in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh.
- The attack took place when a team of around 100 men, belonging to the 74th battalion of the CRPF, based at the Burkapal camp on the Dornapal-Jagargunda road in south Sukma, was out to provide protection for road construction work in the area.
- A large group of around 300 naxals, divided into multiple groups, attacked the CRPF party.
- Maoists killed 25 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel and injured seven.
- It may be recalled that on 11 March 2017 year, 12 CRPF men were killed and four were injured in an ambush in the Sukma district.
- The main reason for these attacks is to stall the development work being carried out by the government in this area.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/crpf-men-killed-in-encounter-with-maoists-in-sukma/article18199641.ece>

## Vijayawada Airport

**Question: As per the provisions of which of the following acts, Union Cabinet gave its approval for the declaration of Vijayawada Airport as International Airport?**

- (a) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2013.
- (b) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- (c) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2015.
- (d) Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2016.

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On May 03, 2017 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for the declaration of Vijayawada Airport as International Airport.
- It was approved as per the provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- The proposal will add to improved connectivity to the State capital.
- It will provide wider choice of services at competitive costs to the air-travelers and give a boost to domestic/international tourism and socio-economic development of Andhra Pradesh by bringing in international passengers and cargo traffic.
- It should be noted that declaration of an airport as International Airport depends upon traffic potential and demand from airlines for operation of international flights.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161495>

<https://twitter.com/MVenkaiahNaidu/status/859788578397749250>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cabinet-approves-vijayawada-airport-as-international-airport-117050301366\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/cabinet-approves-vijayawada-airport-as-international-airport-117050301366_1.html)

## Belgium first nation to open consulate office at GIFT City

**Question- In which state has Belgium recently opened an honorary consulate?**

(a) West Bengal (b) Maharashtra (c) Gujarat (d) Tamilnadu

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to a press release issued on April 26, 2017, Belgium opened an honorary consulate in Gujarat International Finance Tech-City (GIFT-City).
- The consulate was inaugurated by Belgium Foreign Trade Secretary Pieter De Crem.
- Belgium has also established two consulates in Mumbai and Chennai and an honorary consulate in Kolkata besides Belgian Embassy in New Delhi.
- Hari Shankaran (Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited) has been appointed honorary Consul of the Kingdom of Belgium for the state of Gujarat.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/belgium-opens-honorary-consulate-in-gift-city/article9664992.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/belgium-first-nation-to-open-consulate-office-at-gift-city/1/938914.html>

## AWARDS & HONORS

### United Nations bravery award to two Indian Peace Keepers

**Question: Two Indian peacekeepers awarded with the Dag Hammarskjöld medal posthumously by the United Nations are-**

- (a) Ravi Kumar and Arjun Thapa  
 (b) Brajesh Thapa and Ravi Kumar  
 (c) Kiran Kumar and Dinesh Pandey  
 (d) Vikas Kumar and Ravikumar





**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On May 24, 2017, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres awarded two Indian peacekeepers Brajesh Thapa and Ravi Kumar posthumously with the United Nations bravery award 'Dag Hammarskjold Medal'.
- 117 people, who were honored with this honor, included soldiers of the military and police forces associated with various UN peacekeeping operations in 2016.
- Brajesh Thapa was martyred during the peace campaign during the deployment of the United Nations Permanent Mission located in Congo.
- While Ravi Kumar was martyred while participating in an expedition during the deployment of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon
- It is worth mentioning that around 96,000 military and police forces of 124 countries, including India, are deployed in peacekeeping operations run by UN in various countries.
- At present, approximately 7,600 military and police forces in India are involved in these operations.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/hq718.doc.htm>

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/47003>

<http://idrw.org/2-indian-peacekeepers-killed-in-the-line-of-duty-to-be-honored-with-un-medal/>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/two-indian-peacekeepers-to-be-honored-posthumously-with-un-medal-on-may-24-4666241/>

## Dan Devin Prize, 2017

**Question: Who among the following has been chosen for the Dan Devin Prize 2017?**

- (a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Zubin Mehta (c) Shrinivas Kulkarni  
(d) CNR Rao

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 21, 2017, the Dan David Prize 2017 was awarded by Israel based Dan David Foundation (headquartered at Tel Aviv University).
- The Dan David Prize is awarded for innovative and interdisciplinary research that breaks conventional boundaries and norms.
- Dan David Prize endowed by the Dan David Foundation is awarded to outstanding figures whose work represents remarkable achievement in selected fields within the three time dimensions- past, present and future.
- This year's fields are archaeology & natural sciences, literature and astronomy.

**Prize winners for year 2017 in various categories are:**

Past – Archaeology and Natural Sciences

1. Prof. Svante Paabo
2. Prof. David Reich

Present- Literature

1. Jamaica Kincaid
2. A.B. Yehushua

Future- Astronomy

1. Prof. Neil Gehrels



2. Prof. Shrinivas Kulkarni
  3. Prof. Andrzej Udalsky
- Srinivas, born in Maharashtra, is a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at California Institute of Technology USA.
  - Among his notable achievements the identifications of the host galaxies and supernovae associated with gamma ray bursts, the association of soft gamma-ray repeaters with neutron stars, and detailed studies of the full variety of supernovae, binary and millisecond pulsars, and magnetars are included.
  - The Dan David Prize was introduced in the year 2002.
  - Earlier, three other Indians, CNR Rao (2005), Jubin Mehta (2007) and Amitav Ghosh (2010) have won this award.

**Reference:**

<http://www.dandavidprize.org/laureates/2017>

<http://www.dandavidprize.org/laureates/2017/228-future-%E2%80%93-astronomy/894-prof-shrinivas-kulkarni>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indian-scientist-shrinivas-kulkarni-wins-dan-david-prize/article18479235.ece>

## Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2014

**Question: The Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2014 was presented to ...**

(a) ISRO (b) DRDO (c) IDSA (d) CSDS

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 18, 2017, Indian Space Research Organization was presented with the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2014.
- The award consists of a trophy, a cash prize of Rs 1 crore and a citation.
- The prize was presented to ISRO Chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar by former Prime Minister and the trustee of Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust (IGMT) Dr. Manmohan Singh.
- The ISRO was selected for the prize in 2014 by a jury headed by Vice-President Hamid Ansari.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-gets-indira-gandhi-prize-for-2014/article18492069.ece>

## OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

### Operation Garam Hawa

**Question: Which of the following Paramilitary forces recently conducted 'Operation Garam Hawa' to vigil along the international border?**

(a) CRPF (b) BSF (c) ITBP (d) SSB



### Answer- (b)

#### Related facts:

- The Border Security Force conducted operation 'Garam Hawa' in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan to step up vigilance along the international border.
- The main aim of this operation is to eliminate the chances of infiltration from across the border during summer. Instances of infiltration increase during summer due to extreme weather condition and dusty storm.
- During 'Operation Garam Hawa' patrolling and number of BSF personnel will be increased along the international border.

#### Reference:

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bsf-begins-operation-garam-hawa-along-international-border-117051700451\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bsf-begins-operation-garam-hawa-along-international-border-117051700451_1.html)

## National Training for Universal Screening and Control of Common NCDs

### Question: What does NCD stand for in medical parlance?

- (a) Non-communicable Diseases (b) National Control Department  
(c) Non-cognitive disorder (d) None of the above.

Ans: (a)

#### Related Fact :

- On May 16, 2017, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda inaugurated National Training for Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as hypertension, diabetes and three common cancers: cervix, breast and oral cavity.
- Under the universal screening of common NCDs program, everyone above the age of 30 years will be screened in the 100 districts of the country in the first phase. Gradually, it will cover the entire country and around 50 crore people will be covered so that timely intervention can reduce the disease burden in the country.
- The Health Ministry is working through a two-pronged strategy: healthy children through the total immunization program whereby in the past three years, the basket of vaccines has been increased from providing cover to 11 vaccine preventable diseases, from the earlier six.
- This is complemented by the goals set under the National Health Policy 2017 which has sharpened the focus towards promotive and preventive health care and wellness.

#### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161821>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/shri-j-p-nadda-inaugurates-national-training-for-universal-screening-and-117051600827\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/shri-j-p-nadda-inaugurates-national-training-for-universal-screening-and-117051600827_1.html)

## Vidya Veerta Abhiyan

### Question: Vidya Veerta Abhiyan has been started by-

- (a) Ministry of Defense (b) Ministry of Culture  
(c) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(d) Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

Ans (c)



**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017 Union Human Resource Development Minister, Prakash Javadekar launched the Vidya Veerta Abhiyan in New Delhi.
- The aim of this programme is to revive and re-energize the patriotic fervour in young minds.
- Through this campaign a wall of valour will be built in colleges and universities across the country and this will be built on contributory funding by students and teachers on voluntary basis.
- The wall will be 15X20 feet in size and will depict the portraits of all the 21 Paramveer Chakra recipients.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161458>

<https://twitter.com/PrakashJavdekar/status/859317308153446401>

## COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

### Report of High Level Committee on Scouts and Guides

**Question: A seven-member High-Level Committee on Scouts and Guides recently submitted reports to Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. This committee was constituted under the chairmanship of-**

- (a) Deepak Malhotra (b) Harsh Malhotra (c) Abhinav Bindra  
(d) Deepak Gupta

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 22, 2017, a seven-member high level committee headed by Harsh Malhotra submitted its report to Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Vijay Goya.
- The Committee has found a number of irregularities and anomalies in the management and financial management, which has been audited by the Chartered Accountant.
- The committee stressed the need for streamlining the organisational set up of Bharat Scouts and Guides and Hindustan Scouts and Guides. It has further recommended that there should be a permanent monitoring Committee, which will periodically assess the activities of both the organisations and submit report to the Ministry.
- The committee has also recommended that there should be government nominees on the Boards of both the organizations.
- It is notable that a seven-member High Level Committee on Scouts and Guides was set up in October, 2016 under the chairmanship of Shri Harsh Malhotra in context of the complaints received from various sections of the societies against the Bharat Scouts and Guides and Hindustan Scouts and Guides.
- These two organizations have been recognized by the Ministry for conducting scouting and guiding activities all across the country. The Ministry also gives them grant-in-aid for conducting the scouting/guiding activities.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=61092>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162009>

## Chitale Committee recommends several measures for De-siltation of Ganga

**Question: Chitale committee was constituted by ...**

- (a) Home Ministry (b) Finance Ministry (c) Defence Ministry  
(d) Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Ministry

**Ans:(d)**



- Chitale committee on De-siltation of Ganga has recommended a variety of measures for de-siltation of the river.
- The committee was constituted in July 2016 by the Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to prepare guidelines for de-siltation of river Ganga from Bhimgauda (Uttarakhand) to Farakka (West Bengal).
- Shri Madhav Chitale (Expert Member, NGRBA) was appointed as Chairman of the committee.
- The committee suggests that de-siltation works can improve hydraulic performance of the river and this itself can justify undertaking de-siltation, these have no direct role in improving environment flow in the river. On the other hand, indiscriminate de-silting or sand mining would cause adverse impacts on river e-flow.
- De-siltation along the preselected channel to deepen and attract the flow could be tried to guide the main course of flow.
- Efforts should be made to provide silt continuity along the weirs and barrages.
- Embankments, spurs and river training measures provided to protect the banks should not encroach upon the flood plains and delink the lakes, flood plains and other riverine environment from the river.
- The proposed de-silting of any river reach need to be justified bringing out clearly the flooding caused due to siltation along with technical comparisons of the alternative flood mitigation measures.
- Reservoirs in main river Ganga and its tributaries, particularly in upper reaches, should be operated in such a manner that first floods, having high silt load, are allowed to pass through without storage and river flows in later phases of the monsoon are only stored for use during non-monsoon season.
- Agricultural practices along the river flood plains should be such that it does not disturb the passage of flood by increasing the resistance to flow causing aggradations.
- The committee suggests that shoals formed close to Farakka Barrage may be de-silted/dredged by taking care of the river training works around it.
- The Ganga Flood Control Commission, headed by Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation with the Chief Ministers of Ganga river basin States and Member, NITI Ayog may be entrusted with additional mandate to carry out necessary studies with regard to sediment management in river Ganga and incorporate sediment management strategies in their comprehensive plans prepared for all sub-basins of river Ganga.

