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NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 1 >>> Issue - 11 >>> May, 2018



Gold Coast 2018

XXI Commonwealth Games



QUEENSLAND



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 April to 30th April) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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NATIONAL

Commonwealth Games-2018

Question- Consider the following statements in regards to 21st Commonwealth Games-2018 held at Gold Coast on April 15th, 2018-

(i) India's last (26th) Gold Medal was won by badminton player Saina Nehwal by defeating P.V. Sindhu.

(II) This was the first Commonwealth Games of Indian women boxer Mary Kom.

(III) Mary Kom won Gold in 45-48 kg weight category.

(IV) Gold medal won by Mary Kom was the 500th medal of India in Commonwealth Games.

Which of the above is/are correct?

(a) (i), (ii), (iv)

(b) (iii), (iv)

(c) (i), (ii), (iii)

(d) all of the above

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:



- 21st Commonwealth Games was organized in Gold Coast, Queensland (Australia) (4th-15th April, 2018).
- Queen's Baton Relay for the year 2018 Commonwealth Games was inaugurated on March 13th, 2017 by Queen Elizabeth from Buckingham Palace.
- She handed the baton to two-time Olympic champion cyclist Anna Meares of the host country Australia. Thus, Anna becomes the first carrier of the Baton.
- On October 3rd, 2017, Queen's Baton reached Pakistan from New Delhi and was released to Bangladesh on October 9th, 2018. India was the 51st stop (stop) of Baton.
- During his total 388 days journey through 71 nations and provinces, Baton covered a total distance 2, 30,000 km. before reaching the Gold Coast on 4th April 2018, in the opening ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games.
- The opening ceremony of the 21st Commonwealth Games was held on April 4th, 2018 at the Carrara Stadium in the Gold Coast, Queensland. The aim of these games was 'Share the Dream'. The theme of the opening ceremony was 'Hello Earth'.
- Gold medal winner of 100 meter hurdles at the 2012 London Olympics Australia's Sally Pearson the credit of handing the bets to the Queen's representative Charles, Prince of Wales. Thus Sally became the last runner of Queen's Baton Relay.
- In the inaugural ceremony, P V Sindhu was the flag bearer of Indian team.
- Charles read the Queen's message and announced the official launch of the Games.
- In the parade of the nations, former host Scotland was at the first and Australia was at the last in the parade. Over 6600 players from 71 nations / provinces have participated in 275 sporting events of 18 sports disciplines. The judo competition included in the Glasgow Commonwealth Games, 2014 was not held this time.
- Basketball was re-included in these games (2018) and the inauguration of the women's Rugby Sevens and new game beach volleyball was chosen as the 18th
- On October 6th, 2016, 7 new game events were added for the female players in the Games program, which made the game of women and men's players equal.

- This is the first time in the history of Commonwealth Games that equality has been brought in the case of events. In this 11-day event, Australia topped in the medal tally with a total of 198 medals including 80 gold, 59 silver and 59 bronze medals.
- England finished second with winning a total of 136 medals, including 45 gold, 45 silver and 46 bronze medals.
- India performing its third best performance in Commonwealth Games and has won total 66 medals including 26 gold, 20 silver and 20 bronze medals.
- The mascot of these games named as Borobi a blue colored male Koala.
- This animal, which looks like a bears, is the vegetarian Marsupial Native living on trees, found in Koala Australia. Canadian female swimmer Taylor Ruck won the most 8 medals in the 21st Commonwealth Games. (Competition-swimming)
- This includes 1 gold (women's 200 m freestyle), 5 silver and 2 bronze medals.
- Australian swimmer Mitch Larkin won the maximum number of gold medal (5 golds) in the 21st Commonwealth Games.
- Four players in the 21st Commonwealth Games won 6 medals.
- They are: 1. Nile Wilson, England (4 Gold and 2 Silver-Artistic Gymnastics), 2. Daimonto Evripidou, Cyprus (4 Gold, 1 Silver and 1 Bronze-Rhythmic Gymnastics), 3. Emma McKeon, Australia (4 Gold and 2 Bronze -swimming) and 4. Duncan Scott, Scotland (1 gold, 1 silver and 4 bronze-swimming).
- Bermuda's Flora Duffy won the first gold medal of 21st Commonwealth Games in Women's Triathlon.
- In the 21st Commonwealth Games, India's first medal in the form of silver medal won by weightlifter P Gururaja Poojari in 56 kg category by lifting 249 kg.
- Weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu gave India the first gold medal in Commonwealth Games. Chanu in 48 kg category lifted total of 196 kg of weight.
- The last 26th gold medal for India won by Saina Nehwal in the Badminton women's singles event, defeating P.V. Sindhu.
- India's 15-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwal won gold medal in the inaugural Commonwealth Games men's 25 meter Rapid Fire Pistol event.
- With this achievement, Anish became the youngest Indian to win a gold medal in the 21st Commonwealth Games. Mary Kom became the first Indian woman boxer to win the gold medal in the Commonwealth Games. She has won the Gold medal in 45-48 kg weight category. This was her first Commonwealth game.
- Saina Nehwal became the first Indian to win two gold medals (first in 2010) at the Commonwealth Games Badminton Championship singles competition.
- For the first time, Manika Batra gave India a gold medal in the table tennis singles event.
- Neeraj Chopra gave gold medal to India for the first time in a javelin throw event.
- In this Commonwealth Games Canada's full-bore shooter Robert Pitcairan debuted at the age of 79 years and 9 months and participated in the Queens Prize Competition.
- Thus, Robert became the oldest player ever to participate in the Commonwealth Games. Anna Hersche 11-year-old table tennis player of Wales became the youngest player to participate in Commonwealth Games.
- New Zealand's weightlifter Laurel Hubbard became the first transgender player to take part in the Commonwealth Games.
- In 90kg category in the snatch of the lifting the weight of 132 kg had to be out of the game Due to the displacement of left shoulder bone.

- 18-year-old Indian weightlifter Deepak Lathev, by winning a bronze medal in the 69 kg weight category, became the youngest weightlifter to win a medal for India in the Commonwealth Games. For India, the maximum of 4 medals (2 gold, 1 silver and 1 bronze) won by Manika Batra in table tennis.
- Shreyasi Singh, who won India's 12th gold medal, has made history.
- She is the country's first woman shooter, who has won gold medal for India in the double trap event. Prior to this, Rajyavardhan Rathore had won gold medal in men's double trap competition in 2006.
- Manika won gold medal in women's singles and women's team, silver medal in women's doubles and bronze medal in mixed doubles.
- India's Triple Junior Rakesh Babu and Race Walker Katie Irfan were out of the competition due to allegations of playing the game.
- Australia's 68-year-old Ken Hanson made his debut in the Commonwealth Games and won the gold medal, becoming the senior-most gold medalist in the history of Commonwealth Games. Ken Hanson won the gold medal in the Para Sports Triple B6B7B8 Lawn Balls. New Zealand's weightlifter David Liti was awarded 'David Dixon Award' for Sporting Spirit.
- David in +105 kg Weight category won the gold medal lifting the 403 kg
- In the Commonwealth Games from 1934 to 2018, the number of medals of India has reached 504.
- Saina Nehwal's gold medal in Badminton Women's Singles was India's 500th Medal.
- The concluding ceremony of 21st Games concludes on April 15th, 2018 at Carrara Stadium, Queensland (Gold Coast). In the closing ceremony the Indian team's flag bearer was female boxer M.C. Mary Kom.
- Commonwealth Games Federation's Deputy Guard Prince Edward announced the conclusion of Gold Coast, 2018 as the representative of the Commonwealth Head.
- Australia became the world's first country hosting the Commonwealth Games maximum 5 times.
- The Commonwealth Games Federation's flag was handed over by the top executives of the Gold Coast 2018 Organizing Committee to Birmingham (England), where the 22nd Commonwealth Games will be held from July 27 to August 7th
- So far, Australia has won the most 2415 medals in the Commonwealth Games and England has won 2144 medals.

Reference:

<https://www.gc2018.com/>

<https://www.gc2018.com/article/meares-and-pendleton-unite-pass-queens-baton>

<https://www.gc2018.com/qbr/baton#>

<https://www.gc2018.com/article/sally-pearson-pulls-out-games>

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1042362/gold-coast-2018-to-offer-same-amount-of-medals-for-men-and-women-after-seven-events-added>

Launching of Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Question- Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi launch the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan recently?

(a) Harda (b) Mandla (c) Bhopal (d) Shivpuri

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 24th, 2018, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Mandla in Madhya Pradesh on the National Panchayati Raj Day.
- He launched the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, at a public meeting, and addressed Panchayati Raj representatives across the country, from Mandla.
- The Prime Minister unveiled a Road Map for overall development of tribals during the next five years, on this occasion.
- A plaque to mark the laying of foundation stone of an LPG bottling plant of Indian Oil Corporation at Maneri, Mandla District was also unveiled.
- He also launched a Local Government Directory.
- In keeping up with the Government's commitment towards clean, healthy, and electrified India, the Prime Minister felicitated the Sarpanches of the villages which have achieved 100 percent smokeless kitchens, 100 percent vaccination under Mission Indradhanush, and 100 percent electrification under Saubhagya Scheme.
- The winners of Rashtriya e-Panchayat Puraskar, and Gram Panchayat Vikas Puraskar Yojana under Sarvasreshtha Panchayat Puraskar Yojana were felicitated on this occasion.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1529958>

Second India Mobile Congress-2018

Question- Where will the second India Mobile Congress, 2018 be organized from October 25th-27th, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- From 25th-27th October, 2018 Second India Mobile Congress, 2018 will be held in New Delhi.
- It will be organized by the Department of Telecom (DoT) and the Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).
- During this, the industry associations and Internet companies of mobile and telecommunications operators will conduct exhibitions and discuss the importance of global and Indian telecommunications mobile internet connectivity and digital service sector.



Reference:

<http://indiamobilecongress.com/>

SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018

Question: SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 was organized at which of the following places?

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- SARAS Aajeevika Mela 2018 was organized at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 23rd March, 2018 to 1st of April, 2018.
- The Ministry of Rural Development organized it under the Public Program and Rural Technology Development Council (CAPRAT) under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Campaign (DAY-NRLM).
- in this Mela SHG women from all states of the country will be participating for exhibition and sale of their products in over 350 stalls.
- The stalls will display the skills, potential and hard work of our women from across India.
- The products ranges from handlooms, handicrafts, artefacts and heritage products, tribal ornaments, decorative items, metallic products, earthen utensils, paintings, organic food items, spices, processed food products, soft toys, utility items, brass and wrought iron products.
- During this fair, workshops were also organized to train women in fields like packaging and handling consumers along with cultural programs.
- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna – National Rural Livelihood Campaign launched for the eradication of poverty in Rural areas by the Rural Development Department, Government of India, in year 2011.
- The programme aims to organize the rural poor women into their own institutions like Self Help Groups and their federations, Producers' Collectives etc. and also ensure their financial inclusion and livelihoods support.
- Since its launch in 2011, the Mission has spread to 4456 Blocks of 584 Districts, across 29 States and 5 Union Territories.
- Women from 4.7 crore of the poorest and marginalized families have been mobilized into 39.9 lakh Self Help Groups, which have been federated into 2.20 lakh Village Organizations and 19,000 Cluster Level Federations. Women's Self-Help Groups have now accessed Rs.151, 000 crores of funds from banks.
- A major component under DAY-NRLM relates to skilling of rural poor youth for self-employment and wage employment.
- Towards this end the Ministry is implementing the *Deen Dayal Upadhyay –Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)* under DAY-NRLM. *DDU-GKY is a placement Linked Skill Development scheme which seeks to build the Skills of the poor rural youth and place them in relatively higher wage employment sectors of the economy.*
- As of Jan'18, 10.51 lakh youth have been trained and 6.5 lakh youth have been placed.
- DAY-NRLM also provides support for establishing Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETIs) in each district of the country in collaboration with the Banks and the State Governments to provide training to the rural youth from the poor households to take-up economic activities.
- Currently 582 RSETIs are functioning in the country. Cumulatively, 26 lakh youth have been trained and 17.2 lakh have been settled as on January, 2018.



India – Wiesbaden Conference 2018

Question: Where was the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 organized on April 16th-17th, 2018?

(a) New York (b) Paris (c) New Delhi (d) Bhubaneswar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 16th-17th April, 2018, the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, in cooperation with the Government of Germany and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) hosted the India-Wiesbaden Conference 2018 at the Federation House, Tansen Marg, New-Delhi.
- Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) was the industry partner for the event.
- The title of the Conference was 'Securing Global Supply Chains through Government-Industry Partnerships towards Effective Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540'.
- Representatives from the Government and Industry of 39 countries, as well as experts from the UNSC 1540 Committee and UN Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York, participated in the two-day conference.
- The Conference provides an opportunity to participants to share experiences on their export control systems and to identify legal & technical assistance, action plans & challenges in national implementation of UNSC 1540.
- The UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) establishes legally binding obligations on all States to adopt and enforce appropriate and effective measures to prevent the proliferation to non-State actors of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their delivery systems.
- It requires, therefore that States implement appropriate and effective measures to prevent non-state actors such as terrorists, from obtaining access to weapons of mass destruction (WMD). The Wiesbaden Process was initiated by the Government of Germany in 2012 to strengthen the implementation of UNSC 1540 through Government-Industry partnerships.
- India, with its long standing commitment to international non-proliferation has established a legally backed robust export control system to implement UNSC 1540.



Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29816/India++Wiesbaden+Conference+2018+April+1617+2018>

New Chairman of the NASSCOM

Question: Who was recently elected as the new chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)?

(a) CP Gurnani (b) Rishad Premji (c) Raman Roy (d) Rakesh Bharti Mittal

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 10th, 2018, Chief Strategy Officer of Wipro Limited and Member of Board Rishad Premji was appointed as Chairman of National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for the year 2018-19.



- For this post, he replaced Quattro Global Services Chairman Raman Roy.
- Apart from this, Keshav Murugesh was appointed Vice Chairman of NASSCOM for the year 2018-19.
- It is known that on April 2nd, 2018, former Managing Director of the Intel Company (South Asia Region) Debjani Ghosh took over as the President.
- It is noteworthy that NASSCOM is a broad union of information technology and BPO of India.
- It was established on March 1, 1988.
- Its headquarters are in New Delhi.

Reference:

http://www.nasscom.in/sites/default/files/media_pdf/rp-chairman-appointed.pdf

A successful launch of the Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1I

Question: On April 12th, 2018, by which of the following polar launcher the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched a successfully 'IRNSS-1I' Navigation Satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota?

(a) PSLV-C32 (b) PSLV-C41 (c) PSLV-C38 (d) PSLV-C40

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 12th April, 2018, in its forty third flight, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched the 1425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- PSLV-C41 lifted off at 0404 hrs (4:04 am) IST, as planned, from the First Launch Pad.
- After a flight lasting about 19 minutes, the vehicle achieved a Sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) of 281.5 km and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 20,730 km inclined at an angle of 19.2 degree to the equator following which IRNSS-1I separated from PSLV.
- After separation, the solar panels of IRNSS-1I were deployed automatically. ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, Karnataka took over the control of the satellite.
- In the coming days, orbit manoeuvres will be performed from MCF to position the satellite at 55 deg East longitude in the planned Geosynchronous Orbit with an inclination of 29 deg to the equator. IRNSS-1I is the latest member of the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)' system.
- NavIC, also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.
- A number of ground facilities responsible for IRNSS satellite ranging and monitoring, generation and transmission of navigation parameters, satellite control, network timing, etc., have been established in many locations across the country as part of NavIC.
- Till now, PSLV has successfully launched 52 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.