**Reference:**

<http://wrmin.nic.in/writereaddata/Ganga%20Desiltation%20Committee%20-%20Final%20Report.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161961>

## SEBI sets up panel on strengthening cyber security

**Question: SEBI's four-member committee on cyber security would be chaired by-**

- (a) H Krishnamurthy (b) Madhabi Puri Buch (c) S V Murali Dhar Rao  
(d) Ajay Tyagi

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) set-up a high-level panel on cyber security to suggest measures to safeguard the capital markets from such attacks.
- The four-member committee would be chaired by Madhabi Puri Buch, a whole time member at Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The other members are S V Murali Dhar Rao, Executive Director at SEBI; Sanjay Bahl, Director General at Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and H Krishnamurthy, Principle Research Scientist at IISC Bangalore.
- The panel will oversee and provide overall guidance on cyber security initiatives to SEBI and for the entire capital market.
- Besides, it will advise SEBI in developing and maintaining cyber security and cyber resilience requirements aligned with global best practices and industry standards in accordance with the need of Indian capital market structure.
- It will also identify measures to improve cyber resilience and related business continuity and disaster recovery process in Indian securities market.



**Reference:**

<http://www.financialexpress.com/market/sebi-sets-up-panel-on-strengthening-cyber-security/650703/>

## Sharada Prasad Committee

**Question: Sharada Prasad Committee is related to-**

- (a) Mining (b) Child Education (c) Skill Development (d) Sports

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017 the Ministry of Skill Development invited comments/ suggestions of the public on the Sharada Prasad Committee constituted to Review, Rationalize and Optimize the Functioning of Sector Skill Councils by 10 may 2017.
- The report has already been submitted to the ministry recently.
- It may be recalled that the committee was constituted by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship on 18th May 2016 for Rationalisation and Optimization of the Functioning of the Sector Skill Councils, under the Chairmanship of Sharada Prasad, Former Director General, Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India.
- The Report is in three volumes.
- Volume I is the main report which deals with the major challenges facing the vocational education and training system of the country and convergence, synergy and rationalisation of Sector Skill Councils.
- Volume 2 contains appendices arranged chapter-wise.





- Volume 3 Maps of National Classification of Occupations, 2015 with National Industrial Classification, 2008.
- Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) are industry led and industry governed bodies which have been mandated to ensure that skill development efforts being made by all the stakeholders are in accordance with the actual needs of the industry and develop National Occupational Standards/Competency Standards and Qualification Packs (QPs).
- Presently, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has approved formation of 40 SSCs in different Sectors.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161445>

<http://msde.gov.in/report-ssc.html>

## PLANNING & PROJECT

### SAMPADA SCHEME

**Question: Under which scheme of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, the plans for reorganization of food processing industries has been approved?**

- (a) Estate Planning Processing Plan (b) Processing plan  
(c) Food security scheme (d) Food Processing Restructuring Plan

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, has given its approval for re-structuring the schemes of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) under new Central Sector Scheme – SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters)
- This approval has been given for the period of year 2016-2020 with the 14th Finance Commission cycle.
- An amount of Rs. 6000 crores has been allocated for this new scheme.
- It will invest Rs 31,400 crore, thereby producing 334 lakh metric tonnes (worth Rs 1,04,125 crore) in agriculture.
- This will generate 5,30,500 jobs directly and indirectly across the country during the year 2019-20 and 20 lakh farmers will be benefitted.
- The aim of the SAMPADA scheme is to supplement the agriculture, modernize processing and reduce agricultural waste.
- SAMPADA is a scheme in which plans like the mega food parks, integrated cold chain and value addition infrastructure, food safety and quality assurance infrastructure are included in the ongoing schemes of the Ministry.
- The SAMPADA is a comprehensive package that will give a new dimension to the food processing sector.
- As a result of the implementation of the SAMPADA, modern infrastructure will be created with the management of efficient supply chain management, so that agricultural products can be delivered directly to the retail outlet from the farm.
- This will not only promote the development of the food processing sector in the country but will also help in providing better prices to the farmers.



- It will also help in reducing the wastage of agricultural product, increasing the level of processing, the availability of safe and convenient processed foods at affordable prices to consumers and the export of processed food item

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60800>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161512>

[http://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/download\\_file\\_1.pdf](http://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/download_file_1.pdf)

[https://twitter.com/MOFPI\\_GOI/status/866184128563093504](https://twitter.com/MOFPI_GOI/status/866184128563093504)

## Decision to start two new circuits of the Maharaja Express

**Question: Recently, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation decided to introduce two new circuits of the Shahi Rail Maharaja Express. What is the name of these two circuits?**

- (A) Southern Medha, Southern Tourism
- (B) Southern Sojourn, Southern Jewels
- (C) Southern Mumbai, Southern Trivandrum
- (D) Southern Rogers, Southern Siggings



**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts**

- According to a press release dated May 02, 2017, The Indian Railway PSU, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC) has decided to start two new circuits of their flagship luxury train Maharajas' Express, this year.
- These two circuits have been named Southern Sojourn and Southern Jewels.
- In view of monsoon and for the convenience of domestic travelers, there are plans to start two new trips on these routes from June / July 2017. Although regular service on these two routes will start from September, 2017 this year.
- The journey of the Monsoon Special Southern Sojourn will begin on 24th June, 2017 from Mumbai and the journey will end with reaching Trivandrum via Goa, Hampi, Mysore, Cochin, Alleppey.
- On September 9, 2017, the regular travel of Southern Sojourn will start from Mumbai and Southern Jewels will start regular journey from Trivandrum on September 16, 2017.
- During this visit, guests will have the opportunity to visit traditional cultural presentations in Cochin, coir factory tour and roaming in cruise in addition to traditional Chettinad food in Alleppey
- Partial journey in the Maharaja Express's monsoon special train has been started for the first time.
- This train has been receiving prestigious Leading Luxury Train of the World Award for the last five years since 2012.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60739>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161447>

## ICICI to make 600 villages digitally-enabled in 2017

**Question: Which of the following banks has announced to make 600 villages digitally-enabled in 2017?**

(a) ICICI (b) HDFC (c) Citi Bank (d) Punjab National Bank

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 02, 2017, ICICI Bank announced that it has created 100 'digital villages' across the country within 100 days and now plans to add 500 more to the list by year-end
- The 100-village project included imparting skill training and providing credit linkages to people living in these villages.
- The ambitious project, which began in November 2016, was inspired by the success of India's first digital village created by ICICI Bank at Akodara in Gujarat in 2015.



**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/icici-to-make-600-villages-digitally-enabled-in-2017/articleshow/58472635.cms>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/icici-to-make-600-villages-digitally-enabled-in-2017-117050200496\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/icici-to-make-600-villages-digitally-enabled-in-2017-117050200496_1.html)

## Madhya Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority launched it's website

**Question: Which of following is the first State in the country to have formed the Real Estate Regulatory Authority?**

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

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 1st, 2017, Chairman of the Madhya Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority, Antony DeSa and Principal Secretary, Urban Administration, Malay Shrivastava launched website of Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).
- Thus MP became the first State in the country which formed the Real Estate Regulatory Authority and has published its rules.
- Builders, real estate agents can register applications for registration and customers can lodge their complaints online on website.
- Information related to redressal of complaints will be sent to the customers on their mobile phones through SMS gateway.
- The Act has come into force from May 1, 2017 in the entire State.
- The periphery of the Madhya Pradesh Real Estate Regulatory Authority includes projects that are proposed to be created in the future or were incomplete (whose certificates were not issued by the municipal corporation) on April 30, 2017.
- It has been made mandatory for promoters or developers to register their projects with the authority before its marketing.
- It is compulsory to present the prevalent incomplete real estate projects before three months before the Authority.



- In addition to this, promoters and developers are required to submit update information to the authority about the project every three months.
- The real estate sector will be properly organised besides making it transparent and responsible keeping in view the interest of the customers through this project.

**Reference:**

<http://rera.mp.gov.in/events-details/?eid=K1R4dIRza09IVVZOc2ZFRFFpSFdXUT09>  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhopal/rera-gets-going-in-madhya-pradesh-launches-its-website/articleshow/58466490.cms>  
<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/bhopal/real-estate-act-comes-into-effect-in-mp-now.html>  
<http://www.g7news.org/news.php?news=1114>

## India's First Tejas Express

**Question: Between which of the following two stations, the country's first Tejas Express has been introduced recently?**

- (a) New Delhi to Agra (b) Ajmer to Agra  
 (c) Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai and Karmali, Goa  
 (d) Lucknow to New Delhi

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 22, 2017, the country's first high speed, air-conditioned Tejas Express (Train No 22119/22120) was introduced between Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Mumbai and Karmali, Goa.
- Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off Tejas through video conferencing from Swami Narayan Auditorium, Dadar.
- Tejas Express is a state of the art train capable of running at the speed of 200 kmph with ultra modern amenities.
- "Tejas Express" was announced in the Budget 2016-17.
- This train will run between Mumbai and Karmali (5 days a week during Non-monsoon period and 3 days a week during monsoon period).
- **Some of Features of Tejas Train are :**
  1. Electro Pneumatic Air brakes
  2. Fire & smoke detection and suppression system.
  3. Fire suppression system in Power car.
  4. CCTV cameras for security
  5. GPS based Passenger Information display System
  6. Call bell integrated with berth reading light.
  7. Digital Destination Boards
  8. Integrated braille displays
  9. LED TV with Touch Control for each passenger (with recorded content, can be upgraded to Live TV) Provided with USB charging facility



**Reference:**

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

## Ambulance service for Longding District

**Question:** The Airports Authority of India has recently provided an ambulance service with Advanced Life Support Systems (ALS) for Longding district under its corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. In which of the following states Longding district is situated?

(a) Manipur (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Nagaland

(d) Tripura

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 12, 2017, the Airports Authority of India provided an ambulance service with Advanced Life Support Systems (ALS) for Longding District of Arunachal Pradesh under its CSR Initiatives.
- The ambulance service has been provided with an objective of strengthening the health services in the remote North-East Region.
- Airports Authority of India has provided similar ambulance facilities to the Primary Health Centre at Pakyong, Sikkim, Dr. Shakuntala Misra National Rehabilitation University, Lucknow and Primary Health Centre at Udaipur, Rajasthan.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161743>

[http://www.aai.aero/misc/Ambulance-service\\_CSR0517.pdf](http://www.aai.aero/misc/Ambulance-service_CSR0517.pdf)



## Cabinet approves allocation of 2.5 per cent of Central Road Fund for development of National Waterways

**Question:** The proposal for allocation of 2.5 percent of Central Road Fund for development of National Waterways was made by...

(a) Ministry of Shipping (b) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

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

**Ans: (c)**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a proposal to allocate 2.5 per cent of the proceeds of Central Road Fund (CRF) for development and maintenance of National Waterways (NWs).
- The proposal was jointly mooted by the Ministry of Shipping and the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways for amendment of Central Road Fund Act, 2000 to enable this allocation.
- The Cabinet has also directed to explore done on public private partnership option and government funding should be used only if private investment is not forthcoming for any component.
- The Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2017 would be moved by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways in the ensuing Monsoon Session, 2017 of the Parliament.
- An allocation of 2.5 per cent of CRF proceeds would provide approximately Rs.2000 crore per annum for the development and maintenance of NWs at existing rates of duties.





- The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has estimated that approximately Rs. 25,000 crore would be required for development of identified projects on NWs till 2022-23.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162091>

## Noida – Greater Noida Metro Rail Project approved by Cabinet

**Question: The Noida city, located in Gautam Buddha Nagar District of Uttar Pradesh State, was created under ...**

- (a) the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Area Development Act.
- (b) The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.
- (c) Special Economic Zones Act, 2005

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 24, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Noida – Greater Noida Metro Rail Project covering a length of 29.707 k.m. Total completion cost of the project is Rs. 5,503 crore.
- Project will be implemented by Noida Metro Rail Corporation Limited, which will be a 50:50 jointly owned company of Govt. of India and Govt. of Uttar Pradesh.
- The existing Noida Metro Rail Corporation Limited which is a State owned Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be converted into a joint SPV of Government of India and Government of Uttar Pradesh for implementation of the project.
- The project is scheduled to be completed by April, 2018 as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR). About 70% progress of civil work and 40% of overall financial progress of the project have been achieved.
- Project will be covered under the legal framework of Central Metro Acts, Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 and the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act, 2002, as amended from time to time.
- The Noida city is located in Gautam Buddha Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh State. It was created under the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Area Development Act. Noida has a potential of about 10,000 industrial units and presently about 7,500 are developed and functional.
- Noida provides employment to over 2,00,000 in the region with these industrial units.
- Noida mainly has road linkages with Delhi and the adjoining areas of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana State. Noida does not have a railway station and the nearest railway station is Hazarat Nizamuddin, which is at a distance of about 15 km. The nearest airport from Noida is Delhi Airport which is about 30 km away Noida.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162103>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/govt-approves-noida-greater-noida-metro-rail-project/article9711685.ece>

## Cabinet approves construction of 10 units of atomic reactors

**Question: What is India's current installed nuclear power capacity?**

- (a) 5000 MW (b) 5500 MW (c) 6000 MW (d) 6780 MW





**Ans: (d)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 17, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR).
- The ten reactors will be part of India's latest design of 700 MW PHWR fleet with state-of-art technology meeting the highest standards of safety.
- The total installed capacity of the Plants will be 7000 MW. India has current installed nuclear power capacity of 6780 MW from 22 operational plants. Another 6700 MWs of nuclear power is expected to come on stream by 2021-22 through projects presently under construction.

**Benefits:**

- The 10 PHWR project will result in a significant augmentation of nuclear power generation capacity.
- With likely manufacturing orders of close to 70,000 crores to the domestic industry, the project will help transform Indian nuclear industry by linking our goal of a strong nuclear power sector with our indigenous industrial capacities in high-end technologies.
- It is expected to generate more than 33,400 jobs in direct and indirect employment.
- It will help in meeting India's commitment to sustainable development, energy self-sufficiency and bolsters global efforts to combat climate change.

**Significance:**

- The approval underscores strong belief in the capability of India's scientific community to build our technological capacities. The design and development of this project is a testament to the rapid advances achieved by India's nuclear scientific community and industry.
- It will showcase the mastery our nuclear scientists have attained over all aspects of indigenous PHWR technology.
- India's record of building and operating PHWR reactors over the last forty years is globally acclaimed.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161865>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cabinet-clears-proposal-to-build-10-atomic-reactors/article18473481.ece>

## Hop-on-hop-off bus service

**Question: Which of the following states has launched a unique hop-on-hop-off bus service for tourists?**

(a)Uttar Pradesh (b)Rajasthan (c)Goa (d)Madhya Pradesh



**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 13, 2017, Goa Tourism authorities launched a unique hop-on-hop-off bus service for tourists.
- The service would offer tourists a unique experience of enjoying the natural architectural hotspots of Goa from open-roof buses.
- The hop-on-hop-off circuit currently includes places of tourist interest in Panaji, like Raj Bhavan, Dona Paula cliff, the Miramar beach and other areas.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/goa-tourism-launches-hop-on-hop-off-bus-tour-service-117051300478\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/goa-tourism-launches-hop-on-hop-off-bus-tour-service-117051300478_1.html)

<http://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/travel-tourism/goa-tourism-launches-hop-on-hop-off-bus-tour-service/667013/>

## Express Wi-Fi services

**Question: Social media giant Facebook has partnered with country's which of the following telecom players to deploy 20,000 internet hotspots through Facebook's Express Wi-Fi service in India?**

(a) Vodafone (b) Bharti Airtel (c) Idea (d) Rcom

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 04, 2017, Social media giant Facebook partnered with country's largest telecom player Airtel to deploy 20,000 internet hotspots through Facebook's Express Wi-Fi service in India.
- These hotspots will be installed by the company in the coming few months.
- Facebook has partnered with 500 local entrepreneurs who will sell these services through vouchers that are priced ranging Rs 10-20 for a day or Rs 200-300 for a month.
- Presently this service is available at 700 hotspots across Uttarakhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Meghalaya.
- The Express Wi-Fi initiative is also live in Kenya, Tanzania, Nigeria and Indonesia and is being handled from Facebook's Gurugram office.
- The aim of this initiative is to serve the underserved and under-connected users.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/technology/story/facebook-airtel-launch-express-wi-fi-in-india-users-will-have-to-pay-to-use-it/1/945508.html>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/facebook-starts-express-wifi-services-in-india/article9680259.ece>

## e-Krishi Samvad

**Question: e-Krishi Samvad has been launched by ...**

- (a) Indian Council of Agricultural Research  
(b) Department of Agricultural Research and Education  
(c) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare



(d) None of the above

**Ans:(c)**

- On May 11, 2017, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched e-Krishi Samvad, an online interface, which will provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector.
- People can directly connect to the ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) website and get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS.
- Stakeholders can upload photographs related to diseases of the crops, animals or fishes for diagnostics and remedial measures instantly from the specialists.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161712>

<http://www.uniindia.com/e-krishi-samvad-launched/india/news/867998.html>

## Tarang Sanchar, a web Portal launched

**Question: Which of the following department launched “Tarang Sanchar”, a web Portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliance?**

- (a) Trai (b) Department of Telecom (DoT) (c) C-DAC  
(d) None of these

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02 2017 Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched here Tarang Sanchar, a web portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF Emission Compliances.
- The portal will empower common man to know at the convenience of a mouse click, about towers working in a particular locality and whether they are compliant to the EMF emission norms defined by the Government.
- The portal will allow users to get a tower or base station checked for radiation emission, for a fee of Rs 4,000.
- The portal has three elements of providing information, EMF compliance process and interface between different departments, besides ease of doing business.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161464>

<http://www.bgr.in/hi/news/tarang-sanchar-dots-new-portal-lets-you-check-radiation-compliance-by-mobile-towers-in-your-area-tech-news-in-hindi/>



## AIIB approved loan for a power project in Andhra Pradesh

**Question: The loan amount approved recently by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) for a power project in Andhra Pradesh is ...**



- (a) USD 150 million (b) USD 155 million (c) USD 160 million  
(d) USD 165 million

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 03, 2017 the Board of Directors of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved a loan of US\$ 160 million for power project in Andhra Pradesh.
- This is the first credit from the bank for an Indian project.
- The Project is part of the Government of India's 'Power for All' program launched in 2014.
- "Power for All" program was launched to provide an efficient, reliable and affordable electricity supply to all consumers across selected states within five years from the start of implementation of the program in each state.
- Andhra Pradesh is one of the first states selected for the rollout of the Power for All program.
- The project is co-financed with the World Bank.
- The AIIB was established in 2015 and started operation in January 2016 to provide financing for infrastructure improvement in Asia.
- China is the largest shareholder with 26.06 per cent voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 per cent followed by Russia with 5.93 per cent and Germany 4.5 per cent.
- AIIB was established by 57 founding members including India.
- Its membership has increased to 70, with 13 new members approved in March, 2017.
- The bank is headquartered in Beijing, China. Jin Lique is the present President of AIIB.

**Reference:**

[https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/2017/20170503\\_001.html](https://www.aiib.org/en/news-events/news/2017/20170503_001.html)

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/03/c\\_136253797.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-05/03/c_136253797.htm)

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/aiib-grants-160-mn-for-andhra-pradesh-power-project/article9678140.ece>

## Micro and Small Enterprise Facilitation Council (MSEFC) Portal and MyMSME Mobile App Launched

**Question: Recently in which meeting of the National Board, Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council Portal and MyMSME mobile app was launched by M. Venkaiah Naidu?**

- (a) 12<sup>th</sup> (b) 13<sup>th</sup> (c) 14<sup>th</sup> (d) 15<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 27, 2017, Union Urban Development, Home and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Information and Broadcasting Minister M.Venkaiah Naidu launched the Micro and Small Enterprises Facilitation Council (MSEFC) Portal and MyMSME Mobile App.
- It was launched during the 15th meeting of the National Board.
- This portal will help in the implementation of the delayed payment provisions of the MSMED Act, 2006.
- Apart from this, it will also assist in surveillance of pending cases.
- Besides, it will also assist in the monitoring of late payment matters.



- On this portal, micro and small entrepreneurs can file online complaints regarding delayed payment.
- Information about all the schemes implemented by the MSME Ministry on MyMSME is available.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161333>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60655>

<https://twitter.com/MVenkaiahNaidu/status/857504793979387904>

## Anti Bhu-Mafia Task Force

**Question: The Uttar Pradesh Council of Ministers has decided to constitute Anti Bhu-Mafia Task Force in how many districts of the state?**

(a) In all districts (b) 50 districts (c) 45 districts (d) 40 districts

**Ans : (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 25, 2017, Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath decided to set up Anti Bhu-Mafia Task Force in each district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The Task force is being set up with objective to free illegally occupied land by the land mafias.
- A four level Task Force will be headed by the Chief Secretary at the state level, Commissioner at the division level, District Magistrate at the district level, and Deputy Collector at tehsil level.
- The Police Department will identify the illegal occupants on unclaimed and private properties.
- The web portal at the Revenue Council level will be made to receive complaints of illegal possession of government / private land / buildings.
- Until the development of this portal, the complaints could be made in the currently available IGRS portal [jansunvai.up.nic.in](http://jansunvai.up.nic.in).
- If any land has been illegally occupied with the order of any court order / adjournment order by order of any court, effective lobbying will be ensured in the respective court for the expeditious question.
- The review report of action taken at each level will send state-level task force each month by the task force set up at different levels.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/up-government-to-set-up-anti-land-mafia-task-force/642001/>

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=158](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=158)

<http://www.upnews360.in/newsdetail/70480/hi>

## Ten New Clean Places included under Swachh Bharat Mission

**Question: Recently, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced the addition of 10 new important sites under the second phase of Clean**



**India Mission. Which place is not included in the above question?**

(a) Gangotri (b) Yamunotri (c) Golden Temple (d) Vajinath Dham

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 25, 2017, the second quarterly review meeting on the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP), an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, was held at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir.
- On this occasion, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced the addition of 10 new important sites under the second phase.
- The 10 important sites included in the second phase are: Gangotri, Yamunotri, Mahakaleshwar Temple (Ujjain), Charminar (Hyderabad), Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi (Goa), Adi Shankaracharya Residence (Kaladi Ernakulam), Gomateshwar, (Shravanabelagola ), Vajinath Dham (Deodhar), Gaya Tirtha (Bihar) and Somnath Temple (Gujarat).
- It is important to note that 10 important places included in the first phase include Ajmer Sharif Dargah, CST (Mumbai), Golden Temple (Amritsar), Kamvi Temple (Assam), Manikarnika Ghat (Varanasi), Meenakshi Temple (Madurai), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi (Katra, Jammu and Kashmir) are Shri Jagannath Temple (Puri, Odisha), Taj Mahal (Agra) and Tirupati Mandir (Tirumala).

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60614>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161282>

<https://twitter.com/nstomar/status/856881543964446720>

## Fund and Reform Tracker launched by RUSA

**Question: Who has developed recently started fund and reform tracker App?**

- (a) Tata Consultancy Services (b) UGC  
(c) National Higher Education Campaign  
(d) Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Ans: (c)**



**Related facts:-**

- On April 17, 2017, Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the fund and reform tracker Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
- This tracker will monitor RUSA projects.
- Through this, all the steps from the approval of any project to the successful completion of the project will be monitored.
- Reform Tracker will be the report card of the details of higher education policies, plans and best practices of the state.
- The objective of this app is to reconsider classrooms, to move ahead with time and technology and to achieve all the objectives in the field of education, to involve all



stakeholders in the negotiation and to give utmost importance to their positive and effective suggestions.