Reference:

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/12-apr-2018/pslv-c41-successfully-launches-irNSS-1I-navigation-satellite>

Media Launch of 11th World Hindi Conference

Question: On April 10th, 2018, the media launch program of 11thWorld Hindi Conference was organized at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. According to this, where will the 11th World Hindi Conference be organized?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mauritius (c) Bhopal (d) Nagpur

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 10th, 2018, the Media Launch Program of 11th World Hindi Conference was organized at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi.
- The 11thWorld Hindi Conference (WHC) is being organized from 18-20 August 2018 in Mauritius by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in association with the Government of Mauritius.
- The decision to organize the 11th edition of the Conference in Mauritius was taken at the 10th World Hindi Conference held in Bhopal, India in September 2015.
- It is noteworthy that the first World Hindi Conference was held in 1975 in Nagpur, India. Since then, ten such Conferences have been held in different parts of the world.
- Ministry of External Affairs is the nodal Ministry for the 11thWorld Hindi Conference.
- The main theme of the Conference is “Vaishvik Hindi Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti”.
- The venue of the Conference is “Swami Vivekanand International Convention Centre“, Pailles Mauritius.
- A number of exhibitions focusing on the developments of Hindi language will be organised at the conference venue.
- During the conference, evening cultural programmes and a Kavi Sammelan will be organized by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations, New Delhi.
- A daily news letter (Sammelan Samachar), a Sammelan Smarika and a Conference Report on discussions/deliberations held during the academic sessions and their recommendations would also be published.
- World Hindi Secretariat will play an important role on preparation and publication of conference material.
- The Indian Council of Cultural Relations would bring out a special issue of “Gagananchal” dedicated to the Conference.
- In keeping with the past practice, Hindi scholars from India and other countries would be honoured with “Vishwa Hindi Samman” for their distinguished services in the field of Hindi.
- To select a suitable logo for the 11thWorld Hindi Conference, a logo design competition was organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, which carried a prize money of Rs.60,000/-. With the help of a Logo Selection Committee, a suitable logo for the conference was selected.
- An official website has been developed for the conference, which can be visited at vishwahindisammelan for all relevant information.



Reference:

http://www.bhasha.ptinews.com/news/1712467_bhasha

Cabinet approves revision of pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories

Question: Cabinet has approved the proposal for increasing the pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories. From which date this will come into effect?

- (a) 1st January, 2019 (b) 1st January, 2018 (c) 1st January, 2017
(d) 1st January, 2016

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 11th, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for revision of pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories.
- The pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories remain at par with those of officers of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India.
- The pay of officers of the rank of Secretary to the Government of India has been revised from Rs.80, 000/- to Rs.2, 25,000/- per month with effect from 01.01.2016 as per CCS (Revised) Pay Rules, 2016.
- It is noteworthy that The pay and allowances of Lieutenant Governors of Union Territories was last revised with the approval of the Cabinet with effect from 1st January, 2006 from Rs. 26,000/- (fixed) per month to Rs.80, 000/- (fixed) per month plus dearness allowance, sumptuary allowance at the rate of Rs.4,000/- per month and local allowances.
- It will bring the pay and allowances of LGs at par with that of the Secretary to the Government of India.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178591>

The mantra of 3R

Question: The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific is being organized in Indore from 9 to 12 April 2018. For what the “The mantra of 3R” stands as given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

- (a) Reduce, Reuse and Recycle (b) Rebuilt, Reuse and Reform
(c) Reduce, Reform and Recycle (d) Rebuilt, Reform and Recycle

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific is all set to commence in Indore from 9 to 12 April 2018.
- An overall theme of the forum is “Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air through 3R and Resource Efficiency – A 21st Century Vision for Asia-Pacific Communities”.
- The forum will kick start on 9th April with a pre event ceremony welcoming more than 500 delegates from across India and the world.
- The event will be inaugurated by Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Speaker of the Lok Sabha and Sh. Hardeep S. Puri, Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on 10th April 2018.
- The Eighth Regional 3R Forum will see participation of around 40 mayors of cities around the world and mayors of more than 100 cities across India.



- The Eighth Regional 3R Forum in Asia and the Pacific is hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, and co-organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Government of Japan, and the United Nations Centre for Regional Development of the Division for Sustainable Development /United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
- The highlight of the event will be a series of sessions with mayors focusing on sustainable urban development and forging of inter-municipal partnerships and cooperation at the national and international level.
- The signing and subsequent adoption of the 'Indore 3R Declaration on Achieving Clean Water, Clean Land and Clean Air' in cities by mayors and city authorities is the major expected outcome of the event.
- Apart from a series of plenary sessions to be spread over three days, the Forum will also host the International 3R Exhibition and various technical cum cultural field visits for its delegates.
- The Forum will also recognize and reward industries and civil society organizations carrying out exceptional work in the area of 3R for waste management through the 3R Awards scheduled for April 12.

Reference:

<http://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/080418/reduce-reuse-recycle-golden-principle-for-sustainability-modi.html>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178528>

First Meeting of the NITI Forum

Question: Where will the first meeting of NITI forum be held on April 10th, 2018?

- (a) Kohima, Nagaland (b) Agartala, Tripura (c) Guwahati, Assam
(d) Shilong Meghalaya

- On April 10th 2018, the first meeting of newly constituted NITI Forum for North East will be held in Agartala, Tripura.
- The meeting will be chaired by the Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog, Rajeev Kumar and the co-Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh. Chief Ministers of NE States and leading lights from the region will attend the deliberations.
- Shri Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and Shri Jitendra Singh, MoS (IC), Ministry of DoNER addressed a press conference at NITI Aayog in the capital today ahead of departure to Agartala.
- Emphasizing the need to identify constraints, streamline resources and add renewed focus on the NER, the Vice-Chairman and the Minister spoke about Moving towards a prosperous North East Region, the theme for the first meeting.
- Strategies for improving Road, Rail and Air Connectivity in the North East Region
- Realizing the Hydel Dream – Way Forward for utilizing existing potential for hydro-power in the NER.
- Agriculture and allied sectors.
- Water Management.
- Promotion of Tourism.



- Identifying and targeting early bird projects in areas of connectivity, agricultural productivity and industrial development to give fillip to growth in the NER.
- It is noteworthy that The 'NITI Forum for North East' was constituted in February 2018 with an aim to ensure sustainable economic growth of the North Eastern Region (NER) of the country and periodically review the development status in NER.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178528>

Global Logistics Summit

Question: Where the 'Global Logistics Summit' was organized on April 5th-6th, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 5th-6th, 2018 the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, in partnership with FICCI and the World Bank Group, is organising this Summit on 5 & 6 April 2018.
- The Summit provides an opportunity to discuss the above issues among global experts, academics, government officials and private sector and industry representatives.
- Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu addressed the inaugural session of this summit.
- Indian logistics industry is estimated at around US \$ 215 billion in 2019-20, growing at over 10 % annually.
- In the last decade or so, significant improvements in Railways, Roads, Highways, Inland Waterways, Aviation, Ports and Coastal Shipping have taken place.
- India has improved its ranking in the Logistics Performance Index (prepared by the World Bank) from 54 in 2014 to 35 in 2016.
- To keep up with the growth in demand for logistics services, it is important to develop a consistent approach to logistics across infrastructure, services and different modes of transportation.



Reference:

<http://ficci.in/past-event-page.asp?evid=23754>

16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting

Question- 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12th April 2018 will be held in which of the following places?

(a) Riyadh (b) Baku (c) Abu Dhabi (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- India will host the 16th International Energy Forum (IEF) Ministerial Meeting from 10-12th April 2018 in New Delhi.
- The biennial IEF Ministerial Meetings are the world's largest gathering of Energy Ministers who engage in a dialogue on global energy issues.



- The IEF Ministerial meetings are informal dialogues, at both the political and technical levels, aimed to improve policy and investment decisions, and through increased knowledge and experience sharing.
- The Minister for External Affairs Smt. Sushma bSwaraj will deliver the valedictory speech at the Concluding session on 12th April 2018.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will formally inaugurate the Meeting on 11th April 2018.
- Petroleum Ministers from 42 countries would attend the Meeting.
- Global energy security, sustainable and inclusive growth, energy access and affordability, fiscal regimes and legal reforms to attract investments in the energy sector and energy sector digitalization-benefits and challenges would be part of the deliberations among other important issues.
- The International Energy Forum (**IEF**) is an inter-governmental arrangement set up in 1991, based in Riyadh.
- This forum serves as a neutral facilitator of informal, open, informed and continuing global energy dialogue among its members comprising of energy producing and energy consuming states, including transit countries.
- There are 72 member countries of IEF, including India, covering all six continents, which are signatories to the Charter of the IEF.
- Its membership accounts for 90% of global supply and demand for oil and gas.
- The Executive Board (EB) set up in 2002 comprising of 31 designated representatives of Ministers of the member states comprise the governing board of IEF.
- It meets twice a year. International Energy Agency (IEA) and Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) are non-voting members of the Executive Board.
- The EB is chaired by the Host State of the next biennial Ministerial Meeting. Currently, India is the Chair of the Executive Board of IEF.
- By virtue of being among the top 11 largest consumers of oil and gas (India is presently 4th), India has been the Permanent Member of the Executive Board since its set-up in 2002.
- India had earlier hosted the 5th IEF Ministerial in 1996 at Goa.
- Apart from member countries, invitations have also been extended to 20 other countries where India has oil and gas engagements/interests.

Reference:

<https://www.ief.org/ief16-ministerial.aspx>

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1527953>

Second lead-up Conference to 3rd Annual Meeting of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on ‘Enhancing Port and Coastal Infrastructure’

Question: Where did the lead-up Conference in order to build-up the momentum for the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) concludes on April 3rd-4th, 2018?

(a) Chennai (b) Bangalore (c) Visakhapatnam (d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 3rd-4th, 2018, two day lead-up Conference in order to build-up the momentum for the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian



Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was completed in Visakhapatnam Andhra Pradesh.

- The conference was on the theme of “Enhancing Port and Coastal Infrastructure: A Primer on Potential Areas”.
- The two-day Regional Conference is being organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with AIIB, CII and Research and Infrastructure System (RIS) for Developing Countries.
- Around 150 delegates representing different industry, academic and research institutions are participating among others to deliberate upon the major bottlenecks in the quest for developing blue economy in the country in order to achieve higher and inclusive economic growth.
- Significantly, the Indian government will host the third annual meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, which will be held in Mumbai on June 25th-26th, 2018.
- The panel discussed various issues relating to trade promotion through sea route, building-up robust port & coastal infrastructure and revising & relaxing maritime regulatory issues to promote blue economy in India.
- There are five new AIIB funded projects which are underway in India with investments worth US\$ 1.1 billion.
- The Panel also discussed elaborately on various port & coastal infrastructure related issues including facilitation of trade, port infrastructure and maritime regulations among others for implementation of Sagarmala project in a successful and time bound manner.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178341>

NIRF India Rankings 2018

Question: On April 3rd, 2018, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar released ‘India Rankings-2018’ at the national level of institutions of higher education in the country under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). According to this, which of the given institution has got is the first place in the category of university?

- (a) Jadavpur University, Kolkata
- (b) Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- (c) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- (d) Delhi University, New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 3rd 2018, HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar released ‘India Rankings 2018’ at the national level of institutions of higher education in the country under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2018.
- Ranking for the third time in the country was released by the Ministry of Human Resource Development in 8 categories of Higher Education Management, Law, Medical, Architecture, Engineering, Pharma, Colleges and Universities.
- In this survey, government and non-governmental higher educational institutions across the country have been included.
- Top 10 Institutes in overall Ranking:
 1. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
 2. IIT Chennai
 3. IIT Bombay



4. IIT Delhi
 5. IIT, Kharagpur
 6. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
 7. IIT, Kanpur
 8. IIT, Roorkee
 9. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
 10. Anna University, Chennai
- Top 5 institutions in the management category
 1. IIM, Ahmedabad
 2. IIM, Bangalore
 3. IIM, Kolkata
 4. IIM, Lucknow
 5. IIM, Bombay
 - Top 5 institutions in the category of universities
 1. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
 2. Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
 3. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
 4. Anna University, Chennai
 5. Hyderabad University
 - Top 5 institutions in the Engineering category
 1. IIT, Madras
 2. IIT, Bombay
 3. IIT, Delhi
 4. IIT, Kharagpur
 5. IIT, Kanpur
 - Top 5 institutes in the category
 1. Miranda House, Delhi
 2. Stephen's College, Delhi
 3. Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli
 4. Hindu College, Delhi
 5. Presidency College, Delhi
 - Top 5 institutions in Pharma category
 1. National Institute of Pharmaceuticals Education and Research, Mohali, Punjab
 2. Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi
 3. Punjab University, Chandigarh
 4. Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai
 5. Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
 - Top 3 institutions in medical category
 1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
 2. Postgraduate Medical Education and Research Institute (PGIMER), Chandigarh
 3. Christian Medical College, Vellore
 - Top 3 institutions in the category of architecture
 1. IIT, Kharagpur
 2. IIT, Roorkee
 3. School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
 - The top 3 institutes in Law category
 1. National Law School of India University, Bangalore

2. National Law University, New Delhi
3. Nalsar University of Law, Hyderabad
- It is known that the Ministry of Human Resource Development had launched 'National Institute Racking Framework' (NIRF) on September 29, 2015.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178338>

North-East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS) 2017

Question: The North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017 with financial outlay of how much Rupee upto March, 2020?

(a) 2000 crores (b) 3000 crores (c) 4000 crores (d) 5000 crores

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 21st, 2018 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the North East Industrial Development Scheme (NEIDS), 2017.
- Scheme is with financial outlay of Rs.3000 crores upto March, 2020.
- Government will provide necessary allocations for remaining period of scheme after assessment before March 2020.
- NEIDS is a combination of the incentives covered under the earlier two schemes with a much larger outlay.
- In order to promote employment in the North East States, Government is incentivizing primarily the MSME Sector through this scheme.
- Government is also providing specific incentive through the scheme to generate employment.
- All eligible industrial units, which are getting benefits of one or more components of other schemes of the Government of India, will also be considered for benefits of other components of this scheme.
- Under the Scheme, the following incentives shall be provided to new industrial units set up in the North Eastern States including Sikkim:
 1. Central Capital Investment Incentive for Access to Credit (CCIIAC)- 30% of the investment in Plant & Machinery with an upper limit of Rs.5 Crore on the incentive amount per unit..
 2. Central Interest Incentive (CII)- 3% on working capital credit advanced by eligible Banks/ Financial institutions for first 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production by the unit.
 3. Central Comprehensive Insurance Incentive (CCII)- Reimbursement of 100% insurance premium on insurance of building and Plant & Machinery for 5 years from the date of commencement of commercial production by the unit.
 4. Goods and Service Tax (GST) Reimbursement- Reimbursement up to the extent of Central Govt. share of CGST and IGST for 5 Years from the date of commencement of commercial production by the unit.
 5. Income-Tax (IT) Reimbursement- Reimbursement of Centre's share of income tax for first 5 years including the year of commencement of commercial production by the unit.
 6. Transport Incentive (TI)- 20% of the cost of transportation including the subsidy currently provided by Railways/ Railway PSU for movement of finished goods by rail;



20% of cost of transportation for finished goods, for movement through Inland Waterways Authority of India and 33% of cost of transportation of air freight on perishable goods (as defined by IATA) from the airport nearest to place of production to any airport within the country.

7. Employment Incentive (EI)- The Government shall pay 3.67% of the employer's contribution to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) in addition to Government bearing 8.33% Employee Pension Scheme (EPS) contribution of the employer in the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY).
- The overall cap for benefits under all components of incentives will be of Rs. 200 crores per unit
 - The newly introduced scheme shall promote industrialization in the States of the North Eastern Region and will boost employment and income generation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177822>

National Conference on Down Syndrome

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

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

Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 22nd, 2018, the Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2018 has been passed by parliament.
- The bill was passed by Lok Sabha on March 15th, 2018, and by Rajya Sabha on March 22nd, 2018.
- The bill ensures harmony amongst employees in the private sector and Public Sector Undertakings/Autonomous Organizations under Government who are not covered under CCS (Pension) Rules.
- These employees will be entitled to receive higher amount of gratuity at par with their counterparts in Government sector.
- The bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha today and the Lok Sabha on 15th March, 2018.
- The Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 applies to establishments employing 10 or more persons.
- The main purpose for enacting this Act is to provide social security to workman after retirement, whether retirement is a result of superannuation, or physical disablement or impairment of vital part of the body.
- Therefore, the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 is an important social security legislation to wage earning population in industries, factories and establishments.
- The present upper ceiling on gratuity amount under the Act is Rs. 10 Lakh.
- The provisions for Central Government employees under Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 with regard to gratuity are also similar.
- Before implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission, the ceiling under CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972 was Rs. 10 Lakh. However, with implementation of 7th Central Pay Commission, in case of Government servants, the ceiling has been raised to Rs. 20 Lakhs.
- Therefore, considering the inflation and wage increase even in case of employees engaged in private sector, this Government decided that the entitlement of gratuity should also be revised in respect of employees who are covered under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.



- Accordingly, the Government initiated the process for amendment to Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 to increase the maximum limit of gratuity to such amount as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time.
- In addition, the Bill also envisages to amend the provisions relating to calculation of continuous service for the purpose of gratuity in case of female employees who are on maternity leave from 'twelve weeks' to such period as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time.
- After enactment of the Act, the power to notify the ceiling of the amount of gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 shall stand delegated to the Central Government so that the limit can be revised from time to time keeping in view the increase in wage and inflation and future pay commissions.

Reference:

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

SATH-Education Roadmaps 2018-2020

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

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On March 17th, 2018, the roadmaps for the Sustainable Action for Transforming Human Capital in Education (SATH-E) Project of NITI Aayog, being undertaken in partnership with three participating States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, were released by Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- The forward-looking roadmaps for SATH-E were released at the conclusion of the first meeting of the National Steering Group (NSG), the governing body for the project, which is chaired by the CEO of NITI Aayog.
- "SATH-E aspires to be a 'saathi', to the educational system with the student and the teacher at its centre", underscoring the significance of this project.
- "The aim is to make the entire governmental school education system responsive, aspirational and transformational for every child."
- The release of the States' roadmap was preceded by a workshop anchored by the States' Principal Secretaries for education and State Project Directors along with field level functionaries.
- The States presented their respective systemic and innovative best practices so as to learn from each other.



- Shri PK Mahapatra, Principal Secretary, Odisha, highlighted the development of iLMS (Integrated Litigation Management System) which is integrated, online software for efficiently managing education-related cases pending in various courts and tribunals.
- This 'tripartite arrangement', where the NITI Aayog, the three States, chosen through a challenge method, and knowledge partners from the private sector, symbolises the very essence of competitive and cooperative federalism exemplified by NITI.
- The process ensured that schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and projects under SATH-E are in sync with their respective state schemes.
- In May 2017, the NITI Aayog wrote to all States offering assistance for improving their health and education sectors.
- 16 States responded favorably. Following presentations and consultations with MHRD, the three States of Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha were selected for the programme.
- The SATH-E initiative is based on formal agreements with the States and will be funded through a cost-sharing mechanism between NITI Aayog and the participating states.
- The Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and Piramal Foundation for Education Leadership (PFEL) were chosen as knowledge partners for the project facilitating review, data collection and implementation.
- SATH-E roadmap refers to a time-bound, goal-driven exercise that will reach its logical culmination by the end of the academic year 2020.

Reference:

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

INTERNATIONAL

Ministerial Conference of the Non- Aligned Movement (NAM)

Question- On 5th-6th April 2018, the Non- Aligned Movement Mid-Term Ministerial Conference will be held in Baku?

(a) Baku (b) New Delhi (c) Margarita Island (d) Cairo

Answer: (a)

Related Facts

- The Non- Aligned Movement Mid-Term Ministerial Conference will be held in Baku on 5-6 April. 2018 under the theme of "promoting international peace and security for sustainable development".
- Senior Officials meeting will be held on 3-4 April. 2018 as a part of the preparation process for the Ministerial Conference.
- NAM Participating States, representatives of the Observer States and International Organizations, countries and institutions invited in the status of special guests will take part at the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference.



- NAM includes 120 states 17 states and 10 international organizations have an observer status to NAM. NAM plays an important role in maintenance of the international peace and security.
- In 2011 the Republic of Azerbaijan joined the movement at the XVI Ministerial Conference held in Sali.
- In 2019 the Republic of Azerbaijan will host the XVIII Summit of the HAM and will be chair of NAM between 2019 -2022.
- A special web site has been created at www.nambaku.org for the Mid-Term Ministerial Conference of NAM to be held in Baku on 5-6 April.
- Online accreditation of local and foreign media representatives is conducted through the Registration/For Media section of the web site. Deadline for media accreditation is March 12.2018.

Reference:

<https://www.un.org/pga/72/2018/04/05/mid-term-ministerial-conference-of-the-non-aligned-movement-promoting-international-peace-and-security-for-sustainable-development/>

Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem, 2017

Question: Which position has India got in the ‘Global Ranking of Startup Ecosystem, 2017’ issued by the startup blink recently?

(a) 23rd, (b) 38th, (c) 25th, (d) 37th,

Answer: (d)



Related Facts:

- In March 2018, the Startup Blink-Global Map of Startup Ecosystem issued ‘Global Ranking of Start-Up Ecosystem’, 2017.
- More than 125 countries and more than 900 cities have been ranked according to their startup ecosystem strength.
- The top 5 countries included in the list are:
 - America
 - United Kingdom
 - Canada
 - Israel and
 - Germany.
- In addition, Sweden (6th), Denmark (7th), Switzerland (8th), France (9th) and Singapore (10th) are among the top 10 countries.
- India has ranked 37th in this list.
- Singapore ranked top (ranked 10th) in Asian countries.
- Singapore is followed by China 12th, South Korea 17th and Japan 20th.
- According to the Startup Ecosystem Strength, the top five cities in the world are as follows:
 1. San Francisco (US, Silicon Valley)
 2. New York, US
 3. London, United Kingdom
 4. Los Angeles, USA
 5. Berlin, Germany.

- Among the Indian cities, Bangalore has secured 21st, Delhi 23rd, Mumbai 32nd, Chennai 217th, Pune 218th, Noida 220th, Ahmadabad 222nd and Jaipur 223rd

Reference:

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

<https://www.startupblink.com/india-startups>

ECONOMICS

Fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy rates for Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for the year 2018-19

Question The expected expenditure for release of subsidy on P&K Fertilizers during 2018-19 will be Rs.-

- (a) 19445.27 crores (b) 20425.05 crores (c) 23007.16 crores (d) 23045.67 crores

Answer- (c)

Related Facts

- On March 28th, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers for fixation of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for P&K Fertilizers for the year 2018-19.
- The expected expenditure for release of subsidy on P&K Fertilizers during 2018-19 will be Rs. 23007.16 crore.
- The CCEA has also accorded ex-post facto approval on the proposal of the Department of Fertilizers subsidy paid on specific quantity of P&K fertilizers received in the districts during February & March months in different years since 2012-13 at the rates fixed for the next financial year which were lower than the rates approved by Cabinet/CCEA for that year.
- The CCEA has authorized Department of Fertilizers for releasing subsidy, if required, as per the rates fixed for the financial year or of the next financial year whichever is lower on the specific category/quantity of P&K fertilizers received in districts during February and March months of the year in consultation with Department of Expenditure.
- Government is making available fertilizers, namely Urea and 21 grades of P&K fertilizers to farmers at subsidized prices through fertilizer manufacturers/importers.
- The subsidy on P&K fertilizers is being governed by NBS Scheme w.e.f 01.04.2010. In accordance to its farmer friendly approach, the Government is committed to ensure the availability of P&K fertilizers to the farmers on affordable price.
- The Government has increased the subsidy expenditure by Rs. 1913.07 crore in comparison to Financial Year 2017-18 to save the farmers from the impact of increase in international prices of P&K fertilizers.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178186>

Revised cost estimates of the scheme of updation of National Register of Citizens, 1951 in Assam

Question- Recently, on 4th April 2018 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved the Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the scheme of Updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951. This plan is for which of the following states?

(a) Manipur (b) Assam (c) Mizoram (d) Odisha

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 4th April 2018 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Revised Cost Estimates (RCE) of the scheme of Updation of National Register of Citizens (NRC), 1951 in Assam at a cost of Rs. 1220.93 crore upto 31.12.2018.
- The scheme of NRC, 1951 is specific to state of Assam covering about 3.29 crore applicants.
- The exercise will help in preparation of National Register of Citizens in Assam. 31st December, 2018 is the proposed date for publication final NRC.
- A part Draft National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam covering 1.90 crore persons out of 3.29 crore applicants has been published on 31st December, 2017 including names of those applicants in respect of whom the entire process of verification has been completed.
- The preparation of NRC is the most extensive citizen engaging exercise, which touches the life of every resident of Assam.
- It is part of the action for the fulfillment of Assam Accord and understanding arrived in a tripartite meeting held in 2005 at the level of Prime Minister.
- The National Register of Citizens, Assam will contain the names of genuine Indian citizens and will help the government to check illegal immigration in India.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1527702>

Monthly Pension for Organic Farmers

Question: In which of the following states government recently announced the monthly pension to farmers who are indulged in organic farming?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 3rd April, 2018, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Kumar Chamling announced the monthly pension to farmers who are engaged in organic farming in the state.
- Farmers involved in organic cultivation farming will get a monthly pension of Rs 1000 by the state government.



- State Government has already restricted the sale and consumption of non-organic agricultural and horticultural products of cereals, vegetables, spices and fruits in the state.
- Sikkim is the first organic state of the country.
- Organic farming is the method of agriculture that is based on experimentation or minimal experiment without synthetic fertilizers and synthetic pesticides.
- This crop is used to save the fertility of the land, crop circle, green manure, compost manure etc.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/chamling-announces-monthly-pension-for-organic-farmers-118040300984_1.html

First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2018-19

Question: On April 5th, 2018, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by the Reserve Bank of India Governor Urgit Patel, released the 'First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19'. On the whole, GDP growth is projected to strengthen from 6.6 per cent in 2017-18 to what per cent in 2018-19?

(a) 6.6 percent (b) 7.2 percent (c) 7.4 percent (d) 6.9 percent

Answer: (c)

Related Fact:

- On April 5th, 2018, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by the Reserve Bank of India Governor Urgit Patel, released the 'First Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2018-19'.
- Reserve Bank of India has kept policy rates, reserve cash ratio, net demand and periodic liabilities unchanged in the first bi-monthly monetary policy.
- Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0 per cent.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 per cent.
- Keeping the cash reserve ratio (CRR: Cash Reserve Ratio) of scheduled commercial banks unchanged, it was retained at 4 percent of net demand and dead liabilities (NDTL: Net Demand and Time Liabilities).
- The statutory liquidity ratio (SLR: Statutory Liquidity by Ratio) of scheduled commercial banks is kept unchanged at 19.50 percent.
- Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 per cent.
- On the whole, GDP growth is projected to strengthen from 6.6 per cent in 2017-18 to 7.4 per cent in 2018-19.



Reference:

https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=43573

Forbes 30 under 30 Asia: 2018

Question: Which famous Bollywood actress is included in the list of 'Forbes 30 under 30 Asia: 2018' released by the prestigious American

30

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



magazine Forbes on March 27th, 2018?

(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Anushka Sharma (c) Deepika Padukone
(d) Alia Bhatt

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 27th, 2018, the prestigious American magazine Forbes released the third annual 'Forbes 30 under 30 Asia: 2018' list.
- This list covers 300 people.
- This list includes the youth who have done something new or have worked out of their area.
- The 24 countries of Asia-Pacific have been included in the list.
- North Korea and Azerbaijan were included in the list for the first time.
- With 65 young disruptors, innovators and entrepreneurs among the final 300, India has the highest number of honourees on this year's 'Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia' list.
- While China is in second place with 59 personalities.
- The list includes famous Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma and famous badminton player P.V. Sindhu.
- Apart from this, the other major Indians in this list are as follows:
 - Ankit Prasad made an app called -Bobble, it turns Selfie into a cartoon image.
 - Priya Prakash – started the program called 'Health Set Go'. It does health related work for school students.
 - Bala Sarda- 'Watham Tea' started tea business. It did not place intermediaries in place.
 - Suhani Jalota- made Mena Women Foundation, encouraged women to create product related to menstrual cycle and added women with it.
- Padnabh Singh – Prince of Jaipur, becoming the youngest player to be part of the World Cup Polo Team
- Rahul Gayam – introduced the 'Gayam Motor Works Motors' which produces electric auto rickshaws and bikes.
- Shreyas Bhandari and Ramesh Dhami recycle old shoes and work to reach it to the needy.
- Bhumi Arora-is a model, she got place on the cover page of Vogue India Magazine in the year 2016.

Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/30-under-30-asia/2018/#11c910555aeb>

MasterCard Women Entrepreneurs Index

Question- What is the rank of India in the recently released 'MasterCard Women Entrepreneurs Index'?

(a) 52nd (b) 53rd(c) 54th (d) 55th

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On March 7th, 2018, another version of the MasterCard Women Entrepreneurs Index was released.
- 57 countries have been ranked in the MasterCard Women Entrepreneurs Index.
- Index focuses on the capability of women entrepreneurs to redeem the opportunities provided through various supported conditions in their local environments.



- According to this, India's ranking is 52nd.
- Last year also India's ranking was 52nd.
- India's low ranking in the index shows that the underlying conditions for women's business ownership / entrepreneurship in the country are less favorable than those with higher index scores.
- In the index, India is far behind from the United States (4th) and China (29th).
- According to the report, due to cultural prejudice, Indian women entrepreneurs exhibit low inclination towards business ownership.
- India's ranking in the index is better than just five countries.
- These countries are Iran, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Egypt and Bangladesh.
- New Zealand is at top in the index.
- While the other countries included in the top five are Sweden, Canada, America and Singapore.
- The index is based on 12 indicators and 25 sub-indicators.
- Index represents 78.6 percent of the world's working female population.
- Pakistan is not in the 57 countries listed in the index.

Reference:

<https://newsroom.mastercard.com/press-releases/women-in-charge-mastercard-index-reveals-how-countries-are-progressing-to-empower-women-entrepreneurs/>

Global City Wealth Index

Question: According to a recent report, at which of the following places Indian city Mumbai is in the 'Global City Wealth Index'?

(a) 47th (b) 48th (c) 49th (d) 50th

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The London-based global consultancy firm Knight Frank's 'Wealth Report-2018' was released on March 2018. This is the 12th edition of this report.
- In this report, an index has been prepared by studying the cities of the world on an economic basis.
- This index is the 'City Wealth Index'.
- In which the Indian city Mumbai is placed on the 47th rank among 314 cities of the world.
- The City Wealth Index have been prepared on the basis of Four key indicators 'Wealth' 'investment', 'lifestyle' and 'future'.
- The report says that Mumbai is ranked 16th in the world's twenty most expensive cities, where land piece of only 92 square meters area can be bought for \$ 1 million.
- The top 20 cities in the 'City Wealth Index' are: New York, London, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Chicago, Singapore, Paris, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Washington DC, Sydney, Dallas, Boston, Houston, Miami, Atlanta, Beijing, Shanghai, Munich, and Melbourne.
- According to the report, Mumbai and Delhi will be among the top 10 markets in the context of earning householders' (homes) over \$ 25 million in salaries during 2017 and 2022.
- After China and Japan, India will be the third largest contributor to Asia in terms of rich population.



- It is noteworthy that Mumbai's rank was 21st in the 'City Wealth Index' for the year 2017, while Delhi was at 35th
- In the City Wealth Index of 2018, Mumbai is ranked 20th in terms of 'Wealth' alone.
- While Delhi and Bangalore are ranked 22nd and 26th
- Ultra High Net worth Individual is a standard of economic prosperity.
- Globally, members of 'UHNWI' are only those, whose annual capital is \$ 50 million or more.
- According to the report, the global number of 'UHNWI' is 129,730.
- This number has increased by 11,630 in 2017.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/mumbai-ranks-47th-on-wealth-index/article22987349.ece>

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

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



- It is a step to look beyond financial literacy and be a trusted guide for aspirants and existing entrepreneurs to know entrepreneurial self, know banker & know banking.