- This facility will be available to thousands of vendors spread across the country, to the central government, state government's higher education stakeholders and other institutional persons.
- Limited / unlimited rights to use this app will be given on the basis of the role and functionality of each stakeholder.
- **The main features of this app are:**
  1. It will safely maintain any comment in this reference and any information received about the funds allocated on the basis of this project approval board, funded by the Central and State Governments on the basis of installments, on the basis of funds allocated to institutions, main projects, appointed vendor and payment made to them.
  2. Payments made in accordance to Componet presents to us a comprehensive depiction of fund to be done in the RUSA project whether it is a subsidy funding infrastructure initiative.
  3. This app provides information about the approved fund, current amount, amount utilized, etc.
  4. The stakeholder can get full details of the funds released by the Central and State Governments.
  5. The timing stamp provides information about the work and progress of any project and shows the picture of the ground reality of any project in front of us.
  6. The tracking system is the soul of this app and each initiative has been given a separate identification number (ID number). This will give information about how a thought has arisen and through which steps it has been fully evolved.
- National Higher Education Campaign is a centrally sponsored scheme of Higher Education Department, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

#### **Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60478>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161080>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/jobs/hrd-ministry-launches-app-to-track-funding-progress-of-projects/631357/>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/jobs/hrd-ministry-launches-app-to-track-funding-progress-of-projects/631357/>

## Over one lakh more houses sanctioned for housing of urban poor

**Question: Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has recently sanctioned 1,00,537 more houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban). How much investment is to be made by Ministry for this?**



(a) 4000 cr. (b) 4200 cr. (c) 4500 cr. (d) 5500 cr.

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 26, 2017, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation sanctioned 1,00,537 more houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) with an investment of Rs.4,200 cr. taking the total investment so far approved to Rs.1,00,466 cr.
- This is 307% more than the investment approved of Rs.32,713 cr during 2004-14 for affordable housing in urban areas.
- With latest sanctions, the Ministry has so far approved construction of 18,75,389 houses for Economically Weaker Sections under PMAY(Urban) in 2,151 cities and towns in 34 States/UTs.
- It is significant that 13.80 lakh houses were sanctioned during 2004-15 with an approved investment of Rs.32,009 cr.
- The total investment approved so far includes central assistance of Rs.29,409 cr, assistance from State Governments and beneficiary contribution.
- Madhya Pradesh with total houses sanctioned of 2,66,842, has emerged the leader for the first time in approvals under PMAY(Urban) with a total investment of Rs.18,283 cr.
- Tamil Nadu is second with 2,52,532 houses with a total project cost of Rs.9,112 cr followed by Manipur-6,231, Chattisgarh-4,898, Gujarat-4,261, Assam-2,389, Kerala-643, Jharkhand-331 and Daman & Diu-77.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161314>

## Mobile app Kilkari

**Question: In which of the following states National Health Mission (NHM) has launched a mobile-based application to create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers?**

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

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 19, 2017, the National Health Mission in Haryana launched mobile-based app 'Kilkari' to create awareness amongst pregnant women.
- The app will create awareness among pregnant women, parents and health workers on the importance of ante and post natal care, institutional delivery and immunization.
- It is worth mentioning that on December 25th, 2015 this Health Care initiative was started by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- Under this initiative, weekly messages about pregnancy, child birth and parenting and care are sent to the pregnant woman and her family on mobile.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/haryana-launches-mobile-app-to-create-awareness-among-pregnant-women-117042200008\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/haryana-launches-mobile-app-to-create-awareness-among-pregnant-women-117042200008_1.html)



## Rainy well-based Drinking Water promotion Scheme

**Question: Which of the followings state government recently laid the foundation stone of scheme for promotion of drinking water supply based on Rainy well?**

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

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 24, 2017, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar laid the foundation for the Rainy well-based Drinking Water promotion Scheme in Dudhola village of Prithala & Palwal of Faridabad.
- The cost of the project is Rs. 185 crores.
- The completion period of this scheme is 2 years.
- Its aim is to ensure adequate drinking water availability in 84 villages of the state.
- Under this scheme, 70 liters of clean drinking water will be provided per day in the aforesaid villages.

**Reference:**

<http://prharyana.gov.in/hindirelease.aspx?releid=8023>

<https://twitter.com/cmohry/status/856496796096450567>



## KOUSHALYA YOJANA

**Question: Which of the followings State Cabinet gave approval to 'Koushalya Yojana' for women skill development?**

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

**Answer- (c)**

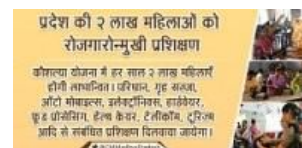
**Related facts:**

- On April 18, 2017, Madhya Pradesh State Cabinet gave approval to 'Koushalya Yojana' for women skill development.
- Under this Short-term skill training scheme every year 2 lakh women will be imparted training.
- Under the scheme, training related to apparel, home decoration, automobile electronics, hardware, food processing, health care, telecom, tourism etc. will be provided.
- A sanction of rupees Rs. 254.78 crore in the current financial year and Rs. 274.34 crore for the next financial year has been made for this programme.
- In addition to this, approval has also been given by the Cabinet to impart training to 1.10 lakh trainees for skill development under the Mukhyamantri Skill Development scheme.
- Administrative sanction of Rs.121.50 crore for the current financial year and Rs.132.25 crore has been given for the next financial year.
- On same day, with an objective to provide communication, cash and other transaction facilities to youths through mobile application, the Cabinet decided to give mobile under the Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah /Nikah Yojana.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20170418N8&LocID=1&PDt=4/18/2017>

<https://twitter.com/CMMadhyPradesh/status/855324210842841088>



## India's first sea ropeway

**Question: India's first and longest ropeway will be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust to connect which of the followings two places?**

- (a) Tarakali-Mumbai (b) Secureum-Mumbai  
(c) Elephanta Island-Shiva Mumbai (d) Bhichandi-Mumbai

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to the official reports published on April 25, 2017, India's first and longest ropeway to connect Mumbai with the famous Elephanta Island in the Arabian Sea is planned to be constructed by the Mumbai Port Trust.
- The 8-km ropeway will begin from Sewri in Mumbai's east coast and end at Raigad district's Elephanta Island.
- This ropeway 40-minute ride by a 20-seater cable car.
- This will facilitate tourists visiting the island and promote tourism.
- Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site, Known locally as Gharapuri Caves, covers 16 sq. km area.
- Cave has several archaeological remains pointing to its rich cultural heritage, including the famous temples carved out of rocks.
- At present the island is inhabited by around 1,200 residents.
- The rock-cut temples are believed to have been constructed around 5th-6th century AD.

**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/infrastructure/indias-first-sea-ropeway-to-link-mumbai-elephanta-island/articleshow/58345798.cms>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/sea-ropeway-india/1/937832.html>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/india-s-first-sea-ropeway-to-link-mumbai-and-elephanta-island/story-z0mqH7JgD8EspBtqfaO.html>

<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-s-longest-ropeway-will-take-you-from-mumbai-to-the-scenic-elephanta-caves-276487.html>



## TREATY & AGREEMENTS

### MoU between India and Fiji

**Question: Suva is the capital of ...**

- (a) Fiji (b) Haiti (c) Jamaica (d) Brunei

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 29, 2017, India and Fiji signed a MoU on defence cooperation.
- The MoU envisages several areas of cooperation including defence industry, military training, humanitarian assistance & disaster management.



- The Minister of Defence and National Security of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola also discussed expanded defence partnership in maritime security between both the countries with Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=163241>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-fiji-ink-pact-to-ramp-up-defence-cooperation/1/965944.html>

## Joint Declaration of Intent between Germany and India

**Question: 2nd European World Ayurveda Congress (EWAC) was held in ...**

(a) Germany (b) France (c) Britain (d) India

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 24, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) between Germany and India regarding cooperation in the sector of alternative medicine.
- During the visit of Shripad Yesso Naik, Hon'ble Minister of State, (Independent Charge).
- Ministry of AYUSH to the 2nd European World Ayurveda Congress (EWAC) a bilateral meeting was held between AYUSH minister and the Parliamentary State Secretary of Germany Ms. Ingrid Fischbach during which both sides had unanimously agreed to begin the process of drafting and negotiating a JDI in the field of AYUSH and Natural medicine.
- The signing of the JDI will enhance bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the areas of traditional/alternative medicine.
- Initiation of collaborative research, training and scientific capacity building in the field of alternative medicine under the JDI between the two countries would contribute to the enhanced employment opportunities in the AYUSH sector.
- The financial resources necessary to conduct research, training courses, conferences / meetings will be met from the existing allocated budget and existing plan schemes of Ministry of AYUSH.
- It is notable that 2nd European World Ayurveda Congress (EWAC) was held in Germany on 15 and 16 October 2016.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162099>

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8734891\\_India-Germany-to-work-together-on-alternative-medicine](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8734891_India-Germany-to-work-together-on-alternative-medicine)

## Cabinet approval to India- Bangladesh MoU for peaceful uses of outer space

**Question: Remote sensing is ...**

- (a) The scanning of the earth by satellite or high-flying aircraft in order to obtain information about it.
- (b) Use of remote as a tool for operating instruments.
- (c) Controlling satellite with remote technology.



(d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- On May 24, 2017, the Union Cabinet was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
- The MoU was signed at New Delhi in April 08, 2017.
- This MoU shall enable cooperation in areas such as, space science, technology and applications including remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication and satellite based navigation; Space science and planetary exploration; use of spacecraft and space systems and ground system; and application of space technology.
- The MoU would lead to set up a Joint Working Group, drawing members from Department of Space/ Indian Space Research Organisation (DOS/ISRO), and the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC), which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementing this MoU.
- It will provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field of remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space.
- Financing of works carried out under this MoU shall be provided by the respective executive organisation with due consideration of national norms.
- The MoU would lead to develop a joint activity in the field of application of space technologies for the benefit of humanity.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162105>

## MoU between India and Australia on cooperation against terror

**Question: Who is the author of the book, Ancient Religions, Modern Politics: The Islamic Case in Comparative Perspective?**

- (a) Michael Cook (b) Stephen Cohen (c) Baylis Smith  
(d) Roger Eatwell

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**



- On May 17, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Australia on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.
- The objective of the agreement is to institutionalise regular exchange programmes and establish sustainable mechanisms between the two national defense colleges with an aim to enhancing mutual cooperation in the field of national security, development and strategic studies.
- The MoU would strengthen the relationship between India and Australia for building peace and stability in the region through exchange of information, expertise, experience and capacity building.
- The MoU, once in force, would help in curbing combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161862>

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8713367\\_India-Australia-to-sign-pact-on-terror-cooperation.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8713367_India-Australia-to-sign-pact-on-terror-cooperation.html)

## Cabinet approved signing of the Multilateral Convention to curb Base Erosion and Profit Shifting

**Question: BEPS-Base Erosion and Profit Shifting is related to ...**

- (a) Tax avoidance (b) Conservation of Earth  
(c) Downfall in profit due to restriction on export to foreign countries  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 17, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for the multilateral convention to implement tax treaty related measures to prevent Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS).
- The convention is an outcome of the OECD / G20 BEPS Project to tackle base erosion and profit shifting through tax planning strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations where there is little or no economic activity, resulting in little or no overall corporate tax being paid.
- The Cabinet nod on Wednesday marks the formal go-ahead for India to sign the multilateral instrument in Paris on June 7.
- The Final BEPS Project identified 15 actions to address BEPS in a comprehensive manner. Implementation of the Final BEPS Package requires changes to more than 3000 bilateral tax treaties which will be burdensome and time consuming.
- The convention would swiftly modify all covered bilateral tax treaties (Covered Tax Agreements / CTA) to implement BEPS measures.
- For this purpose, formation of an Ad-hoc Group for the development of such multilateral instrument was endorsed by the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in February 2015.
- It is notable that Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) refers to tax avoidance strategies that exploit gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161885>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/cabinet-nod-for-signing-of-convention-on-beps/article9704770.ece>

## India, Chile trade agreement took effect on May 16, 2017

**Question: Custom duty is a tax levied on ...**

- (a) Export/ Import (b) Export Only (c) Import Only (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- The preferential trade agreement between India and the South American nation Chile came into force on May 16, 2017.