Reference:

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

https://www.sidbi.in/About_SIDBI.php

SCIENTIFIC

DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

NASA's soundless supersonic aircraft

Question: Which of the following is a NASA's soundless supersonic passenger aircraft?

(a) X Plane (b) Bell X-2 (c) Delta 2 (d) BAC-221

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- In April 2018, the American Space Agency 'NASA' entered into an agreement to create an unmanned supersonic passenger aircraft.
- The X-plane's mission is to provide crucial data that could enable commercial supersonic passenger air travel over land.
- NASA has awarded a USD 247.5 million contract to US-based Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company to build the X-plane and deliver it to the agency by the end of 2021.
- The X-plane's configuration will be based on a preliminary design developed by Lockheed Martin under a contract awarded in 2016.
- The proposed aircraft will be 94 feet long with a wingspan of 29.5 feet and have a fully-fuelled takeoff weight of 32,300 pounds.
- The X-plane's configuration will be based on a preliminary design developed by Lockheed Martin under a contract awarded in 2016.
- The proposed aircraft will be 94 feet long with a wingspan of 29.5 feet and have a fully-fuelled takeoff weight of 32,300 pounds.
- The design research speed of the X-plane at a cruising altitude of 55,000 feet is 1,512 kilometers per hour. Its top speed will be 1,593 kilometers per hour.
- A single pilot will be in the cockpit, which will be based on the design of the rear cockpit seat of the T-38 training jet famously used for years by NASA's astronauts to stay proficient in high-performance aircraft.
- Jim Less is one of the two primary NASA pilots who will fly the X-plane after Lockheed Martin/s pilots have completed initial test flights to make sure the design is safe to fly.



Reference:

<https://www.space.com/40187-lockheed-martin-building-quiet-supersonic-jet.html>

A successful launch of the Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1I

Question: On April 12th, 2018, by which of the following polar launcher the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) launched a successfully 'IRNSS-1I' Navigation Satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota?

(a) PSLV-C32 (b) PSLV-C41 (c) PSLV-C38 (d) PSLV-C40

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 12th April, 2018, in its forty third flight, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV-C41 successfully launched the 1425 kg IRNSS-1I Navigation Satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.
- PSLV-C41 lifted off at 0404 hrs (4:04 am) IST, as planned, from the First Launch Pad.
- After a flight lasting about 19 minutes, the vehicle achieved a Sub Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit with a perigee (nearest point to earth) of 281.5 km and an apogee (farthest point to earth) of 20,730 km inclined at an angle of 19.2 degree to the equator following which IRNSS-1I separated from PSLV.
- After separation, the solar panels of IRNSS-1I were deployed automatically. ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan, Karnataka took over the control of the satellite.
- In the coming days, orbit manoeuvres will be performed from MCF to position the satellite at 55 deg East longitude in the planned Geosynchronous Orbit with an inclination of 29 deg to the equator.
- IRNSS-1I is the latest member of the 'Navigation with Indian Constellation (NavIC)' system.
- NavIC, also known as Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.
- A number of ground facilities responsible for IRNSS satellite ranging and monitoring, generation and transmission of navigation parameters, satellite control, network timing, etc., have been established in many locations across the country as part of NavIC.
- Till now, PSLV has successfully launched 52 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.



Reference:

<https://www.isro.gov.in/update/12-apr-2018/pslv-c41-successfully-launches-irNSS-1I-navigation-satellite>

Joint bilateral Naval Exercise 'Varun' – 2018

Question: Recently between which two countries 'United bilateral naval exercise 'Varun-2018' was concluded?

(a) India and France (b) India and Australia (c) India and Vietnam (d) India and Israel

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- In the year 2018, joint bilateral naval exercise 'Varun-2018' between India and France's navies is to be conducted in three segments – Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and South-Western Indian Ocean.



- Under the first phase of this exercise, the port phase was organized during 15-19 March, 2018.
- While the marine phase of exercise took place during 20-24 March 2018, Goa coast (concluded in the Arabian Sea).
- The second phase of this exercise is to be held in Chennai (Bay of Bengal) in April 2018 and the third phase in May, 2018 in La Reunion Island (France, South West. Indian Ocean).
- Submarine Kalwari, P8-1 and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft and MiG-29K fighter aircraft of Indian Navy participated in this naval exercise.
- Significantly, the Indian Navy and the French Navy are doing bilateral marine exercises since May, 1993. In the year 2001, this exercise began to be called 'Varuna'. So far there have been 15 editions of this exercise. The previous version was held on the coast of France in April, 2017.

Reference:

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/hindi/samacharnama-epaper-samacnam/bharat+aur+phrans+ka+sayyukt+nausainik+abhyas+varun+18+gova+me+jari+jane+isake+bare+me-newsid-84013952>

F-16 Aircraft

Question: Manufacturer Company of F-16 aircraft is-

(a) Carlson Aircraft (b) Boeing (c) Lockheed Martin (d) Dassault

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 19th, 2018, American major defense company Lockheed Martin announced the establishment of an F-16 aircraft manufacturing unit in India.
- This initiative will be in line with Make in India.
- The company's plan is to prepare an assembly line in India.
- According to Lockheed Martin's Strategy and Business Development Vivek Lala, we are planning to introduce two new words in the dictionary of international fighter aircraft – 'India' and 'Exclusive'.
- With this initiative, the Indian industry has had the unique opportunity of coming to the center of the world's largest fighter aircraft system.
- This aircraft is capable of meeting the requirements of India and the requirements of Make in India.
- According to the company, this unit will not only the assembly line, but also it will be a better facility which has never been provided by any other fighter aircraft manufacturer before.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/f-16-jet-production-in-india-will-be-exclusive-lockheed/articleshow/63365324.cms>

Supply of 2nd AOPV to Sri Lankan Navy

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

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

Interceptor Boat C-437

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

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



along with monitoring, search and rescue operations.

Reference:

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

SPORTS

TENNIS

Orleans Masters- 2018

Question: Which of the following Indian player won the Bronze medal jointly with the Lucas Claerbout from France in the recently concluded Men's Singles Orleans Masters, 2018 Tennis Tournament?

(a) Tarun Kona (b) Sameer Verma (c) Saurabh Sharma (d) Alvin Francis

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- Tour Super 100 Tennis competition, Orleans Masters, 2018, of BWF season, 2018 concluded France. (27th March-1st April, 2018)
- Main results of the competition:
- **Men's Singles**
Gold Medal – Mark Caljouw (Netherlands)
Silver Medal-Rasmus Gemke (Denmark)
Bronze Medal-Lucas Claerbout (France) and Sameer Verma (India)
- **Women's Singles**
Gold Medal – Shiori Saito (Japan)
Silver Medal – Mia Blichfeldt (Denmark)
Bronze Medal-Ruselli Hartawan (Indonesia) and Qi Xuefei (China)



Reference:

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/3164/orleans-masters-2018/podium>

ITF Women's Circuit, 2018 Gwalior

Question: Who won the women's singles title of ITF Women's Circuit-2018 of ITF Futures Tennis Championship concluded in Gwalior held on March 18th, 2018?

(a) Yana Sizikova (b) Albina Khabibulina (c) Freya Christie (d) Ankita Raina

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- ITF Women's Circuit-2018 of ITF Futures Tennis Championship concluded in Gwalior (12 to 18 March, 2018).
- **Competition Results:**
- **Women's Singles:**
• Winner-Ankita Raina (India)
• Runner up – Amandine Hesse (France)
- **Women's Doubles:**



- Winner- Yana Sizikova (Russia) and Ana Veselinovic (Montenegro)
- Runners up- *Freya Christie* (Great Britain) and Albina Khabibulina (Uzbekistan)

Reference:

<http://www.itftennis.com/procircuit/tournaments/women's-tournament/info.aspx?tournamentid=1100042415>

CRICKET

Pakistan Super League (PSL), 2018

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

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

Answer- (a)

Related facts:

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



Reference:

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

ICC Cricket World Cup qualifier-2018

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:



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

Reference:

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

HOCKEY

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

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

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

Reference:

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



FOOTBALL

Hero Santosh Trophy, 2017-18

Question: Who amongst the given won the title of the recently concluded national football competition Hero Santosh Trophy?

(a) Karnataka (b) West Bengal (c) Kerala (d) Mizoram

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- India's national football competition, Hero Santosh Trophy, 2017-18 (72nd edition) concluded at Kolkata, West Bengal. (8 January-1, 2018)
- Final venue – Vivekananda Yuva Bharti Kreidagan (Salt Lake Stadium), Kolkata.
- Kerala in final won the championship title by defeating Bengal 4-2 in the penalty shoot-out.
- After the set and extra time both teams were on equal footing with 2-2.
- Kerala has won its sixth Santosh Trophy title at an interval of 13 years.
- Captain of Kerala team was Rahul Raj and the captain of Bengal team was Jiten Murmu.
- Most goals in the championship- Victorino Fernandes (Goa), 5 goals
- West Bengal has won the Santosh Trophy for most 32 occasions so far.



Reference:

<http://xtratime.in/santosh-trophy-2017-18-kerala-the-new-champions-of-india-by-beating-bengal-in-a-nail-biting-contest/>

Jockey Club International Youth Invitation Football Tournament-2018

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-03/25/c_137064242_2.htm
https://www.hkfa.com/news_details2/15750

BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH

ACBS Billiards and Snooker Championship-2018

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

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

Reference:

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



SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS

Winter Paralympics Games

Question: Which of the following countries won the highest gold medal in Winter Paralympics Games 2018, held during March 9th– 18th, 2018?

(a) Japan (b) Norway (c) UK (d) America

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- 12th Winter Paralympics Games-2018 concluded in Pyongchang South Korea (March 9-18, 2018).
- In these games, held at the Pyongchang Olympic Stadium, approximately 569 athletes from 49 countries participated in 80 competitions of 6 sports.
- South Korean President Moon Jae-in has officially inaugurated the Paralympic Games.
- The official slogan of 12th Paralympics Games was Passion Connected.
- The mascot of the 12th Paralympic Games Suhorong, a white cheetah and Bandabi was an Asian black bear.
- In the 12th Paralympic Games, the US topped the medal table which got 13 gold, 15 silver and 8 bronze medals, including a total of 36 medals,.
- Top 3 countries in medal table



Rank Country / Organization	Gold	Silver	Bronze	कुल
1. America	13	15	8	36
2. Neutral Paralympic Athletes (NPA)	8	10	6	24
3. Canada	8	4	16	28

- The host, South Korea, secured 16th position jointly with New Zealand and Finland.
- They received 1 gold, 2 silver and total of 3 medals.
- Para Athlete of Slovakia, Henrieta Farkasova, received the maximum five medals (4 gold and 1 silver) in the Pyongchang Paralympic Games.
- Russia was a restricted country in the 12th Winter Paralympic.
- Russian athletes have participated in Paralympic as 'Neutral Paralympic Athletes' (NPA) under the Paralympic flag.
- The 13th Paralympic Games will be held in China's Beijing National Stadium (Beijing) during 4th-13th March, 2022.

Reference:

<https://www.olympic.org/pyeongchang-2018/results/en/general/competition-schedule.htm>

Video Referral Decision in Football

Question: In the recently concluded FIFA Council meeting, it was decided to use video referrals in football too. From which event its



use will be started?

- (a) FIFA World Cup, 2018 (b) FIFA U-20 World Cup, 2019
(c) FIFA U-17 World Cup, 2019 (d) FIFA Women's World Cup, 2019

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- FIFA Council Meeting concludes in Bogota, Colombia (March, 2018)
- At the meeting, Video Assistant Referee (VAR) technology was approved for FIFA's football competitions.
- It will be used in Russia in June-July, 2018, in the FIFA World Cup, 2018.
- The VAR will be used to ascertain whether the goal is scored or not and the penalty should be given or not.
- The technique will also decide on the red card and if the player has got a wrong punishment then will improve it.
- From the year 2016, 20 federations used this new technology.
- It was also used in the Confederations Cup, 2017.
- At the same meeting, FIFA removed the three-decade-old ban on hosting international matches in Iraq.
- Also, FIFA allowed the organizing of international matches in Iraq's Arbill, Basra and Karbala.

Reference:

<https://scroll.in/field/872343/fifa-gives-video-referral-system-green-light-for-world-cup-lifts-30-year-iraq-ban>

South Asian Cross Country Championships

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

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

Team Championship

- **Men's category (10km)**
- Gold medal- India
- Silver medal- Sri Lanka
- Bronze medal- Bhutan



- **Women's category (8km)**
- Gold medal- Sri Lanka
- Silver medal- India
- Bronze- Nepal

Reference:

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

SPORTS PERSONALITY

Irani Cup: Cricketer who scored highest run in an innings

Question: Recently, which cricketer made a record by making the highest run in an innings of the Irani Cup, a domestic cricket competition of India?

(a) Faiz Fazal (b) Karun Nair (c) Prithvi Shaw (d) Wasim Jaffer

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- During March 14th-18th, 2018, Irani Cup, 2017-18 cricket tournament concluded in Nagpur.
- Playing for Ranji Trophy winner Vidarbha, Wasim Jaffer scored 286 runs in the first innings against the rest of India.
- Jaffer has become the highest run-scorer in any innings of the Irani Cup this innings.
- Earlier this record was in the name of Murali Vijay, who scored 266 runs against Rajasthan, playing for the rest of India in September 2012.
- During the same innings, Jaffer surpassed Gundappa Vishwanath (17,970 runs) crossing the 18,000-run mark in first-class cricket.
- With 18110 runs after the end of the Irani Cup 2017-18, Jaffer become the 6th Indian batsman to complete 18000 runs in the first class.
- The Indian record of making the highest runs in the first-class is in the name of Sunil Gavaskar (25834 runs).
- Jaffer has so far scored 53 centuries in first-class cricket.
- The Indian record for the highest number of centuries in first-class cricket (81) is named after Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar.



Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/irani-cup-wasim-jaffer-joins-gavaskar-and-tendulkar-in-elite-list-1190241-2018-03-15>

English Cricketer retires from all formats of International Cricket

Question: Which of the given former captain and batsman of England cricket team recently retired from international cricket?

(a) Ian Bell (b) Kevin Pietersen (c) Alastair Cook (d) Matt Prior

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- England's 37-year-old cricketer Kevin Pietersen has retired from all formats of international cricket. (March 17, 2018)
- Former England captain Kevin Pietersen made his international debut against Harare Zimbabwe in 2004.
- Pietersen has played in the IPL for teams like Delhi Daredevils, Rising Pune Super Giants, Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- Peterson's international career at a glance-
- Test-103 matches, 8181 runs at an average of 47.28 in 181 innings, the highest score of 227 runs.
- ODI 136 matches, 4440 runs in 125 innings with an average of 40.73, highest score of 130 runs.
- International T-20, 37 matches, 1176 runs with an average of 37.93 in 36 innings, highest score of 79 runs.
- Pietersen has also got 10 in Test matches, 7 in ODIs, and 1 wicket in international T20.



Reference:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/cricket/2018/03/17/kevin-pietersen-appears-confirm-retirement-cricket/>

Former Zimbabwe cricket official suspended for 20 years

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/_/id/22928352/icc-suspends-zimbabwe-official-20-years

World's first cricketer to play 100 international T20 matches

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

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



Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

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

Reference:

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

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

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

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

Reference:

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



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

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Indian cricketer Riddhiman Saha made a century (102 runs) in 20 balls in a T-20 match and remained in the lime light. (March 24, 2018)
- Saha did this against the BNR Recreation Club in a match of the Jesse Mukherjee Trophy T20 tournament. During this, his strike rate was 510.00.
- Saha hit 14 sixes and 4 fours in his innings.



- Although Riddhiman Saha did not break the record of fastest century (30 balls) of Chris Gayle (West Indies) in T20 matches.
- Because the data of the recognized T-20 matches is considered to be official and this trophy is not recognized.
- The fastest century after Chris Gayle in the T20 match was made by Rishabh Pant of India in 32 balls.
- That is, Rishabh is the second and first Indian batsman in the world to have the fastest century in the T20 match.
- David Miller (South Africa) and Rohit Sharma (India) are jointly at the top in the list of the fastest century in international T20 matches.
- Both have scored centuries on 35 balls each.

Reference:

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

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

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

http://stats.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/batting/most_hundreds_career.html?class=1:id=5:type=team

SHORT NOTES

PERSONALITIES

New President and CEO of Honda cars

Question: Who amongst the given recently took charge as the new President and CEO of Honda Cars India?

(a) Yoichiro Ueno (b) Rajesh Goel (c) Gaku Nakanishi



<http://www.edrستي.in/>

(d) Deepak Arora

Answer: (c)

Related Factor:

- On 2nd April, 2018, Gaku Nakanishi took charges of new President of Honda Cars India and Taking charge as Chief Executive Officer.
- At this post, he replaced Yoichiro Ueno.
- In addition to this Rajesh Goel has been appointed as senior vice president and director for sales & marketing, while Makoto Hyoda has been appointed as director of sales and marketing.

Reference:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/gaku-nakanishi-is-new-president-ceo-of-honda-cars/article23415737.ece>

Ravi Thapar

Question: Recently, the senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, Ravi Thapar, was appointed as the next ambassador of India in which country?

(a) Panama (b) Turkey (c) Nicaragua (d) South Africa

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 20th, 2018, Senior Secretary of the Indian Foreign Service Ravi Thapar was appointed by the Central Government to be the next Ambassador of India to Nicaragua.
- He is the IFS officer of the year 1983 batch.
- Currently he is India's Ambassador to Panama.
- Managua is the capital of Nicaragua.
- Daniel Ortega is currently the President of this country.



Reference:

<http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29836/Ravi+Thapar+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+Nicaragua>

Rajinder Sachar

Question: Justice Rajinder Sachar has passed away recently.

(a) Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (b) Former Judge of Supreme Court
(c) Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court (d) Former Chief Justice of Patna High Court

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 20th April, 2018, Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Justice Rajinder Sachar passed away. He was 94 years old.
- He was Chief Justice of Delhi High Court from August 6th, to December 22nd, 1985.



- After retirement, he was associated with a leading human rights group, People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL).
- He was the chairman of 'Sachar Committee' formed to assess the socio-economic and educational status of the Muslim community of India in the year 2005 by the previous UPA government.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/rajindar-sachar-former-chief-justice-dekhi-high-court-dead-5145810/>

New Managing Director and CEO of SBI Life Insurance

Question: Who has been recently appointed as the new managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Life Insurance?

(a) Arijit Basu (b) Deepak Joshi (c) Rajiv Kumar (d) Sanjeev Nautiyal

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 3rd, 2018, Sanjeev Nautiyal has been appointed as New Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) SBI Life Insurance.
- Earlier, he worked as the Chief General Manager of SBI's Ahmedabad Circle.
- At this post, he replaced *Arijit Basu*.



Reference:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sbi-life-gets-new-md-ceo/article23417409.ece>

Subrata Bhattacharjee

Question: In which country Subrata Bhattacharjee (IFS: 1989), has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India?

(a) China (b) Belarus (c) Serbia (d) Norway

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 3rd, 2018, Subrata Bhattacharjee (IFS: 1989) has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Serbia.
- Currently he is serving as Joint Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs.
- Belgrade is the capital of Serbia. Its currency is Serbian Dinar.



Reference:

<http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29741/Subrata+Bhattacharjee+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of>

New President of Indian Badminton Association

Question: Who has recently been elected as the new president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI)?

(a) KK Sharma (b) Arun Lakhani (c) Dr. Hemant Biswa Sarma (d) Ajay Singhanians



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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts

- On 3rd April, 2018 Dr. Hemant Biswa Sarma was elected the new president of the Badminton Association of India (BAI).
- He is the cabinet minister in Assam Government and is the convenor of the North-Eastern Democratic Alliance.
- Last year, he was made the Interim President of BAI after the demise of former President Dr. Akhilesh Das Gupta.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/badminton/himanta-biswa-sarma-elected-as-president-of-badminton-association-of-india/articleshow/63599501.cms>

Director General of National Testing Agency

Question: Who has recently been appointed as the first Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA)?

- (a) A.K. Saini (b) Dr. Chandra Bhushan Pandey (c) Vineet Joshi
(d) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 30th March 2018, Central Government appointed Vineet Joshi, senior official of the Indian Administrative Service as the first Director General of the National Testing Agency (NTA).
- He is the 1992 batch IAS officer of Manipur cadre.
- His tenure will be for 5 years.
- He has Former Chairman of CBSE.
- India is that the Union Cabinet had approved the formation of the NTA in November 2017.
- This agency will organize entrance exams entrusted by any department or ministry.
- Initially, agency will conduct examinations from 2019 to present conducted by CBSE, NET, CTET and NEET.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/former-cbse-chairperson-vineet-joshi-appointed-director-general-of-national-testing-agency/articleshow/63548764.cms>

India's New Deputy Election Commissioner

Question: Who amongst the given has recently been appointed by the Central Government as the new Deputy Election Commissioner of India?

- (a) Vineet Joshi (b) S.K. Shahi (c) Chandra Bhushan Kumar
(d) Krishna Bahadur Singh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 30th March, 2018, Central Government has appointed senior Indian Administrative Service officer Chandra Bhushan Kumar as the new Deputy Election Commissioner of India.



- He is the IAS officer of the 1995 batch of Union Territory Cadre.
- He will serve for a term of 5 years.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/babus-rejig-at-centre-chandra-bhushan-appointed-deputy-election-commissioner/articleshow/63547324.cms>

New Chairman of Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission

Question: Who was recently appointed as the new chairman of Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission?

- (a) Ram Asere Vishwakarma (b) Lalji Prasad (c) Brij Lal
(d) Vikram Singh



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 18th April, 2018, the Uttar Pradesh Government has appointed former DGP and retired IPS Officer Brij Lal as new Chairman of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission.
- Lalji Prasad was also appointed the chairman of Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Development Corporation.

Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/frm-top-cop-brij-lal-to-head-up-sc-st-commission-1214964-2018-04-18>

Sanjay Bhattacharya

Question: In which of the following country Sanjay Bhattacharya has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Turkey.?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 19th, 2018, Indian Foreign Service officer Sanjay Bhattacharya has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Turkey.
- Currently he is India's Ambassador to Egypt
- Ankara of the capital of the Turkish Republic.
- Currently, Rajab Tayyab Erdugan is the President of Turkey.



Reference:

http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29834/Sanjay_Bhattacharya_appointed_as_the_next_Ambassador_of_India

Kollam Ajith

Question: Kollam Ajith passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Politicians (b) Actor (c) Singer (d) Players

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On April 5th, 2018, Actor Kollam Ajith, known for his villain roles in Malayalam movies, passed away. He was 56.
- Beginning his career in the 1980s, Ajith acted in over 500 movies. He also acted in some Tamil, Telugu and Hindi films.
- Malayalam superstar Mammooty and others in the industry paid tribute to Ajith, who is survived by wife and two children.
- The mortal remains were taken to Kollam, where the last rites would be performed.
- He worked in more than 500 films.

Reference:

http://www.ptinews.com/news/9622146_Malayalam-actor-Kollam-Ajith-passes-away.html

Ram Kumar

Question: Ram Kumar passed away recently. He was-

(a) Actor (b) Composer (c) Painters (d) Historian

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 14th April, 2018, the famous painter Ram Kumar passed away. He was 93 years old.
- He was awarded Padma Shri in the year 1972 by the Central Government and Padma Bhushan in the year 2010.
- In addition, in the year 1986, the Madhya Pradesh government honored him with 'Kalidas Samman'.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/ram-kumar-artist-death-painting-an-artist-with-a-view-5138760/>

New Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB)

Question: who amongst the following has recently been appointed as new Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB)?

(a) Sachit Jain (b) Bhanu Pratap Sharma (c) M L Shrivastav (d) O P Singh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018, the government appointed former DoPT Secretary Bhanu Pratap Sharma as Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB).
- Sharma has been appointed for two years.
- At this post Mr. Sharma replaced Vinod Rai, who was appointed as the first chairman of BBB for a two year term.
- The term of the first Bank's Board Bureau headed by former comptroller and auditor general of India Vinod Rai ended on 31 March.
- While announcing the appointment, Financial Services Secretary Rajiv Kumar said Sharma will have the same mandate as was given Rai.



- Other members of the bureau include investment banker Vedika Bhandarkar, who has headed the investment banking operations of Credit Suisse India and JPMorgan, and Pradeep Kumar, former managing director of State Bank of India.
- The founder managing director of rating agency Crisil, Pradip P. Shah, is the fourth member.

Reference:

<https://www.firstpost.com/business/govt-names-bhanu-pratap-sharma-as-new-bank-board-bureau-chief-appoints-three-new-members-4428953.html>

New Director General of CISF

Question: Who amongst the following has recently appointed the General Director (DG) of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)?

- (a) O.P. Singh (b) Deepak Chauhan (c) Rajesh Ranjan
(d) Rajesh Nautiyal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts

- On 11th April, 2018, newly appointed new DG of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Senior IPS officer Rajesh Ranjan took the charge of the office.
- His tenure will last until November 30, 2020.
- He is the officer of the Bihar cadre of 1984 batch.
- Earlier, he served as Special Director General in the Border Security Force (BSF).
- At this post, he will take the position of O.P. Singh, who is currently in UP as the Director General of Police (DGP).
- CISF was established in the year 1969.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/ips-officer-rajesh-ranjan-appointed-dg-cisf/articleshow/63700776.cms>

Park Geun-hye

Question: Which country's former President Park Geun-hye was sentenced to 24 years in prison for corruption?

- (a) Mexico (b) South Korea (c) Liberia (d) Colombia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 6th, 2018, former South Korean President Park Geun-hye was sentenced to 24 years in prison for corruption.
- She was convicted in many criminal cases including misuse of power and bribery.
- She was elected South Korea's first woman president in 2013.
- She was the Leader of the Saenuri Party.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-43666134>

Padmanahha Marar

Question: Padmanahha Marar has passed away recently. He was-

(a) Santoor Player (b) Edakka Player (c) Flute Player (d) Shehanai Player

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 5th, 2018, Famous percussionist Padmanahha Marar passes away. He was 113 years old.
- He used to sing 'Sopana Sangeetam' for over 100 years at his neighborhood temple in Kerala.
- Noteworthy that the 'Sopana Sangeetam' is sung by playing beating of a small, hourglass-shaped ethnic drum called 'edakka' like Tabla.
- The Sangeetha Nataka Akademi had in 2014 presented him the Gurupooja award for his contribution in propagating the temple music and art.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/percussion-expert-padmanabha-marar-dead-118040500629_1.html#

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela

Question: Winnie Madikizela Mandela passed away recently. She was of which of the following countries?

(a) Ethiopia (b) South Africa (c) Liberia (d) Southern Sudan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 2nd, 2018 South African freedom fighter and anti-apartheid leader Winnie Madikizela Mandela Passed away she was 81 years old.
- She was the wife of Nelson Mandela, head of the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.
- Her rightful place at the centre of the battle for the freedom of black people was unforgettable.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-43630442>

Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi

Question- Recently President Ramnath Kovind, has appointed which of the given as Protem Chairman of Lalit Kala Akademi?

(a) Dr. Vinay Mohan (b) Prof. Rajendra Kumar
(c) ML Srivastava (d) Prof. Ashutosh Kumar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 31st, 2018, On the recommendation of the Minister of Culture, the President has appointed Shri M.L. Srivastava, Joint Secretary (Akademies), Ministry of Culture as Protem Chairman of the Lalit Kala Akademi with immediate effect.
- He will continue to hold the office till a regular Chairman is appointed.



- At this post he replaced Krishna Shetty.
- It is notable that the Lalit Kala Akademi is an autonomous body formed in independent India which was established by the Government of India on August 5th, 1954.
- Its headquarter is in New Delhi.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/joint-secy-appointed-as-lalit-kala-akademi-protem-chairman-5118917/>

India's Representative to the Executive Board of UNESCO

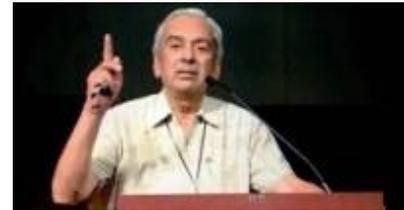
Question: Recently, the Government of India has decided to nominate which of the given, as India's representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO?

- (a) Prof. GC Tripathi (b) Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar
(c) Prof. J.S. Rajput (d) Prof. R.G. Harshhe

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 25th March, 2018, the Government of India has decided to nominate Professor J S Rajput, former Director NCERT, as India's representative to the Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO.
- Professor J S Rajput is an eminent educationist with rich experience in various fields including UNESCO.
- Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar during his participation in the General Conference of UNESCO meeting from 30th Oct to 4th Nov, 2017, actively mobilised support from various nations for India's membership to the EXB, by meeting their Ministers.
- The EXB has a four-year term of office and 58 seats.
- The executive board is one of the constitutional organs of UNESCO and is elected by the General Conference.
- The executive board examines the work for the organization and the corresponding budget estimates.
- In practice, the executive board is the main organ responsible for all policies and programmes of UNESCO.
- The elections of Members of the EXB for the term 2017-21 took place on 8th November, 2017, in which India won with 162 votes in Group IV during the 39th session of the General Conference which was held from 30th October to 14th November, 2017.
- Being a member of the board enables us in principle to play a role in shaping and reviewing UNESCO's policies and programmes corresponding to its five major programs on education, the natural science, the social and human Sciences, Culture and Communication and Information.
- The next meeting (Session204) of Executive Board of UNESCO is to be held in UNESCO HQ at Paris, from 4 – 17 April, 2018.



Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1526357>

New Principal Scientific Adviser

Question: Who amongst the given has been recently appointed as new chief Scientific Adviser of the Government of India?

- (a) K Vijay Raghavan (b) R. Chidambaram (c) G. Madhavan Nair
(d) Dr. A.S. Kiran Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On March 26th, 2018, K Vijay Raghavan, one of the most distinguished biologists of the country, was Monday appointed Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India.
- His tenure will be 3 years on contract base.
- This post, he is the famous nuclear physicist R. Chidambaram will replace.
- It is significant that the post of Chief Scientific Adviser was created in 1999 by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government.
- The PSA is the highest adviser to the government on all matters related to scientific policy.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/new-principal-scientific-adviser-to-govt-of-india/article23359218.ece>



New CEO of Vodafone-Idea Indian Telecom Company

Question: Who amongst the following has been recently appointed as new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group India?

- (a) Himanshu Kapania (b) Kumar Mangalam Birla (c) Balash Sharma (d) Deepak Agarwal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts;

- On March 22nd, 2018, the Vodafone Group and Aditya Birla Group based at U.K., appointed by Balaash Sharma as the new Chief Executive Officer of Merged Entity, Vodafone-Idea India.
- Currently he is the chief operating officer at Vodafone India..
- It is note worthy that Aditya Birla Group Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla is the non-executive chairman of the Board of Directors of this merged company.