- Under the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA), both the countries have agreed to lower or eliminate duties on a number of items listed for mutual trade.
- Chile has offered duty concessions on as many as 1,798 goods such as agricultural items, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, textiles, apparel, iron and steel items, copper machinery, to Indian exporters as compared to 178 items earlier.
- India, on the other hand, offered concessions to Chile on 1,031 products including meat items, fish, vegetable oil, processed food, pharma, plastic and pearls as against 296 earlier.
- More than 96 per cent of the total trade between India and Chile is now covered by this agreement.
- Chile is the fourth largest trading partner of India in Latin American region after Brazil, Venezuela and Argentina.
- It is notable that customer duty is a tax levied on imports (and, sometimes, on exports) by the customs authorities of a country to raise state revenue or to protect domestic industries from more efficient competitors from abroad.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8703000\\_India-Chile-trade-agreement-to-come-into-force-from-May-16](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8703000_India-Chile-trade-agreement-to-come-into-force-from-May-16)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-chile-trade-agreement-to-come-into-force-from-may-16/1/953501.html>

## MoU for development of Amaravati start-up area

**Question:** The proposed capital city of Andhra Pradesh, Amaravati, is located at the bank of

- (a) Krishna River (b) Godavari River (c) Nagavali River  
(d) Tungabhadra River

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017, Andhra Pradesh government signed a MoU with the government of Singapore for development of the Amaravati start-up area.
- The start-up area will be developed by Amaravati Development Partners (ADP) which is a joint venture of the Singapore consortium consisting of Ascendas-Singbridge and Sembcorp Private Limited and the Amaravati Development Corporation (ADC).
- The Singapore consortium will have 58 % equity participation in ADP (the master developer) while the ADC comes in with a 42% equity share.
- The start-up area, spread in 6.84 sq. km on the southern banks of River Krishna, will be developed in three phases over 15 years: 656 acres in Phase-I, 514 acres in Phase-II and 521 acres in the last.
- The MoU is a part of the broader understanding between the government of Andhra Pradesh and government of Singapore for capacity-building, sharing best practices in public administration, strengthening business and cultural links and cooperation in the field of science and technology.
- Amaravati is the proposed capital city of the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. The planned city is located on the southern banks of the Krishna River in Guntur district of Andhra



Pradesh. The foundation stone was laid on 22 October 2015, by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ap-singapore-in-pact-for-developing-amaravati-startup-area/1/954669.html>

## NHAI signs MoU with TIDCO for Development of Multimodal Logistics Park

**Question: Kamarajar Port is situated in ...**

(a) Tamilnadu (b) Karnatak (c) Keral (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017, the National Highways Authority of India signed a MoU with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) in New Delhi for the development of a Multimodal Logistics Park in the Ponneri Industrial Node area near Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of the Road Transport and Highways and Shipping Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari and Shri M.C. Sampath, Minister for Industries of Tamil Nadu government.
- The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways is planning to develop Multimodal Logistics Parks under its Logistics Efficiency Enhancement Programme (LEEP) in 15 locations all over India at a cost of Rs 33,000 crore, including Rs 1295 crores investment for the Chennai Region.
- The proposed logistics parks will bring down the overall freight costs, reduce vehicular pollution and congestion and will enable reduction of warehousing costs. All this is expected to result in lower logistics costs.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161794>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/nhai-signs-mou-with-tidco/article9699920.ece>

## V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust and TANGEDCO Sign MoU to upgrade Coal Jetty-I&II

**Question: V.O. Chidambaranar Port is located in ...**

(a) Tamilnadu (b) West Bengal (c) Maharashtra (d) Goa

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017 The V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (TANGEDCO) for the upgradation of Coal Jetty I and II.
- The project is the outcome of Ministry of Shipping's Project Unnati, under which a study, 'Unlocking National Ports Potential' was done to improve the handling capacity of CJ-I & II.



- The estimated cost for upgrading CJ-I & II is about Rs.800 Cr. As per the MoU, initially Coal Jetty-I will be upgraded in about 24 months by constructing a new Coal Jetty-I of 300m x25m along with repair of the existing CJ-I. CJ –II will be upgraded thereafter. The upgradation will give a competitive edge to VOC Port and will help it maintain its lead position in coal handling.
- The MoU will help the Port to four-fold increase the capacity of two of its Coal Jetties – Jetty I and II from 6.25 MTPA to 24 MTPA.
- It would make coal handling by the jetties much more voluminous and efficient, and thus bring down logistics costs.
- With the upgradation of the coal jetties, TANGEDCO will be able to handle additional volume of coal cargo for the upcoming new power plants in Uppur and Kadaladi in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu.
- Since the power generation from TANGEDCO's Tuticorin plants being linked to the National Grid, this would enable availability of additional power at reduced costs, which, in turn, can fuel industrial growth and employment generation.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161792>

## MoU between Indian Navy and Space Application Centre

**Question: The Space Application Centre is located in ...**

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Kochi (c) Chennai (d) Sri Harikota

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017, Indian Navy and Space Application Centre (SAC), Ahmedabad, signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding on Data Sharing and Scientific cooperation in the field of Meteorology and Oceanology' at SAC, Ahmedabad.
- With this initiative, both the organisations have embarked on a common platform of mutual cooperation.
- The MoU will help Indian Navy to utilize advancements and expertise achieved by SAC to keep the Nation's Defence Forces in step with rapid development in the field of Environment Sciences and Satellite Data acquisition technology.
- The broad areas of cooperation include, sharing of non-confidential observational data for pre-launch sensor calibration and post launch satellite data validation, operational use of SAC generated weather products and provisioning expertise for installation of various satellite data processing modules at Naval METOC organisations.
- Besides the MoU will enable transfer of technology to generate weather information, training on latest technology and sharing of subject matter experts between the organisations for effective knowledge transfer.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161791>

## Agreement between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

**Question: Recently the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) signed an agreement to-**

- (a) Establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC).
- (b) Train the personnel of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- (c) Establish research lab. (d) None of the above.



**Ans(a)**

### **Related facts:**

- On May 08, 2017 the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) signed an agreement to establish Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC).
- WIPO's Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISC) program provides innovators in developing countries with access to locally based, high quality technology information and related services, helping them to exploit their innovative potential and to create, protect, and manage their intellectual property (IP) rights.
- Services offered by TISCs may include:
  - 1. Access to online patent and non-patent (scientific and technical) resources and IP-related publications.
  - 2. Assistance in searching and retrieving technology information.
  - 3. Training in database search.
  - 4. On-demand searches (novelty, state-of-the-art and infringement).
  - 5. Monitoring technology and competitors.
  - 6. Basic information on industrial property laws, management and strategy, and technology commercialization and marketing.
- The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) is designated as the National Focal point for the TISC national network.
- As the national focal point, CIPAM shall identify potential host institutions, assess their capacities and support them in joining the TISC project.
- CIPAM will also act as the main intermediary between WIPO and TISC host institutions and coordinate all the activities of the national TISC network.
- Over 500 TISCs operate worldwide and establishing TISC in India will give the host institutions access to the Global network.
- In upcoming years CIPAM is planning to establish TISC's in Universities, State Science Councils, R&D institutions etc.
- TISC will give an impetus to Knowledge sharing, sharing of best practices among the TISC's, capacity building, generation and commercialization of IPs.

### **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161624>

## MoU between India and Spain

**Question: Recently Cabinet approved the signing of MoU between India and Spain on cooperation in which of the following sphere?**

(a) Agricultural (b) Civil Aviation (c) Space (d) Tourism

**Ans. (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 3 May 2017 Union Cabinet has approved the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in the sphere of Civil Aviation between India and Spain.
- The MoU signifies an important landmark in the civil aviation relations between India and Spain.
- It has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161497>

## MoU between India and Malaysia

**Question: Recently Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Malaysia on development of-**

(a) Urea and Ammonia manufacturing plant (b) Oil refining plant  
(c) Defense manufacturing plant (d) Vehicle manufacturing plant

**Ans. (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 3 May 2017 the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding with Malaysia on development of a Urea and Ammonia manufacturing plant in Malaysia.
- The project is expected to cost US\$ 2.1 billion with capacity to produce 2.4 million tonnes of Urea and 1.35 million tonnes of Ammonia per annum and dedicated supplying to Indian market.
- The signing of MoU will ensure consistent supply of Urea and Ammonia to cater the need of the country at a lower price, if agreed to by both the participants.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161506>

<http://www.uniindia.com/cabinet-approves-mou-on-urea-manufacturing-plant-in-malaysia/india/news/859882.html>

## Agreement between Larsen & Toubro (L&T) of India and Hanwa Techwin of South Korea

**Question: K9 VAJRA-T, a world class self-propelled howitzer was customised and fielded by L&T with its technology partner...**

(a) HMW (b) HTW (c) HCW (d) KMT

**And (b)**

**Related facts:**





- On April 21, 2017 Larsen & Toubro, India's multinational engineering conglomerate and private sector defence major, and Hanwha Techwin (HTW) of South Korea signed a contract.
- The contract was signed for execution of the 155mm/ 52 Cal Tracked Self Propelled (SP) Gun program for the Indian Army.
- L&T was declared as the sole qualified bidder, post User Evaluation Trials, based on the performance of the K9 VAJRA-T, a world class self-propelled howitzer appropriately customised and fielded by L&T with HTW as the technology partner.
- Larsen & Toubro is an Indian multinational engaged in technology, engineering, construction, manufacturing and financial services with USD 16 billion in revenue.
- It operates in over 30 countries worldwide.
- Hanwha Group, Hanwha Techwin's parent company, is the largest private sector defence conglomerate in South Korea.

**Reference:**

<http://defenceaviationpost.com/lt-hanwha-techwin-sign-contract-executing-tracked-sp-gun-programme/>

## Memorandum of Agreements signed for first wind auction Scheme

**Question: The wind turbines convert wind's ..... into electrical power.**

- (a) Kinetic energy (b) Static energy (c) Thermal energy  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 04, 2017, PTC India, the trading company, and Discoms of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Delhi, Odisha and Assam signed the Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) for purchase of 1000 MW wind power under MNRE's first wind auction Scheme.
- The signing ceremony took place during the two days Conference of Power, New & Renewable Energy & Mines Ministers of States and UTs.
- As per MoA the Discoms of UP will buy 449.9 MW, Bihar- 200 MW, Jharkhand – 200 MW, Delhi – 100 MW, Assam – 50 MW and Odisha – 50MW of wind power for meeting their non-solar Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO).
- The Letter of Award (LoA) to the successful wind power developers under the first wind auction scheme have been issued by Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) on 5 April 2017 and the projects are to be commissioned within 18 months from the date of issue of LoA.
- This was the first time such auction process was done in the country for wind power through e-reverse auction and its success can be seen from the fact that a record low tariffs of Rs. 3.46 per kWh was obtained.
- With the success of first wind auction scheme, MNRE today launched Scheme for another round of wind auction for 1000 MW capacity wind power projects.



**Related Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161539>

<http://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/power-minister-piyush-goyal-announces-1000-megawatt-wind-energy-auction-scheme/58514677>

## India & Cyprus sign Work Plan for 2017–18 in the Agriculture Sect

**Question-** Recently, the Agriculture Ministers of India and Cyprus signed the work plan for the year 2017-18 for the implementation of an earlier MoU for cooperation in which of the following sectors?

- (a) Tourism (b) Agriculture (c) Information and technology  
(d) Tax avoidance

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 27, 2017, the Agriculture Ministers of India and Cyprus signed the Action Plan 2017-18 for the implementation of an earlier MoU for cooperation in the field of agriculture.
- This signature was done during the bilateral meeting of Agriculture Ministers of the two countries in New Delhi.
- The agreement was signed by Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh and Cyprus Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment Nicos Kouyialis.
- Action plan involves, Information exchange training / consideration program for scientists / experts working in specific areas in different institutes of both countries.
- Apart from this, in the work plan areas like Germ Plasma, Technology Exchanges and for promotion of Private Sector Participation etc, conduct of joint research projects, joint workshop and conference have also been included
- It is worth mentioning that the Government of India has the aim to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60657>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161344>

<https://twitter.com/RadhamohanBJP/status/857526087101722626>

## Agreement between CII and 3 Singapore Universities

**Question:** Recently, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with three Singapore universities to provide training opportunities to students. Which of the following universities is not among the three, the agreement has been signed with?

- (a) Singapore Technology University  
(b) Nanyang Technological University  
(c) National University of Singapore  
(d) Singapore Management University

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts**

- On April 21, 2017, the CII-Confederation of Indian Industry signed a MoU with Singapore's three universities to provide training opportunities to students.
- 'The International Enterprise' a business promotion agency of Singapore, will be allowed to use more than 8,000 members of the CII network to create related opportunities abroad for registered students through this MoU.