Reference:

<https://in.reuters.com/article/vodafone-india-idea-cellular-management/vodafone-veteran-balesh-sharma-named-new-ceo-for-vodafone-idea-india-telco-combine-idINKBN1GY1TV>



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

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

- (a) Snehal Bendke (b) Preeti Thakur (c) Smita Malik



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

(d) Lalita Gonzalvis

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

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

Reference:

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

New National Security Adviser to the US President

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

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



Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

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

Reference:

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

Tata Power's new CEO and MD

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

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



North- (c)

Related Facts

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

Reference:

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

Ameenah Gurib-Fakim

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 17th, 2018 Mauritian President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigned from the post.
- She resigned due to allegations against her for use of a credit card to buy luxury personal items.
- She became Mauritius's first woman president in 2015.



Reference:

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

PLACES

Country's Longest Elevated Road

Question: Recently Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the country's longest elevated road built in which of the following districts?

(a) Noida (b) Ghaziabad (c) Mathura (d) Bareilly

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 30th March, 2018, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath organized the elevated road (6-lane) in Ghaziabad district.
- This is the country's longest elevated road.
- The length of this road is 10.30 kilometer.
- This elevated road is built from UP Gate to Karhada (Rajnagar extension).
- Construction cost of this road cost 1,147 60 crore rupees.
- On this road, vehicle owners are permitted to drive the average speed of 80 km/h.
- On this day, the Chief Minister inaugurated 20 projects of Rs 1792.19 crore in Ghaziabad district.
- The Chief Minister gave testimonies to 11 school children who made attractive theme petting on elevated road.
- In addition to this the brochures of good luck plan, health app and booklet of Adarsh schools were also released.
- It is known that Ghaziabad is the first district in the state to provide electricity connections in every home under the good luck scheme.



Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5abe55df-a6d4-4cf6-b752-49350af72573.pdf>

Data Science Laboratory

Question: By whom it was decided to set up a data science laboratory recently?

- (a) Department of Atomic Energy (b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) Department of Ocean Development (d) Department of Space

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 5th April, 2018; Data Science Laboratory has been decided to be set up a by the Reserve Bank of India.
- Apart from experts in this laboratory, such analysts will also be included who will be experts in computer science, data analysis, statistics, economics and finance sector.
- This laboratory will start in December this year.
- Establishment of this laboratory will improve the system of estimating financial status, issuing warnings and will help in policy formulation.



Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=43574

First cluster university of Himachal Pradesh

Question: Where will the first cluster university be established in Himachal Pradesh?

- (a) Una (b) Kinnaur (c) Solan (d) Mandi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 5th, 2018; the bill introduced in connection with the first cluster university of the state in the Himachal Pradesh assembly was passed unanimously.
- This first cluster university in Himachal Pradesh will be set up in 'Mandi'.
- The name of this university will be Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel University.
- Cluster University provides education based on various vocational courses.
- It is worth mentioning that on March 22, 2018 the foundation stone of Cluster University was laid by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/bill-passed-for-cluster-iversity/article23449137.ece>

Operating at Pathankot Airport started under UDAN RCS

Question-Under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) – Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), operating commenced as of which number from Pathankot airport on April 5th, 2018?

- (a) 18th (b) 19th (c) 20th (d) 21st

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:



- On 5th April, 2018; Operation started at Pathankot Airport as 21st airport under the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS).
- Under this scheme, the first flight from Delhi to Pathankot was inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu from Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi.
- Air India's wholly owned subsidiary Alliance Air has started operating on Delhi-Pathankot route with ATR aircraft.
- This will be the 19th route operated by Alliance Air under UDAN.
- The Scheme was launched on 27th April 2017 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister when the first UDAN flight, operated by Alliance Air, was flagged off on the Shimla – Delhi route.
- The Airports Authority of India is the implementing agency of 'UDAN'.
- Alliance Air has been a front-runner in regional connectivity and presently operates a network of 49 stations. Alliance Air continues to focus on new routes to connect regional destinations.
- The airline has been awarded 18 new routes under UDAN-II, which are being launched progressively this year bringing new destinations on India's air map.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178431>

India's first insect museum

Question: In which of the following states of India the first insect museum is established recently?

(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Telangana (d) Madhya Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 26th March, 2018, Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu K Palaniswamy inaugurated the newly built insect museum at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore.
- The construction cost of this museum is Rs. 5 crores.
- This museum has been built in 6,691 sq ft area, which is dedicated to insects.
- This is probably the first museum of its kind in the country.
- It would display insects preserved as specimens as also live ones depicting their different developmental stages, images, videos and models of their unique behaviour, habits and habitats.
- The uniqueness of the museum is visible in the lobby, which depicts the theme, "BUGS ARE KINGS," while the exhibiting area comprises seven radial walls (bay) on the right side and an undivided wall on the left side.



Reference:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/lifestyle/viral-and-trending/260318/indias-first-insect-museum-opens-in-tamil-nadu.html>

Russian shopping mall fire

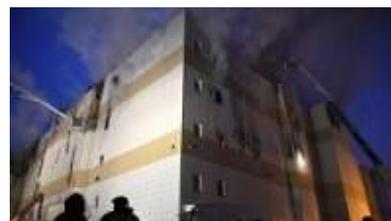
Question: A recent fire in the shopping mall in which of the following Russian city killed about 64 people and injured many others?

(a) Ufa (b) St. Petersburg (c) Kemerovo (d) Kazan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 25th, 2018, a shopping mall in the Siberian city of Kemerovo (Winter Cherry Mall) got a fire.
- In this incident, about 64 people died and many others were injured.
- Dying and missing person were mostly children.
- Mostly victims of this incident were present in the cinema hall at that time.
- The reasons for the fire are yet to be ascertained.



Reference:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/03/27/europe/russia-kemerovo-shopping-mall-fire-intl/index.html>

DefExpo 2018

Question: At which of the following places 10th edition of the DefExpo 2018 will be being organized?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The biennial expo- DefExpo-2018 will be organized from 11th-14th April, 2018.
- On April 12th, 2018, The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 10th edition of Defence Expo, (DefExpo-2018) in Chennai at Tiruvidanthal, in Kancheepuram district.
- Earlier on January 18th, 2018, Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced to organize this Expo.
- This will be based on the security system of the site, navy and internal homeland.
- The tag line of DefExpo this year is “India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub” to showcase India’s capability in export of defence systems and components.
- More than 670 exhibitors including over 150 international exhibitors will take part in the DefExpo. MSME sector will have a fair representation this time around 15%.
- Indian participation include majors like Tata, L&T, Kalyani, Bharat Forge, Mahindra, MKU, DRDO, HAL, BEL, BDL, BEML, MDL, GRSE, GSL, HSL, MIDHANI, Ordnance Factories, and many others. Major international companies including Lockheed Martin, Boeing (USA), Saab (Sweden), Airbus, Rafael (France), Rosonboron Exports, United Shipbuilding (Russia), BAE Systems (UK), Sibat (Israel), Wartsila (Finland), Rhode and Schwarz (Germany) are among many others participating at DefExpo 2018.
- It is important that this is the first defense expo held in Chennai.
- Earlier, during the 28th-31th March 2016, the 9th Defense Expo India was held in Goa, which was the biggest expo in all the Expo organized.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178583>

Second Mega Food Park in Uttarakhand

Question: A new second Mega food park was inaugurated in Udham Singh Nagar district, Uttarakhand. In which district the first mega food park of Uttarakhand was established?

(a) Almora (b) Champawat (c) Haridwar (d) Mussoorie

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 8th, 2018, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt. Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the second mega food park in Uttarakhand at Mahuakhera Ganj village, Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- The park- M/s Himalayan Mega Food Park Private Ltd has been set up at a cost of Rs 99.96 crore.
- Park will benefit around 25,000 farmers in this as well as neighbouring districts.
- The Mega Food Park in this district was inaugurated by the Union Food Processing Industries Minister.
- The first Mega Food Park in the state located at Haridwar has already become operational.
- The mega food park, which has been set up in an area of 50.14 acres, would have a central processing centre as well as well as three Primary Processing Centres (PPCs) at Ram Nagar, Ramgarh and Kaladungi.
- Park would not only benefit farmers of Udham Singh Nagar but also those of nearby districts of Nainital, Garhwal, Almora and Champawat.
- The facilities being created at Central Processing Centre (CPC) of this Mega Food Park include Multi-Purpose Cold Storage of 1,250 MT, Aseptic Brick Filling Line of 7,500 pack per hour, Dry Warehouse of 6,000 MT, Fruit & Vegetable Processing Line input capacity 7 MT/Hr for Tomato Paste, 8 MT/Hr for Apple, 10 MT/Hr. for Carrot, 5 MT/Hr. for fruit pulp, QC & Food Testing Lab and other related food processing facilities.
- the mega food park would leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in 25-30 food processing units in the park and would eventually lead to a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 crore annually.
- "The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas".



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178512>

Medicinal Plant Board Center

Question- Recently, the Himachal Pradesh government has approved the establishment of the Medicinal Plant Board Center in which of the following districts of the state?

(a) Chamba (b) Mandi (c) Kinnaur (d) Solan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On March 5th, 2018, the Himachal Pradesh Government approved the establishment of a Regional Co-Facility Center (Medicinal Plant Board Center) of the National Medicinal Plant Board of the Ministry of AYUSH.
- Decision in this regard was taken in the meeting of the State Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Jairam Thakur.
- This center will be set up in Joginder Nagar of Mandi district of state.
- A sum of Rs 748.30 lakh has been allocated for the establishment of this center in which the central government will provide a grant of Rs 149.60 lakhs.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/himachal-to-set-up-medicinal-plant-board-centre-118030500847_1.html

India's largest wind turbine generator

Question: Where has India's largest wind turbine generator been set up by Suzlon Group?

- (a) Karur (b) Theni (c) Sanganer (d) Namakkal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 13th, 2018, Suzlon Group (Suzlon Energy), a renewable solution provider, announced the establishment and commissioning of its new product S-128. It will offer low cost energy.
- It is the largest wind turbine generator installed in India.
- The first prototype of the S-128 was launched on the Sanganer site in Tamil Nadu.
- It is under testing now.
- It is expected to be certified in the third quarter of calendar year 2018.
- The S-128 wind turbine generator is available in 2.6-2.8 MW categories.
- Established by the Suzlon Group, this wind mill has the country's largest rotor blade, which measures 63 meters and rotor diameter of 128 meters.
- The SB-63 blade is designed and developed by Suzlon utilizing carbon fiber, which provides the ability to use thin aerodynamic profiles.
- Suzlon Energy Ltd. is the world's leading renewable energy solutions company founded by Tulsi Tanti.



Reference:

http://www.suzlon.com/pressrelease/pressrelease_detail/377-suzlon-installs-and-commissions-s128-indias-largest-wind-turbine-generator/2018

World's longest Sandstone

Question: In which of the following state, the world's longest sandstone cave 'Krem Puri' was discovered in 2016, whose actual measurement of length was done in February-March 2018?

- (a) Sikkim (b) Meghalaya (c) Nagaland (d) Assam

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- The world's longest sandstone cave 'Krem Puri' was discovered in Meghalaya.
- This cave is situated near the village of Laitsohum in Mawsynram region of eastern Khasi hill district.
- The Krem Puri cave was discovered in the year 2016.
- Krem means 'cave' in Khasi language.
- During the expeditions in February-March 2018, the actual length of this cave was measured by the Meghalaya Adventurers Association (MAA), 24, 583 meters.
- The cave is located 6,000 meters longer than the existing sandstone cave 'Cueva Del Sama' (length 18,200 meters) listed in the world, in Venezuela.
- Dinosaur fossils have been found in this cave system.
- Mainly found a huge reptile 'Mosasaurus'. They lived here 66-76 million years ago.
- It is India's second longest cave in the general category.
- In India's longest cave of 'Krem *LiatPrah-Umim-Labit*' limestone cave system (slightly more than 31 km long) in the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya.

Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-to-day/gk-current-affairs/story/worlds-longest-sandstone-cave-discovered-in-meghalaya-html-1197603-2018-03-25>

Bhoomipujan for Rail Coach Factory in Maharashtra

Question- On March 31st, 2018, function of Bhoomipujan for Rail Coach Factory was held at which of the following places.

(a) Vidarbha (b) Latur (c) Nagpur (d) Pune

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 31st, 2018, the function of Bhoomipujan for Rail Coach Factory at Latur held at District Sports Complex, Latur.
- Indian Railways has proposed to set up a Rail coach manufacturing facility at Latur with initial expected cost of Rs 500 crores.
- Chief Minister of Maharashtra was the Chief Guest and Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways and Coal, Government of India presided over the function.
- Significantly the decision of setting up a coach factory in Latur was taken in January this year.
- Government of Maharashtra and Ministry of Railways has signed MOU on 20.2.2018.
- Factory is being constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL).
- In the first phase, 250 coaches will be built annually.
- In the second phase, 400 coaches will be built annually.



Reference:

<http://www.punekarnews.in/bhoomipujan-of-rail-coach-factory-at-latur-on-31-3-2018/>

Country's First Paralympic Bhawan

Question- At which of the following places the country's first Paralympic Bhawan will be built?

(a) Gurugram (b) Bhiwani (c) Faridabad (d) Rohtak

Answer :(c)

Related Facts

- On 25th March, 2018 Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar addressed the opening ceremony of the 18th National Para Athletics Championships 2018, held at Panchkula.
- He announced that the country's first Paralympic Bhawan would be build at Faridabad at a cost of Rs 3.11 crore.
- On this occasion, he informed that the state government would give monthly pension of Rs 2,000 to differently-abled persons from next year.
- According to him in order to ensure all-round development of youth and to make them skilled, different types of training is being provided under the Haryana Skill Development Mission.
- Training would be imparted to 20 lakh differently-abled persons to make them employable.
- There are 2.68 crore differently-abled persons in the country and concerted efforts are being made by the Central and state governments to provide them basic facilities to make them self-reliant.



Reference:

<http://prharyana.gov.in/hi/node/22069>

Smart India Hackathon 2018

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

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

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Smart India Hackathon 2018 – Software Edition Grand Finale was organized here at the R.M.K. Engineering College at Kavaraipeitai, Thiruvallur District near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- 41 teams from different parts of India consisting of 246 students competed in the grand finale for the 14 problem statements posed by MoHUA and the State Governments.
- A total of 340 Problem Statements have been proposed across the Ministries/Departments/ States etc.
- Total 1282 teams comprising more than 10,000 young Engineering students and their mentors participated in the event.
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs participated as a host of Chennai Nodal Centre which is a combined initiative involving the Ministry of Human Resources



Development, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), Inter-Institutional Inclusive Innovations (i4c) and Persistent Systems Ltd.

- The following seven software problems are found hackathonable:
- Posting/transfers at the level of JE/AE/EE in CPWD (Works Div/CPWD)
- The impact of GST can vary from sector to sector and depends on whether the project is under execution (Economic Division)
- Stakeholder Engagement for Urban Planning and Management (Smart City)
- Urban Mobility (Smart City)
- Common Mobility App (Urban Transport)
- Common Platform for Vehicle Registration (Urban Transport)
- E-Measurement Book (Delhi Division/DDA)
- The State Governments have also sent problem statements relating to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), Urban Local Bodies (ULBs), Swachhata, Real Estate Regulation Act etc.
- It is note worthy that Smart India Hackathon 2018 is a digital product development competition involving all Technology institutes in India with a reach to approximately 30 lakh students.
- The initiative challenges the students to come out with out-of-the-box innovative ideas to build smart applications which will help address major real time problems in our country.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the aegis of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) and in collaboration with i4c, MyGov, Persistent Systems, and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini organized this event across India.
- With 27 Union Ministries and Departments and 17 State Governments having joined this grand initiative this year, the Hackathon is much bigger than its previous edition.
- It included 2 sub-editions – Software edition, which is a 36-hr software product development competition.
- The Hardware edition, involving building of hardware solutions will be held later this year in the month of June.
- Students from 41 teams have submitted ideas for various problems like traffic management systems, vehicle registration, revolutionizing public transport systems, urban planning and management systems and GST calculators using technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT and Mobility.
- 23 teams consisting of 138 students of the RMK Group of Institutions competed in the above Hackathon in various nodal centers in India.

Reference:

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

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

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

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



Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

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

Reference:

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

Telugu mandatory subject in all Telangana schools

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

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

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

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

Plastic Park to be set up in Jharkhand

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 20th, 2018, Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Ananthkumar announced that the Government of India has approved the setting up of a Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.
- The project would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores in an area of 150 acres and a range of polymer products including woven sacks, moulded furniture, water tanks, bottles, pipes mosquito nets, etc would be manufactured.
- It has great potential for attracting investment for setting up an ecosystem for plastic industry and generates employment opportunities for the local populace, the Minister informed.
- Project is likely to provide direct employment generation to about 6000 people and indirect employment to over 30000 people.
- This human resource is of vital importance as the plastic industry is growing at a rapid pace and the polymer consumption in India would double from the current 10 million metric tonnes to 20 million metric tonnes by 2022, the Minister added.
- The setting up of Rs. 3.5 crore Plastic Recycling unit at Deoghar to tackle the menace of plastic waste being generated due to the place being a tourist attraction was also announced.
- Deoghar receives over 5 crore tourists per year, leading to generation of a lot of plastic waste.
- The coming up of the Plastic Park, CIPET and the Plastic Recycling unit would build an ecosystem that would encourage setting up of Plastic Industry at Deoghar, thereby making it a 'Plastic Hub' in the future.



Reference:

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

Inland Ferry Services

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 20th, 2018, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the Inland ferry services in the port city of Vasco in Goa.



- In his keynote address, the Minister said that while addressing the needs of the poor, environment and ecosystem must be given its due priority.
- To achieve this, all the stakeholders need to make a concerted decision and action. He said, India has about seven thousand five hundred kilometres of seashore which can help the development of the country while giving tourism the much-required boost.
- Goa owes its emergence as a tourism state due to its coastal belt. The tourism sector has very high potential for Investment and employment generation.
- It is note worthy that the central government has so far provided Rs 15,000 crore for development of roads in Goa. He assured that Goa will receive all the funds required for the development projects under 'Sagarmala'.

Reference:

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

Bihar's first startup hub

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

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sushil-modi-inaugurates-bihar-s-1st-startup-hub-in-patna-118031601001_1.html

AWARDS & HONORS

27th Saraswati Samman-2017

Question: Who was recently selected for the 27th Saraswati Samman for the year 2017?

(a) Vishwanath Prasad Tripathi (b) Mamta Kalia (c) Sitanshu Yashaschandra
(d) Mahabaleshwar Sail

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On April 27, 2018, the famous Gujarati poet Sitanshu Yashaschandra was selected for the 27th Saraswati Samman for the year 2017.
- He will be given this honor for his poem collection 'Vakhar'.
- This book was published in the year 2009.
- Sitanshu Yashaschandra is the president of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad.



- For his poetry collection 'Jatayu' he was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for Gujarati in the year 1987.
- He was also honored with the Padma Shri by the Central Government in the year 2006.
- Earlier, the 26th Saraswati Samman, 2016 was given to Konkani language litterateur Mahabaleshwar Sail for his novel 'Hawthan'.
- It is known that in the year 1991, Saraswati Samman was established by the K.K Birla Foundation.
- This award is given every year to the outstanding literary work of Indian writers published in the last 10 years in any Indian language as described in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution.
- Under the Award prize money of Rs.15 lakhs is given with a citation and memento.

Related Links:-

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/gujarati-writer-sitanshu-yashaschandra-to-be-conferred-saraswati-samman/story-9NmpGTaaZ4XS0fdW3fqGmL.html>

2017 Shorenstein Journalism Award

Question: Who has been awarded the Shorenstein Journalism Award for the year 2017?

(a) Ankul Agrawal (b) Deepak Srivastava (c) Rajvi Sardesai (d) Siddharth Varadarajan

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 16th April, 2018 Siddharth Varadarajan, founding editor of *The Wire*, has been named the 2017 recipient of the Shorenstein Journalism Award.
- The award, given annually by Stanford University's Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center (APARC), is conferred upon a journalist who has produced outstanding reporting on Asia and has contributed significantly to Western understanding of the region.
- Varadarajan will headline a panel discussion on April 16, 2018, at Stanford.
- He was given this award as editor for his good research report and his comments in independent, web based journalism.
- The announcement for this award was made on March 1st, 2018.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/award-for-siddharth-varadarajan/article23516547.ece>

Most Film Friendly State Award

Question: Which state was recently announced to be given the 'Most Film Friendly State Award-2017'?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 19th, 2018, Madhya Pradesh state is elected as 'Most Film Friendly State Award-2017'.



**Government of
Madhya Pradesh**

- The Most Film Friendly State Award was announced by the Chairman of the Jury, Shri Ramesh Sippy.
- Madhya Pradesh was selected unanimously by the Jury from among the 16 States that participated.
- Madhya Pradesh has been selected for this award for its efforts towards easing filming in the State by creating a well-structured web site, film friendly infrastructure, offering incentives, maintaining databases, undertaking marketing and promotional initiatives.
- Madhya Pradesh is offering a variety of incentives as well as setting up a well-established website and setting up film-friendly infrastructure.
- State of Uttarakhand is given a Special Mention Certificate to recognize the efforts made by the State of Uttarakhand towards creating a film friendly environment.
- The Most Film Friendly State Awards would be presented by Hon'ble President of India on May 3rd, 2018 during the presentation of the National Film Awards.
- It is the fact that the highest film-friendly state award of 2016 was given to Uttar Pradesh.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71831>

Begum Akhtar Award 2017-18

Question: Who amongst the given were recently awarded with the Begum Akhtar Award for the year 2017-18?

- (a) Pt. Dharmanath Singh, Ustad Sakhawat Hussain Khan
- (b) Ustad Sakhawat Hussain Khan, Munawar Rana
- (c) Gopaldas 'Neeraj', Pt Dharmanath Singh
- (d) Munawar Rana, Gopaldas 'Neeraj'



Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On March 29th, 2018, the Begum Akhtar Awards were delivered by the Uttar Pradesh government for year 2017-2018. The Begum Akhtar Award for the year 2017-18 was awarded to the Harmonium player and sub-classical singer Pt Dharmanath Mishra and Ghazal singer Ustad Sakhawat Hussain.
- Whereas the year 2018 award was given to Ustad Sakhawat Hussain Khan.
- On this occasion Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave the Shawl, the citation and the amount of Rs 5 lakh each to the two people.
- It is worth mentioning that this award is given in the memory of Begum Akhtar (Akhtar Bai Faizabadi), popularly known as 'Mallika e-Ghazal'.
- This award is given to talented singers in Dadra, Thumri and Gazal genres.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister awarded Uttar Pradesh Rani Lakshmbai Gallantry award to 129 women and children.
- They were awarded in the form of prize the shawl, citation and money worth Rs. 1 lakh.

Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5abcc845-bc18-4d62-b771-781c0af72573.pdf>

Dan David Prize-2018

Question: Recently the Dan David Prize-2018 was announced by Dan David Foundation.

This foundation is located in which of the following countries?

(a) Israel (b) France (c) Norway (d) Sweden

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On February 7th, 2018, the 'Dan David Prize-2018 was announced at the Tel Aviv by the Dan-based Institute of the Israel-based Institute.
- The Dan David Prize rewards those innovative and inner-subjective research that break conventional boundaries and norms.
- The Dan David Prize is provided every year in time dimensions of past, present and future.
- In the past, those areas are referred to those who extend the knowledge of the past, such as history, archeology, fossil science etc.
- In the present, those achievements are recognized that giving the shape of today's society along with make society prosperous, such as arts, politics, economic, media etc.
- Under the future, those successes are included, which promise better future for the world such as the subject of natural science.
- **The award winners of different sections for the year 2018 are as follows:**
- **Past Dimension-History of Science:**
 - (i) Prof. Lorraine Daston
 - (ii) Prof. Evelyn Fox Keller
 - (iii) Prof. Simon Schaffer
- **Present time dimension-Bioethics:**
 - (i) Prof. Ezekiel Emanuel
 - (ii) Prof. Jonathan Glover
 - (iii) Baroness Mary Warnock
- **Future time dimension-Personalized Medicine:**
 - (i) Prof. Carlo Croce
 - (ii) Prof. Mary Claire King.
 - (iii) Prof. Bert Vogelstein.
- Among the Indian awardees, Prof. CNR Rao (2005), Zubin Mehta (2007), Abhitav Ghosh (2010) and Srinivasa Kulkarni (2017) are included.



Reference:

<http://www.dandavidprize.org/laureates/2018>

Portugal's Best Footballer of the Year, 2017

Question: On March 20th, 2018, who amongst the given was awarded with the Best Footballer of the Year, 2017?

(a) Bernardo Silva (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Rui Patricio (d) Bruno Torres

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The Quinas de Oro award was distributed in Lisbon, under the auspices of the Portuguese Football Association, the National Association of Portuguese Coaches and the Association of Professional Football Players. (March 20th, 2018)
- Cristiano Ronaldo was awarded with the Quinas de Oro Award, for Portugal's Best Footballer of the Year, 2017.
- Award of Men's Coach of the Year, 2017 was given to Monaco's coach Leonardo Jardim.
- *Jose Mourinho* has been conferred the Premio Vasco da Gama Award for his outstanding contribution in the expansion of the identity of Portuguese football.
- Portugal's best U-21 football player, 2017 award was given to *Gonçalo Guedes*.



Reference:

<http://www.espn.in/football/real-madrid/story/3426329/cristiano-ronaldo-named-portugals-player-of-the-year-jose-mourinho-awarded>

OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN

Joint Training Exercise KHANJAR-V

Question- From 16th-29th March, 2018, Joint Training Exercise KHANJAR-V held between which of these two countries?

(a) India-Kazakhstan (b) India-Kyrgyzstan (c) India- urkmenistan (d) India-Afghanistan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 29th March, 2018, the fifth Indo-Kyrgyzstan joint training exercise KHANJAR V culminated after a Joint Tactical Validation Exercise and a closing ceremony held at Counter Insurgency Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte.
- Two weeks of joint training that commenced on March 16th, 2018.
- The purpose of this exercise was to provide training to join forces of both countries to join the counter-terrorism campaign.
- It is worth mentioning that last year this exercise was held in Kyrgyzstan during February 20th – 5th March 2017.



Reference:

<http://newslivetv.org/2018/03/31/indo-kyrgyzstan-joint-training-exercise-khanjar-v-concludes-at-counter-insurgency-jungle-warfare-school-mizoram/>

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

Committee to look into the system of examination of class X and XII

Question: Recently, the Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a High Powered Committee under the chairmanship of the which of the given to examine the entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with a view to prevent leakages.?

- (a) Prof. J.S. Rajput (b) Prof. Vasudha Kamat (c) Prof. Krishna Mohan Tripathi
(d) Vinay Sheel Oberoi

Ans: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On April 4, 2018, The Ministry of Human Resource Development has constituted a High Powered Committee to examine the entire system of conducting Class X and Class XII examination conducted by the CBSE with a view to prevent leakages.
- Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, Retd. Secretary (Higher Education), MHRD will be the Chairperson of the 7 member High Power Committee.
- The terms of reference of the Committee are as under:
 - (a) To revisit all aspects related to the security checks built into the system for ensuring that the Question papers reach the examinees without tampering.
 - (b) To examine and assess all areas of potential weakness in the present system of transporting question papers from the printing presses to the examinees.
 - (c) To suggest ways in which the system can be made more secure with the use of technology and minimization of human intervention.
- The other members of the committee include:
 1. Shri Pavnesh Kumar, Retd. Controller of Examination, CBSE And Former Secretary, UP Examination Board
 2. Prof. J.S. Rajput, India representative on the executive board of the UNESCO former director, NCERT and former Chairman NCTE
 3. Prof. Vasudha Kamat, Independent Director, IRCON & Former VC, SNDT Women's University
 4. Prof. Krishna Mohan Tripathy, Ex-Director of Education, UP And Chairman Board of High School & Intermediate Education, UP
 5. Senior representative of DG, NIC
 6. Joint Secretary (SE-II)
- The High-Powered Committee will submit its report by on or before 31.05.2018.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178347>

Committee to Regularize News portals

Question: Which Ministry has recently constituted a 10-member committee to regulate online portals including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators?

- (a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- (c) Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

Answer: (d)



Related Facts:

- On April 4th, 2018, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting constituted a 10-member committee to regularize online portals including news websites, entertainment sites and media aggregators.
- The committee will include the Secretary of the Department of Home Affairs, Legal Affairs, Electronics and Information Technology and Industrial Policy Promotion Department.
- The committee will also include representatives of Press Council of India (PCI), News Broadcasters Association and Indian Broadcasting Federation.
- This committee will recommend making a suitable policy for online media, news, portal, online content and forums.
- Apart from this, this committee will also make rules in the context of the limits of the subjects of online media and news portals.

Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/ib-ministry-forms-committee-to-regulate-online-media-smriti-irani-5125324/>

PLANNING & PROJECT

Bikes Ambulances in Himachal Pradesh

Question: Which of the following is the first state of Northern India, which started the bike ambulance service (108) recently?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 2nd, 2018 Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jai Ram Thakur launched the Bike Ambulance Service (108) from Himachal Pradesh assembly constituency.
- He started the service by flagging-off two Bike Ambulances, thereby making the State, first State in the Northern India to launch this service.
- This service would be implemented in PPP mode by GVK, EMRI.
- Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in northern India to start this service.
- This bike ambulance service (108), introduced in view of the state's geographical conditions, will be supplementary service of already operational national ambulance service (108).



- 108 Bike Ambulance would be equipped with, first aid kit such as medical equipments and medicines etc.
- On receiving call on 108 in Shimla city, the Emergency Response Officer (ERO) would ascertain whether it would be appropriate to send an Ambulance or a Bike ambulance, keeping in view, the seriousness of the patients as well as, the topography of the concerned area.
- It is known that Himachal Pradesh is the fourth state in the country after Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Goa where the bike ambulance service has been started.

Reference:

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=2&ID=11658>

Rupashree scheme

Question: Which state government has recently started the Rupashree scheme for the purpose of providing financial assistance for the financially vulnerable girls?

(a) Karnataka (b) Gujarat (c) West Bengal (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 1st, 2018, the West Bengal Government launched the Rupashree Yojana (Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee's ambitious project).
- The purpose of this scheme is to provide financial support for the marriage of girls of economically weaker sections.
- Government will provide financial assistance of Rs 25,000 for one time in a single installment for the marriage of girls who have completed the age of 18 years.
- This financial aid will be sent to the girl's bank account before marriage.
- The benefit of this scheme will be for those girls who are native of West Bengal and whose annual income is less than 1.5 lakh rupees.
- An amount of Rs. 1500 crore has been allocated by the government for this scheme.
- Under the scheme, about 6 lakh girls of the state will receive financial assistance every year.
- It is known that this scheme was announced in the budget of the government's fiscal year 2018-19.
- Earlier, on March 8th, 2013, the West Bengal Government started Kanyashree Yojana with the aim of providing scholarship to economically weaker girls.
- This scheme was appreciated internationally for which Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee was also honored.



Reference:

<http://www.haribhoomi.com/news/west-bengal-cm-mamta-banerjee-launched-rupashree-schemes-for-women>

Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project

Question: Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project is being set up on which of the following river?



(a) Dhauli Ganga (b) Ramganga (c) Pindar (d) Tons

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 30th March, 2018, Union Power Minister K. Singh and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivender Singh Rawat laid the foundation stone of public sector company SJVNL's 60 MW Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project.
- The project is located at Mori on the Tons River, a major tributary of the Yamuna on the Ganga basin, in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.
- The project has the capacity to generate 265.5 million units of electricity every year and its estimated cost is Rs 648.33 crores.
- SJVNL is a joint venture of the central and Himachal Pradesh governments and has more than 100,000 retail shareholders.
- Project would be commissioned in record period of 48 months.
- Naitwar Mori Hydro Electric Project is designed as a standalone run of the river project.
- One of the major features of the project is that there is no displacement of population from the project site.
- After commissioning of the project, 12 per cent free electricity will be supplied to Uttarakhand as royalty.
- In addition to this, each project-affected family will be provided with an amount equivalent to cost of 100 units of electricity per month for 10 years.