- International Enterprise Singapore is a statutory body under the Ministry of Trade and Industry and supporting this initiative under the youth program Pratibha.
- MoU's signatories are University of Nanyang Technological University, National University of Singapore and Singapore Management University.
- This MoU was signed during the ASEAN-India Business Forum meeting.
- With this consent letter, the undergraduates of universities will be able to get internship opportunities with the member companies of the Federation throughout India.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/cii-signs-mous-with-3-singapore-universities-2262901.html>

## China-Myanmar crude oil pipeline Agreement

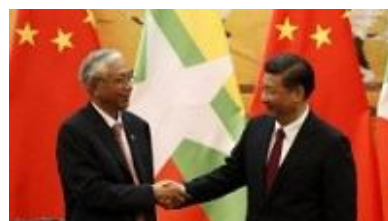
**Question: Recently an agreement between China and Myanmar has been signed for oil pipelines. How long is this pipeline?**

(a) 1771 km (b) 1775 km (c) 771 km (d) 775 km

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 10, 2017, an agreement was signed for crude oil pipeline between China and Myanmar.
- The pipeline will start from Madaya Island on the western coast of Myanmar and enter China at Ruili in Yunnan.
- The pipeline is of total 771 kilometer length.
- This pipeline passes through the hills of Myanmar's smallest state, Magway and Mandalay areas and Shan State.
- Construction of the pipeline began in June 2010 with designed transmission capacity of 22 million tons per year.
- According to the agreement, Myanmar can be supplied with an estimated 2.5 million tonnes of crude oil through this pipeline.



**Reference:**

<http://www.cnpc.com.cn/en/nr2017/201704/fb3ec32752134be884529e5523c0e80d.shtml>

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/10/c\\_136197460.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2017-04/10/c_136197460.htm)

<http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/25676-myanmar-and-china-sign-crude-oil-pipeline-agreement.html>

## CONFERENCE

### 66th Plenary of North Eastern Council

**Question: How many states are members of North East Council?**

(a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 5

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Fact :**

- 66th Plenary of North Eastern Council (NEC) was organized in New Delhi on May 29, 2017. The plenary was chaired by NEC chairman Dr. Jitendra Singh.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted some of the major achievements of the NEC in the field of:



- Transport and Communication Sector: 10,500 kms of roads including inter-state and roads of economic importance have been constructed. Three (3) projects under the scheme (Doimukh-Harmuti; Tura-Mankachar & Wokha-Merapani,-Golaghat) for 85 kms have been already awarded to National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) for implementation at an estimated cost of Rs 213.97 crore. 14 projects have been identified to be taken up during 2017-18.
- Air connectivity in the region: NEC has supported Airports Authority of India (AAI) for upgradation of infrastructure in 12 operational airports. Construction of Tezu airport in Arunachal Pradesh is supported by NEC and is likely to be operational within the current financial year.
- Power Sector: During 2016-17, NEC has funded construction of 198 circuit km long transmission lines of 165 MVA capacity in the NER and eleven (11) power sector projects (Manipur-2; Meghalaya-1; Mizoram-1; Nagaland-2; Sikkim-4; Tripura-1) were completed and commissioned.
- Agriculture, Irrigation and Flood Control: NEC has plans to provide assistance to Aggregator Agencies for Agri-Horti Produce to help Farmers in the North East Region by extending finance to them as grants-in-aid.
- Health Sector: NEC is providing support for Dr. B. Borooah Cancer Institute in Guwahati, which is in the process of being taken over by the Department of Atomic Energy, through which this hospital would be developed on the model of Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, as a Premier Post Graduate level institute for cancer treatment in the country.
- Science & Technology: Special thrust has been given towards establishment of North Eastern Spatial Data Repository (NESDR) by the North East Space Application Centre (NESAC) for facilitating communication linkage, data cataloguing between regional node of NESAC and State nodes of different States.
- Dr. Singh also informed that during the year 2016-17, NEC was allotted total of Rs. 1118.79 crore. Depending on the legitimate demand of the North Eastern States based on the Regional Plans approved by the Council, NEC would strive to allocate more liberal grant of resources in the coming years.
- It is notable that the North Eastern Council is the nodal agency for the economic and social development of the North Eastern Region which consists of the eight States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura. The North Eastern Council was constituted in 1971 by an Act of Parliament.

#### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=163232>

<http://necouncil.gov.in/index1.asp?linkid=53>

## 1st National Conference of Micro Missions of National Police Mission

**Question: Where was the first National Conference of the Micro Mission of National Police Mission was organized on May 23-24, 2017?**

(a) Jaipur (b) Gandhinagar (c) Chandigarh (d) New Delhi

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The first National Conference of the Micro Mission of National Police Mission was organized in New Delhi on May 23-24, 2017.



Bureau of Police Research and Development  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
पुलिस अनुसंधान एवं विकास ब्यूरो, गृह विभाग

- The two-day conference was organized by the Bureau of Police Research & Development under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Shri Amitabh Kant, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) inaugurated the conference.
- Noble Peace Prize Laureate Shri Kailash Satyarthi will be the Chief Guest during the Valedictory Session.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161976>

## Round Table Conference on Data Analytics for Indian Railways

**Question: What is the tagline of the Indian Railways?**

- (a) Lifeline to the nation (b) Bahujan Hitay Bahujan Sukhay  
(c) Truly Indian (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 16, 2017, Minister of Railways, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated Round Table Conference on “Data Analytics for Indian Railways”.
- This Round Table Conference was to ideate on Data Analytics on Indian Railways.
- In order to assist the management in taking effective strategic and tactical decisions, Railways have decided to use Data Analytics for Analysis of Data using various statistical and software tools.
- Data Analytics can help Railways in determining pricing of services, planning train operations on various routes, proactive safety measures and disaster management, predictive maintenance of assets to avoid failures etc.
- Data of trains, passengers, earnings, utilization of trains, class wise occupancy, waiting lists and passenger profile is also available in e-ticketing system. This huge data can be analysed to help in providing innovative products to passengers so that occupancy is improved and passengers are able to get confirmed accommodation.
- Data Analytics can help in improving throughput and average speed of freight trains. Track Management System has data about condition of track, maintenance of track from time to time, inspection conducted, track renewal, deep screening, rail fractures etc. Data Analytics can help in predicting vulnerable spots and preventive maintenance.
- Indian Railways is one of the largest Data creators in the world; it has to handle large volume of Data. Data Analytics can help to create a system that may benefit Railways immensely.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161813>

<http://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/railways-to-monetise-available-data/1052003>



## Second meeting of National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

**Question: The first meeting of 'National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction' was organized in...**

(a) 2005 (b) 2007 (c) 2009 (d) 2013

**Ans: (d)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 15, 2017, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day second meeting of 'National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction' (NPDRR) in New Delhi.
- The theme of the Second meeting of NPDRR is "Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030".
- The first meeting of NPDRR was held during 13 -14 May 2013 in New Delhi on the theme 'Mainstreaming DRR in Development: From Risk to Resilience'.
- The 'National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction' is a multi-stakeholders National Platform headed by the Union Home Minister. It promotes participatory decision making in disaster management, and strengthens federal policy of our country.
- The NPDRR meeting will have one Plenary Session, one session on outcomes of pre-events, four technical sessions on four priority areas of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, one technical session on monitoring of Sendai Framework and a closing cum valedictory session.
- It is notable that the Sendai Framework is a 15-year, voluntary, non-binding agreement which recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk by sharing the responsibility with stakeholders like local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.
- The Sendai Framework is the successor instrument to the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161788>

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa-post2015>

## Aqua Aquaria India 2017

**Question: The fourth edition of the Aqua Aquaria India 2017 (AAI) was inaugurated in which of the following cities?**

(a) Pune (b) Jaipur (c) Mangaluru (d) New Delhi

**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- The fourth edition of the three-day (14-16 May 2017) Aqua Aquaria India 2017, is being held at Nehru Maidan in Mangaluru, Karnataka from May 14.
- It is being organised by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA).
- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is a nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry dealing with promotion of marine product export and allied activities.
- The focal theme of the exhibition is "Diversification in sustainable aquaculture"
- The event is expected to attract 3,000 delegates from India and abroad.





- As for the seafood industry, India is the second largest aquaculture producer in the world.
- The second largest exporter of shrimps to Europe and the largest exporter of shrimps to the US.
- Aquaculture contributes about 70% of the total marine products export earnings of India.

**Reference:**

<http://www.mangaloretoday.com/main/Aqua-Aquaria-India-2017-inaugurated-by-Minister-Pramod-Madhwaraj.html>

<https://www.mangalorean.com/minister-pramodh-madhwaraj-inaugurates-4th-edition-of-aqua-aquaria-India-2017/>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/aqua-aquaria-india-2017-to-attract-3000-delegates/articleshow/58660786.cms>

## The 13th International Permaculture Convergence (IPC)

**Question: The 13th International Permaculture Convergence (IPC) will be held in which of the following cities?**

(a) Hyderabad (b) Bengaluru (c) Jaipur (d) Pune

**Ans(a)**

**Related facts:**

- The 13th International Permaculture Convergence (IPC) will be held on November 27 to December 2, 2017 in Hyderabad.
- The theme of 13th International Permaculture Convergence is 'Towards healthy societies'.
- It is being organized by Hyderabad-based environmental and developmental NGO Aranya Agricultural Alternatives, the International Permaculture Convergence Council (IPCC) and Friends of IPC (FIPC).
- The primary objective of IPC 2017 is to provide Indian farmers an opportunity to get inspired and learn how their current challenges can be solved using permaculture principles.



**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/international-permaculture-conference-to-be-held-in-hyderabad/articleshow/58498584.cms>

<http://ipcindia2017.org/>

<http://permacultureday.org/event/13-ipc-india-2017/>

## India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit

**Question: The three day India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit (IITLS) was organized in which of the following cities?**

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

**Ans(d)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 04, 2017 Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the three day (4-6 May 2017) India Integrated Transport and Logistics Summit (IITLS) in New Delhi.



- It was organized by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- The IITLS has been organized with the objective of facilitating constructive dialogue between various stakeholders for the development of multimodal infrastructure in the country.
- For the first time, the Ministries of Road Transport & Highways, Shipping, Civil Aviation, Railways, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Skill Development, Commerce, Urban Development, Finance and various state governments and infrastructure experts gathered together to deliberate on various connected issues.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161554>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161488>

## UN Vesak Day-2017

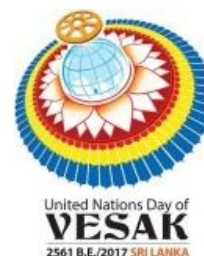
**Question: The UN Vesak Day celebrations are scheduled for May 11 – 14, 2017 in which of the following country?**

(a) Thailand (b) Sri Lanka (c) Myanmar (d) China

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The UN Vesak Day celebrations are scheduled for May 11 – 14, 2017 in Sri Lanka.
- The theme of the UN Vesak day is 'Buddha's Teachings, Social Justice and Sustainable World Peace'.
- In this international Buddhist seminar, more than 400 delegates from 100 countries will participate.
- Vesak day is also known as Buddha Purnima and Buddha Day.
- This day is widely celebrated by Sri Lankan majority Sinhalese Buddhists.
- UN General Assembly declared an International Day of Observance for Vesak in 1999 on the initiative of the then Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.



**Reference:**

<http://www.buddharashmi.org/Home/tabid/36/ctl/Details/mid/429/ItemID/35/Default.aspx>

## CSR Fair 2017

**Question: The three day (4th to 6th May, 2017) long CSR Fair 2017 is being organized in which of the following cities?**

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

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 04, 2017, Anant G. Geete, Union Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises inaugurated the three day long CSR Fair from 4th to 6th May, 2017 at Hall no. 11 Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- This mega event was organized by The Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises; PHD Chamber in collaboration with ONGC.



- It aimed to provide a platform to all stakeholders, including Central Ministries/Departments, CPSEs/State PSUs, Private Companies, NGOs/Foundations etc. to showcase their CSR activities, sharing of their best practices and also an opportunity to connect with other stakeholders.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161543>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161476>

<https://twitter.com/AnantGeeteSS/status/860007341449592833>

<http://www.dpe.nic.in/importantdocument/corporate-social-responsibility-csr-fair-2017>

## First Home Affairs Dialogue

**Question: India recently held first Home Affairs Dialogue with which of the following countries?**

(a) USA (b) Canada (c) Australia (d) United Kingdom

**Ans: (d)**

**Related Fact :**

- On April 04, 2017, India and UK held their first Home Affairs Dialogue which discussed matters of extradition, deporting illegal immigrants, sharing of criminal data and curbing organised crime.
- Indian side was led by Union Home Secretary, Shri Rajiv Mehrishi and the UK delegation was led by Ms. Patsy Wilkinson, Second Permanent Secretary, Home Office, Government of UK.
- The meeting was held as a follow up of UK Prime Minister's visit to India in November, 2016 and the commitment of the two Prime Ministers for enhanced and strengthened Dialogue.
- India raised the issue of visa related difficulties faced by Indian students, skilled professional and dependents of Indian diplomats. UK side assured that this would be looked into.
- Both India and UK laid emphasis on cooperation on anti- terrorism mechanism and to strengthen mutual support to check cyber crimes. Both sides agreed to formalise these arrangements.



**Related Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161541>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/prime-minister-narendra-modi-rajiv-mehrishi-home-secretary-visa-extradition-immigration-india-uk-discuss-extradition-visa-issue-in-first-bilateral-home-affairs-dialogue-4640449/>

## Naval Commanders' Conference 02-05 May 2017

**Question: Naval Commanders Conference 2017 is being organized in ...**

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

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**



- Naval Commanders' Conference 2017 was inaugurated at New Delhi on 2nd, May 2017. It is a four day event which will last till 5th, May 2017.
- The Chief of the Naval Staff will review major operational, training and administrative activities with the Commanders-in-Chief undertaken in the last six months and deliberate the way ahead on important activities and initiatives in the near future.
- The Defence Minister would address and interact with the Naval Commanders on the opening day of the Conference.
- The Conference is a platform for institutionalized interaction between the naval top-brass and senior Government officials as also with the Chief of Army Staff and Chief of Air Staff.
- Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff would chair the Conference and deliberate on Indian Navy's plans for sustained operational effectiveness, combat readiness and improved maintenance.
- The Commanders would also brainstorm synergising the Navy's role in a joint/ unified structure in the future.
- In the back drop of terrorist threats and the prevailing security scenario, the Conference would review the security measures for naval assets, bases and air stations, and the overall operational readiness of units.
- It will lay particular emphasis on indigenisation towards achieving greater self-reliance and support the "Make in India" initiative.
- Deliberations will also be made on some critical key enablers viz. infrastructure/ force development and improved logistics management

**Reference:**

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/naval-commanders%E2%80%99-conference-02-05-may-2017>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161403>

## Global Technology Conference

**Question: Global Technology Conference is being organized in New Delhi on 3rd & 4th May, 2017 by ...**

- (a) DRDO (b) ISRO  
(c) Research and Development Standards Organization (RDSO)  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans (c)**

**Related Fact :**

- The Research and Development Standards Organization (RDSO) of the Indian Railways has scheduled to hold a two-day Global Technology Conference on 3rd & 4th May 2017 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- More than 50 speakers are slated to hold presentations on a variety of topics under four themes – Enhanced Safety, Capacity Enhancement & Congestion Reduction, Reduced In-service Failures and Automated Health Monitoring & Inspection, and Enhanced Customer Service.
- The Technical Engineering Institutes of the Indian Railways viz. Institute of Rolling Stock Engineers (IRSE) and the Institution of Signal and Telecommunications Engineers (IRSTE) are the nodal bodies collaborating in and organizing this Conference.



- The Conference will be inaugurated by Minister for Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 3rd May 2017.
- The Global Technological Conference envisages bringing in new perspectives and insights in planning for future rail transportation growth in the country. The Conference shall feature technical sessions, technical presentations, and table-top exhibits. Experts from 17 countries like- USA, China, Japan, Russia, South Africa etc shall be participating in the Conference.
- The Conference is envisaged to enable the emergence of a multi-disciplinary logistics interface and eco-systems to help the Indian Railways to deliver new levels of value along with modernization.

**Reference:**

[http://www.gtclir.in/theme\\_of\\_conference.php](http://www.gtclir.in/theme_of_conference.php)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161441>

## Commemoration of the National Panchayati Raj Day

**Question: Which of the following states has been given the first prize in category 'A' under the e-Panchayat Award at the Panchayati Raj Conference held in Lucknow ?**

(a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) West Bengal (d) Sikkim

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 24, 2017 Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the Panchayati Raj Conference on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.
- The conference was held in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia National Law University, Lucknow.
- This conference was organized jointly by the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- The theme of the conference was the "New India created from the smart village".
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister launched Panchayati Raj Ministry's Quarterly magazine 'Gramodaya Sankalp' and also launched Mobile App of 'Gramodaya Sankalp'.
- In addition to this, the Chief Minister also inaugurated the YouTube Channel of the Panchayati Raj Ministry.
- Simultaneously, this Ministry launched an awareness program in social media through the Instant Messaging app through audio visual content.
- Under the 'Sakriya Panchayat' series by the Chief Minister, two new books 'Water Resources in Gram Panchayat' and 'Health Development in Gram Panchayat' were released.
- The Chief Minister also inaugurated the Online Certification Course of the Panchayati Raj Ministry for the elected representatives of Panchayats, personnel and other people interested in PES management.
- This course will be run in collaboration with the National Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Institute, Hyderabad.
- On this occasion, Panchayat Mitra, a portal of Panchayati Raj Department, was launched by Union Panchayati Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar.
- Information about all the works of the District Panchayat can be obtained on this portal.



- At the end of the program, under the e-Panchayat award, Karnataka got first prize in category 'A', Kerala second and West Bengal third.
- Sikkim got prizes in 'B' category.
- Apart from this, 189 districts, development blocks and village panchayats of the country were awarded with Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Empowerment Award and 20 Panchayats were awarded with Nanaji Deshmukh National Gaurav Gram Sabha Award.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161182>

<https://twitter.com/nstomar/status/856557614032982016>

<https://twitter.com/myogiadityanath/status/856468247159476224>

## 18th World Road Convention

**Question: Where will 18th World Road Convention, 2017 be organized?**

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

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Between 14th -17th November 2017, 18th World Road Convention, 2017 (WRM 2017-World Road Meeting, 2017) will be organized in India.
- On April 25, 2017, International Road Federation (IRF) announced it.
- The WRM is the biggest global platform for road engineers, safety and transport experts and companies engaged in road safety products.
- Over 4,000 delegates from across the world will attend the convention.
- The theme of this year's edition is 'Safe Roads and Smart Mobility: The Engines of Economic Growth'.
- International Road Union is a non-profit and non-political organization that was formed after World War II.
- Its aim is to develop better road and communication systems around the world and help in the use of technology and management that is certified to help in maximizing economic and social benefits of national road investment.



**Reference:**

<https://worm2017.org/programme/>

<https://www.nrso.ntua.gr/18th-irf-world-road-meeting/>

<https://odishatv.in/nation/india-to-host-18th-world-road-meeting-209688/>

<http://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/india-to-host-18th-world-road-meeting/58360336>

## ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

### Cabinet approved abolishing Foreign Investment Promotion Board

**Question: Which of the following is not correct about Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB)?**

- (a) It processes FDI proposals and makes recommendations for Government approval.
- (b) The Minister of Finance who is in-charge of FIPB would consider





the recommendations of FIPB on proposals with total foreign equity inflow of and below Rs. 3000 crore.

(c) The recommendations of FIPB on proposals with total foreign equity inflow of more than Rs. 3000 crore would be placed for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

(d) It advertizes Indian market in foreign countries.

**Ans: (d)**

- On May 24, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved to the phasing out of Foreign Investment Promotion Board.
- The proposal entails abolishing the FIPB and allowing administrative Ministries/Departments to process applications for FDI requiring government approval.
- FDI applications and approval of the Government shall now be handled by the concerned Ministries/Departments in consultation with the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce.
- DIPP will also issue the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for processing of applications and decision of the Government under the extant FDI policy.
- The move will provide ease of doing business and will help in promoting the principle of Maximum Governance and Minimum Government.
- It is notable that the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is an inter-ministerial body, responsible for processing of FDI proposals and making recommendations for Government approval.
- As per the approval rules, The Finance Minister who is in-charge of FIPB considers the recommendations of FIPB on proposals with total foreign equity inflow of and below Rs. 3000 crore. Proposals of more than Rs. 3000 crore are placed for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).

**Reference:**

<http://www.livemint.com/Politics/cbPuYRqrG4de300IL5kkWK/Govt-scraps-foreign-investment-advisory-body-FIPB-report.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162097>

## LAW & JUSTICE

### Cabinet nod for The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017

**Question:** A 'prohibited area' around a protected monument/site spreads in .... of the site.

- (a) 100 metre radius. (b) 50 meter radius (c) 500 metre radius  
(d) 200 metre radius

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- On May 17, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the introduction of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament.
- Amendments approved to make way for certain constructions limited strictly to public works include;



- Insertion of a new definition of “public works” in section 2 of the Act.
- Amendment to section 20A of the Act so as to allow any Department or Office of the Central Government to carry out public works in the prohibited area after obtaining permission from the Central Government.
- Insertion of a new clause (ea) to section 20-I of the principal Act.
- The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 will be amended through the Bill to allow “public works of national importance” in the prohibited areas.
- A ‘prohibited area’ means land in the 100-metre radius around a protected site. Currently, construction is not allowed in the prohibited area except for repair and renovation works.
- At present, as many as 3,686 monuments and sites are centrally-protected by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), which is responsible for their maintenance.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161850>

[http://ptinews.com/news/8712733\\_Cabinet-nod-for-amending-law-to-allow-construction-near](http://ptinews.com/news/8712733_Cabinet-nod-for-amending-law-to-allow-construction-near)

## YEAR, DAY & WEEK

### Anti-Terrorism Day

**Question- ‘Anti-Terrorism Day’ is observed on ...**

(A) 22nd May (B) 20th May (C) 19th May (D) 21st May

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- ‘Anti Terrorism Day’ was observed on May 21, 2017 in India.
- The Anti- Terrorism Day is observed on May 21st as it was on this day in 1991 that the former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi fell to the bullets of terrorists.
- It aims to spread awareness against terrorism and violence and its adverse effects all sections of the society.



**Related Links:-**

<http://dahd.nic.in/sites/default/files/Office%20Memo-Observance%20of%20Anti-Terrorism%20Day%20dated%2017.05.2017.pdf>

<http://www.indianmirror.com/homepage-articles/Anti-Terrorism-Day.html>

### United Nations Peacekeepers Day

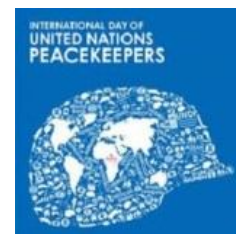
**Question: What is the theme of UN Peacekeepers Day 2017?**

(a) Investing in Peace around the world (b) Honoring our Heroes  
(c) Zero Conflict around the world (d) Humanitarian Aid and Assistance

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed on May 29th.
- The theme for UN Peacekeepers day 2017 is “Investing in Peace around the world.”
- UN Peacekeepers day was established to honour the memory of the UN peacekeepers who have lost their lives in the cause of peace and pay tribute to all the men and women



who have served and continue to serve in UN peacekeeping operations for their high level of professionalism, dedication and courage.

- It is notable that since the first UN peacekeeping mission was established in 1948 until April 2016, 3,400 military, police and civilian personnel have lost their lives in the service of peace as a result of acts of violence, accidents and disease.
- UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:
- Consent of the parties;
- Impartiality;
- Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

**Reference:**

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/>

## International Day for Biological Diversity

**Question: May 22, 2017, is celebrated as 'International Day for Biological Diversity' all over the world. What is the theme of this day for year 2017?**

- (a) Biodiversity and sustainable development
- (b) Biodiversity and Sustainable tourism
- (c) Biodiversity and climate change
- (d) Biodiversity and employment



**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 22, 2017, 'International Day for Biological Diversity' was observed globally.
- The theme for 'International Day for Biological Diversity 2017' is "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".
- It is notable that UN proclaimed May 22, the date of the adoption of the text of Convention on Biological Diversity, as the International Day for Biological Diversity in 2000.
- With only 2.4% of world's land area, India accounts for 7-8% of recorded species of the world.
- In terms of species richness, India ranks seventh in mammals, ninth in birds and fifth in reptiles.
- India's share of crops is 44% as compared to the world average of 11%.
- India also has 23.39% of its geographical area under forest and tree cover.
- There are 4 hotspots of biodiversity in India- (i) Himalaya, (ii) Indo-Myanmar borders (iii) Sunda lands and (iv) Western Ghats
- A biodiversity hotspot is a biogeographic region with a significant reservoir of biodiversity that is under threat from humans.
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 is a federal legislation enacted by the Parliament of India for preservation of biological diversity in India.
- The National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in 2003 to implement India's Biological Diversity Act (2002).

- NBA performs facilitative, regulatory and advisory function for the Government of India on issues of conservation, sustainable use of biological resources and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources.
- Desert National Park is a unique biosphere reserve for conservation and development of biodiversity in India. It is situated in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

**Reference:**

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

## World Metrology Day

**Question: When is 'World Metrology Day' celebrated?**

(a) 21st May (b) 20th May (c) 23rd May (d) 24th May

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Metrology Day was celebrated on May 20th, 2017 across the world.
- The theme of this day for year 2017 is 'Measurements for Transport'.
- This date was chosen in recognition of the signing of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875.
- This convention provides the basis for a coherent measurement system worldwide that underpins scientific discovery and innovation, industrial manufacturing and international trade, as well as the improvement of the quality of life and the protection of the global environment.



**Reference:**

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

## International Museum Day

**Question: International Museum Day is celebrated on ...**

(a) May 18<sup>th</sup> (b) June 3<sup>rd</sup> (c) June 23<sup>rd</sup> (d) June 24<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- International Museum Day was celebrated on May 18, 2017 by the worldwide community of museums.
- The theme chosen for 2017 is "Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums".
- The objective of International Museum Day is to raise awareness of the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among people.
- It is notable that ICOM organizes International Museum Day (IMD) every year on May 18, since 1977.



**Reference:**

<http://network.icom.museum/international-museum-day>

<http://icom.museum/activities/international-museum-day/>

## National Dengue Day

**Question: National Dengue Day is observed on ...**

(a) May 16<sup>th</sup> (b) May 15<sup>th</sup> (c) May 17<sup>th</sup> (d) May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Fact :**

- National Dengue Day was observed on May 16, throughout the country.
- The objective of observing this day is to control the Dengue through awareness and preventive actions till transmission season is over.
- Dengue is a common viral disease spread by mosquito bite. It is transmitted by a mosquito called Aedes Aegypti. It occurs in two forms.
- The first form is, Classical Dengue fever also known as break bone fever because of the severe pain it develops in patients' joints.
- The second form is Dengue Haemorrhagic Fever which is not only painful but also deadly. It usually results in abnormal bleeding from nose, gums or as blood in urine.
- The disease is endemic in more than 100 countries in the WHO regions of Africa, the Americas, the Eastern Mediterranean, South-East Asia and the Western Pacific. The America, South-East Asia and Western Pacific regions are the most seriously affected.
- The best way to prevent dengue is to avoid mosquito bite and mosquito breeding in and around the houses.

**Reference:**

<http://nvbdcp.gov.in/Doc/Observeance-National-Dengue-Day-16May2017.pdf>

<http://nvbdcp.gov.in/DENGU1.html>



## International Day of Families

**Question: The International Day of Families was observed on the 15th of May 2017. What is its theme for this year?**

- (a) Family, education and sustainable development  
(b) Families, education and well-being  
(c) Family and public welfare  
(d) Education and Sustainable Development

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 15, 2017 the 'International Day of Families' was observed across the world.
- The theme for 2017 is "Families, education and well-being".
- The day focuses on the role of families and family-oriented policies in promoting education and overall well-being of their members.
- In 1993, the General Assembly decided through a resolution (A/RES/47/237) that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.

**Reference:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/familyday/background.shtml>

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/family/international-day-of-families/idf2017.html>



## International Nurses Day

**Question: International Nurses Day is celebrated on –**

(a) 11 May (b) 13 May (c) 10 May (d) 12 May

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- International Nurses Day was celebrated across the world on May 12, 2017.
- The theme for International Nurses day 2017 is “Nurses: A Voice to Lead, Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals for its International Nurses Day kit”.
- In January 1974, 12 May was chosen to be celebrated as International Nurses Day as it is the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing.
- The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has celebrated this day every year since 1965.
- The President of India, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee presented the National Florence Nightingale Awards to nursing personnel on the occasion of International Nurses Day at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**Reference:**

<http://www.icn.ch/publications/international-nurses-day/>

<http://www.icn.ch/publications/2017-nursing-a-voice-to-lead-achieving-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

International Nurses Day 2017



## National Technology Day

**Question: What is the theme of the National Technology Day 2017?**

(a) Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth (b) Technology for all  
(c) Let innovation drive the change (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- Nineteenth National Technology Day was celebrated on May 11th, 2017 throughout the country.
- The theme of National Technology Day 2017 is ‘Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth’.
- May 11 is commemorated as the National Technology Day to mark India's scientific prowess and technological advancements since 1999 as on this day May 11, 1998, India successfully conducted first among the five nuclear tests in Pokhran.
- It is also notable that the first, indigenous aircraft “Hansa-3” was test flown at Bangalore on this day. India also performed successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day.
- The Technology Development Board (TDB) commemorates the day by honouring technological innovations that have added to the nation growth.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161713>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161714>





## World Red Cross Day

**Question: The World Red Cross Day is celebrated on-**

(a) 7th May (b) 5th May (c) 4th May (d) 8th May

**Ans(d)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 08, 2017, World Red Cross Day was celebrated across the world.
- This date is the birth anniversary of Henry Dunant (born on May 08, 1828), the founder of International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the recipient of the first Nobel Peace Prize.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a humanitarian institution based in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ICRC was formed on 17 February 1863.
- Its aim is to protect victims of international and internal armed conflicts. Such victims include war wounded, prisoners, refugees, civilians, and other non-combatants.
- The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) was formed in 1920.

**Reference:**

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/world-red-cross-and-red-crescent-day-2017-everywhere-everyone>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/world-red-cross-day-celebrated/article18411395.ece>



## World Thalassaemia Day

**Question: World Thalassaemia Day is observed on-**

(a) 10th May (b) 7th May (c) 5th May (d) 8th May

**Ans (d)**

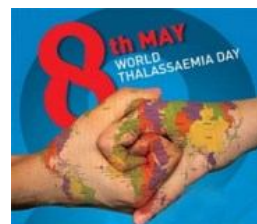
**Related facts:**

- 8th May was observed as World Thalassaemia Day across the world.
- World Thalassaemia Day 2017 has a theme of 'Together for Humanity' World Thalassaemia Day is observed to raise awareness about the disease and other fatal diseases. Thalassaemia is a group of inherited blood disorders in which abnormal hemoglobin is formed in the body.
- There are three main forms of thalassaemia – alpha thalassaemia, beta thalassaemia, and thalassaemia minor.
- People suffering from thalassaemia have less hemoglobin and fewer red blood cells, which lead to anemia.
- Hemoglobin is protein molecules in the red blood cells that are responsible for carrying oxygen in the blood.
- According to Indian Medical Association (IMA) around 35 lakh patients of Thalassaemia are present in the country.

**Reference:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/thalassemia/living.html>

<http://food.ndtv.com/health/world-thalassemia-day-2017-causes-and-symptoms-of-this-genetic-disorder-1690790>



## Year of war disabled

**Question:** Recently Army Chief General Bipin Rawat declared which of the following year as the “year of war disabled”?

(a) 2017 (b) 2018 (c) 2019 (d) 2020

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 06, 2017 Army Chief General Bipin Rawat declared 2018 as the “year of war disabled”.
- He made this declaration during the disabled soldiers rally organised by the Delhi-based War Wounded Foundation at the Armed Forces Medical College.
- Nearly 150 war disabled personnel, some in wheelchairs, participated in the rally.

**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/2018-to-be-year-of-war-disabled-says-army-chief/1/947567.html>

<http://newsworldindia.in/india/others/2018-to-be-year-of-the-war-disabled-says-army-chief-general-bipin-rawat/261317/>



## World Asthma Day

**Question:** World Asthma Day is observed on-

(a) 3rd May (b) 4th May (c) 1st May (d) 2nd May

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On May 02, 2017 World Asthma Day was observed across the world.
- World Asthma Day is observed on the first Tuesday of May.
- The theme of World Asthma Day, 2017 is “Better air better breathing”.
- The inaugural World Asthma Day was held in 1998.
- Asthma is a common long term inflammatory disease of the airways of the lungs.

**Reference:**

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs307/en/>

<http://ginasthma.org/wad/>

<https://twitter.com/UNinIndia/status/859363795726209024>



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Inauguration of ‘Return of Three Statues’ exhibition

**Question:** Recently, three statues (sitting Buddha, disciple worshipping Buddha and Goddess Pratyangira) were safely returned to India from which of the following countries?

(a) America (b) Japan (c) Australia (d) China

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**



- On May 23, 2017, the Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge), Dr. Mahesh Sharma inaugurated the exhibition 'Return of three statues from Australia' in National Museum, Janpath, New Delhi.
- This exhibition was organized on the occasion of the safe return of three stone statues-sitting Buddha, disciple worshipping Buddha and Goddess Pratyangira from Australia to India.
- These statues were bought by the Australia Art Museum from Nancy Wiener in New York in 2007 and in 2005.
- During the special event held in the Australian Art Museum in Canberra, these three ancient artifacts were formally handed over to Dr. Mahesh Sharma by Senator Mitch Fifield.
- On this occasion Dr. Mahesh Sharma released the book 'War Paintings of the Irresistible Jat King Surajmal' written by Dr. Satyavrat Tripathi.
- In addition, he also launched an 'App' on the cleanliness campaign.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=61108>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=162062>

## India contributes to UN election assistance programme

**Question: India's contribution to the UN programme for helping countries to hold elections and develop their electoral systems is ...**

(a) \$150,000 (b) \$250,000 (c) \$350,000 (d) \$200,000

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 18, 2017 India made a contribution of \$250,000 to the UN programme for helping countries to hold elections and develop their electoral systems.
- This is the second contribution of \$250,000 to the programme for electoral assistance and capacity building. The first was made in 2012.
- Through the Election Assistance Division set up in 1991, the UN has helped over 100 countries with their elections.
- This division principally provides technical assistance for organising and conducting elections.



**Reference:**

[https://twitter.com/UN\\_DPA/status/854757797958909956](https://twitter.com/UN_DPA/status/854757797958909956)

<https://twitter.com/IndiaUNNewYork/status/855036184145408001>

## Stock limits on sugar traders extended for six months

**Question: India's position among the major sugar producing countries is ...**

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

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 19, 2017 Union Cabinet gave its approval for extending the validity of the existing Central Order dated 27.10.2016 in respect of sugar for a further period of six months from 29.04.2017 to 28.10.2017.
- The main objective of the decision is to enable the State Governments to issue control order with the prior concurrence of Central Government.
- The decision will help state government in fixing stock limits/licensing requirements in respect of sugar.
- This is expected to help in the efforts being taken to improve the availability of these commodities to general public at reasonable rates.
- To support the sugar sector, the Government had recently extended soft loan assistance of Rs.4305 crore to the industry which has been directly credited to farmers account on behalf of sugar mills through banks benefitting about 32 lakh farmers.
- In order to maintain domestic prices at reasonable levels, the Government has allowed import of a restricted quantity of 5 lakh MT of raw sugar at zero duty by millers/refiners having their own refining capacity.
- This restricted quantity will help the sugar industry to augment their liquidity and enable them to pay cane dues of farmers.
- Top Sugar producing countries are Brazil, India and China respectively.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161141>

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