Reference:

<http://www.cm.uk.gov.in/upload/pressrelease/Pressrelease-2502.pdf>

Kishanganga Hydropower Project

Question: In which district of Jammu and Kashmir, Kishanganga Project is being constructed on river Kishanganga, the subsidiary of Jhelum River?

(a) Kathua (b) Sopore (c) Bandipur (d) Anantnag

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 19th, 2018, electricity equipment maker Public Sector Company Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) announced the launch of the first unit of Kishanganga hydropower project in Jammu and Kashmir.
- This first unit has 110 MW power generation capacity.
- This project is being constructed at Kishanganga, a subsidiary of Jhelum in Bandipur district.
- This 330 MW project is being developed by NHPC Limited.
- This project will produce 13,500 lakh units of clean electricity annually.
- The work of the remaining two units is also going to be completed soon.
- Equipments were supplied from BHEL's Bhopal, Jhansi, Rudrapur and Bangalore manufacturing units for this project, while completion of this project was done by Northern Region Department of the company.
- It is known that BHEL has so far made 31 hydro power plants in Jammu and Kashmir with a total production capacity of 1257 MW.



Reference:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/bhel-commissions-first-110-mw-unit-of-kishanganga-hep-in-jammu-kashmir/63366301>

Journalist Welfare Scheme and Central Press Accreditation Committee Reconstituted

Question- On March 21st, 2018, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has reconstituted the composition of Committee on Journalist Welfare Scheme and Central Press Accreditation Committee. Who will be the chairmen of this reconstituted committee?

- (a) Director General, PIB
(b) Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
(c) President, PTI (d) President, Press Council

Answer: (a)

Related Fact:

- On 21st March, 2018, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has reconstituted the composition of Committee on Journalist Welfare Scheme and Central Press Accreditation Committee.
- Journalists are made members of the Journalists Welfare Committee for the first time.
- Central Press Accreditation Committee is chaired by Principal Director General, PIB with Representative from Press Council of India, Representative from News Broadcasters Association as its members. Other members include Shri Prashant Mishra, Dainik Jagran, Ms. Navika Kumar, Times Now, Shri Kanchan Gupta, ABP News, Shri J Gopikrishnan, The Pioneer and Smt Smita Prakash, ANI. The members of the Committee have a tenure of 2 years and shall meet once in a quarter or more frequently.
- The composition of Committee on Journalist Welfare Scheme has been made leaner for its efficient functioning. Now only Secretary (I&B), Joint Secretary (P&A), Principal Director General, PIB would be official members. For the first time journalists are also made members to the Committee.
- Six Journalists viz, Shri Vikas Bhadauria, Smt Richa Anirudh, Shri Ashok Upadhyay, Shri Sujit Thakur, Ms Sipra Das, Shri Ravindra Singh were made as non official members of the Committee on Journalist Welfare Scheme.
- The term of non official members of the Committee will be for a period of two years.
- This initiative will benefit the aggrieved parties by giving support in a time bound manner.
- For further details on the composition of the committee and modified guidelines visit http://mib.gov.in/sites/default/files/JWS%20New%20guidelines_0.pdf
- Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has recently increased the provision for Journalist welfare scheme by fivefold to Rs. 1 crore in BE 2018 – 19 from Rs.20 lakh in 2017-18.
- The scheme aims to provide one time ex-gratia relief on urgent basis to journalists and their families on the event of extreme hardship.
- This scheme covers journalists accredited to PIB / State Governments / UTs or non-accredited journalists working for a minimum period of five continuous years either whole time or part time as news editor, reporter, photographer, cameramen, photo journalist, freelance journalist.
- The financial assistance available under this scheme is upto Rs. 5 lakh to the family on account of death of journalist, upto Rs. 5 lakh to the journalists in case of permanent



disability, upto Rs. 3 lakh towards the cost of treatment of major ailments which is not covered under CGHS or any other insurance / health schemes.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177757>

Urgam Hydro Power Project

Question: In uttarkhand state renovated 3,000 kilowatts Urgam Hydro Power Project has been inaugurated which of the following rivers?

(a) Kalpganga (b) Alaknanda (c) Ramganga (d) Pindar

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 23rd March, 2018 Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat inaugurated the renovated 3,000 kilowatts Urgam Hydro Power Project on Kalpganga River in Helang Valley (Chamoli).
- It has been rebuilt by Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam.
- The power generated from this project would enhance electricity supply in 25 villages of the neighboring areas like Bharki, Bheta, Urgam, Chai-Thai, Salana, Joshimath and Badganv and also give employment to local unemployed youth.
- Urgam Hydro Power Project was damaged in the 2013 natural calamity.
- Uttarakhand State Government provided Rs 13.05 crore for the reconstruction of the damaged project.
- The power project had stopped producing electricity due to floods of 2013 which had damaged head curves, power duct, power house, TRC and about 100 meters of water canal.
- It is known that Kalpanga is the tributary of Alaknanda.



Reference:

<https://www.navodayatimes.in/news/state/production-started-from-urgam-hydro-power-project/77354/>

Women Entrepreneurship Platform

Question: By whom Women Entrepreneurship Platform was launched recently?

(a) Ministry of Women and Child Development (b) NITI Aayog
(c) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (d) Ministry of Labor and Employment

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 8th, 2018, NITI Aayog launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.



- CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant, launched the WEP platform at NITI Aayog premises in the capital today in presence of UN Resident Coordinator in India Yuri Afanasiev, Kailash Kher, industry leaders and supporting partners.
- The WEP theme song “*Naari Shakti*” composed and sung by Shri Kailash Kher was released on this occasion.
- Nominations for the Women Transforming India Awards, 2018 were also opened by Amitabh Kant and Yuri Afanasiev.
- It aims to power a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem through an enabling network of industry collaborations, partnerships, mentors and peer-to-peer connect.
- WEP is to operate within a broader framework of industry collaborations and partnerships, which cut across sectors in the economy.
- From providing unique services such as credit evaluation of women-led startups by CRISIL and potential equity investments through an INR 10 crore fund established by DICE Districts, the WEP opens up avenues of growth and opportunity for women entrepreneurs.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177141>

Udyam Sakhi Portal

Question: Which of the following Ministry has recently started an Udyam Sakhi Portal (www.udyamsakhi.org) for Indian women entrepreneurs?

- (a) Ministry of Commerce & Industry (b) Ministry of Labor and Employment
 (c) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
 (d) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On March 8th, 2018, on the occasion of International Women’s Day, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) started an Entrepreneurship Portal (www.udyamsakhi.org) for Indian Women Entrepreneurs.
- This portal was launched by Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Giriraj Singh during a program organized in New Delhi.
- An attempt has been made to create such a network through this portal, through which entrepreneurship can be promoted and at the same time creating new models of business for low cost services and products to make women self-supporting and empowering.
- Through the portal, women entrepreneurs have been provided necessary training for starting a business, direct contact with investors, market survey facilities and technical support.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71075>

TREATY & AGREEMENTS

MEMORANDUM OF SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF MIZORAM AND HMAR PEOPLE'S CONVENTION (DEMOCRATIC)

Question: Hmar People's Convention (Democratic); a Rebel group, belongs to which state?

(a) Mizoram (b) Nagaland (c) Tripura (d) Sikkim

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 2nd, 2018 the peace pact between the Mizoram Government and the Hmar People's Convention-Democratic (HPC-D) was signed.
- This agreement will help in maintaining lasting peace in the region.
- Last month, the terms of the agreement between the state government and this rebel group were decided.
- HPC (D) is a group of HPC who signed MOU with Mizoram Government in the year 1994.
- It is known that some leaders dissatisfied with this peace pact had formed the Hmar People's Convention (Democratic).
- This group later started armed struggle for our autonomous autonomy in the north and north-eastern parts of Mizoram.
- Some years ago this group was divided into the Josangbar group and Sante group.
- Chairman of HPC (D) H Zosangbera signed the treaty on behalf of HPC (D) while Arvind Ray, Chief Secretary of Mizoram signed the agreement on the state's behalf.



Reference:

<https://nenow.in/mizoram-government-inks-peace-pact.html>

Agreement between the India and United Arab Emirates

Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet was apprised of the MoU between the United Arab Emirates Federal Transport Authority- Land and Sea in which area?

(a) Sea transport (b) Tourism (c) Rail (d) Aviation

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 4th, 2018, The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with the Federal Transport Authority – Land & Maritime of the United Arab Emirates on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector.
- The MoU was signed on 10th February, 2018.



- The MoU will enable technical cooperation in the areas of : Regulation, safety and technical investigation of accidents; Station redevelopment; Locomotives, coaches and wagons; and Any other area jointly identified by the Participants.
- High speed corridor in identified areas of additional cooperation of other areas, increase in speed on existing routes, development of world-class stations, modernization of Indian transport operations and rail infrastructure.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1527705>

Agreement between ISA and India

Question: In March 2018 The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement. ISA shall be deriving its status, privileges and immunities as per which of the following Article of Framework Agreement?

(a) Article 8 (b) Article 13 (c) Article 11 (d) Article 12

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 26th, 2018, The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), signed the Host Country Agreement.
- The Agreement will give ISA a juridical personality and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose off movable and immovable properties, to institute and defend legal proceedings.
- Under this agreement, ISA shall enjoy such privileges, applicable tax concessions and immunities as are necessary for ISA's Headquarter to independently discharge its function and programmes.
- ISA shall be deriving its status, privileges and immunities as per Article 10 of Framework Agreement.
- The agreement was signed by General (Dr.) V.K. Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of External Affairs and Shri Upendra Tripathy, Interim Director General, ISA in the gracious presence of Shri R K Singh, Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy.
- Congratulating the signatories, Shri R.K. Singh said that ISA has potential to change developmental paradigm in the world.
- General (Dr.) V.K. Singh also congratulated ISA and stated that ISA has an onerous task at hand to mobilize over US \$ 1000 billion of investment into the Solar Sector and deploying over 1000 GW of Solar capacity.
- It is notable that the International Solar Alliance is an initiative jointly launched by the Prime Minister of India and President of France on 30th November 2015 at Paris, in the presence of the Secretary General of the UN, on the side lines of COP21 UN Climate Change Conference.
- The main objective of ISA is to undertake joint efforts required to reduce the cost of finance and the cost of technology, mobilize more than US \$ 1000 billion of investments needed by 2030 for massive deployment of solar energy, and pave the way for future technologies adapted to the needs of 121 countries lying fully or partially between the Tropics.



- The Framework Agreement coming into force on 6th December 2017, the ISA became the first international intergovernmental treaty based organization to be headquartered in India. ISA celebrated its founding day on 11th March, 2018.

Reference:

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

Agreement with AAI and Assam Government

Question: Recently, the Airport Authority of India (AAI) on signed a MoU with Assam government under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative for sustainable development of human settlements at which of the following districts?

(a) Majuli (b) Lakhimpur (c) Kamrup (d) Karimganj

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 26th March, 2018, The Airport Authority of India (AAI) on signed a MoU with Assam government under its Corporate Social Responsibilities (CSR) initiative for sustainable development of human settlements at villages in Kamrup district.
- The AAI would provide financial assistance under its CSR initiative of Rs 4.58 crore for the Kamrup district as per the estimates prepared by the UNDP.
- This is to improve the resilience of communities around Guwahati Airport.
- The AAI through its CSR policy supports such initiatives for promoting infrastructure for convenience of the population with a view to improve the resilience of communities.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/aai-signs-mou-with-assam-govt-to-develop-villages-in-kamrup-118032600867_1.html#

MoU signed by Indian Army on the Defence Salary Package

Question: A Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) was signed recently between the Indian Army and which of the following Banks on the Defence Salary Package?

(a) Axis Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) SBI (d) Mahindra Kotak

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 13th 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and Axis Bank on the Defence Salary Package.
- The first MoU between Axis Bank and the Indian Army was signed in 2011 and was renewed on 24 Mar 2015.
- The current MoU is tailor-made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.
- The signing-in ceremony was chaired by the Director General (MP&PS), Lt Gen SK Saini and was attended by the top dignitaries of Axis Bank headed by Mr Sanjay Sailas, President and Head, Retail Banking, Axis Bank.



- Recently, Indian Army has also signed a MoU with HDFC bank. MoUs are considered for inception and renewal with banks on analyzing their utility and suitability to the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.
- Army is hoping that this MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army personnel who are having their accounts with Axis bank; and also provide them an opportunity to access modern banking facilities.
- Under the current MoU, apart from other benefits, the Army personnel will get free personal accident death cover and free permanent total disability cover of Rs 30 lakh and free educational cover of up to Rs 2 Lakh for children between the age of 12 and 20 years.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178670>

MoU between India and Guyana

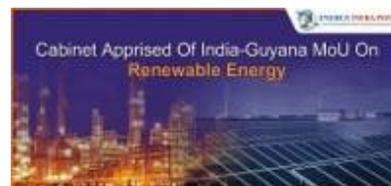
Question: For cooperation in which of the following field of Union Cabinet, apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Guyana?

(a) Agriculture (b) Information Technology (c) Renewable Energy (d) Double Taxation

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 21st, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in Renewable Energy between India and Guyana.
- The MoU was signed on 30th January, 2018 in New Delhi by Shri R. K. Singh, Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and H.E. Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, 2nd Vice President and the Foreign Minister of the Co-operative, Guyana.
- Both sides aim to establish the basis for a cooperative institutional relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable energy issues on the basis of mutual benefit, equality and reciprocity.
- The MoU envisages establishing a Joint Working Committee to review, monitor and discuss matters relation to areas of cooperation.
- The MoU aims for exchange of expertise and networking of information.
- The Memorandum of Understanding will help in strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177812>

Agreement between India and Qatar

Question- Cabinet approves revision of the Agreement between India and Qatar for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. This agreement was signed on-

- (a) 7 April 1999
 (b) March 8, 2000
 (c) January 15, 2000
 (d) April 7, 2001



Answer: (a)

Related Fact:

- On March 21st, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for revision of the Agreement between India and Qatar for the avoidance of double taxation and for the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- The existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with Qatar was signed on 7th April, 1999 and came into force on 15th January, 2000.
- The revised DTAA updates the provisions for exchange of information to latest standard, includes Limitation of Benefits provision to prevent treaty shopping and aligns other provisions with India's recent treaties.
- The revised DTAA meets the minimum standards on treaty abuse under Action 6 and Mutual Agreement Procedure under Action 14 of G-20 OECD Base Erosion & Profit Shifting (BEPS) Project, in which India participated on an equal footing.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177814>

Agreement between SBI and IMGC

Question: What is the function of the India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation?

- (a) To provide finance to credit institutions
- (b) To provide the default guarantee of mortgage to credit institutions
- (c) Monitoring of mortgage capital of banks
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 19th, 2018 SBI, India's largest lender State Bank of India and IMGC (India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation) entered into an agreement to offer mortgage guarantee scheme for potential non-salaried and self-employed loan customers.
- This offer will help in increasing the entitlement of home loan to 15 percent by regulatory norms.
- With the growing demand of the affordable housing segment, the purpose of this product is to provide home finance on the selected conditions by the target audience.
- SBI will provide mortgage-backed home loan products to the non-salaried class.
- Under this product, the applicant can avail the benefit of high finance on the basis of the risk weight of the borrowers for the default guarantee cover of the India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation.
- India Mortgage Guarantee Corporation is a joint venture between National Housing Bank, Genworth Insurance International Finance Limited and Asian Development Bank.
- It provides defensive guarantee of bond to credit institutions in India.



Reference:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sbi-imgc-sign-mou-to-offer-mortgage-guarantee-backed-home-loan/article23294428.ece>

MoU between Indian Army and HDFC Bank

Question: A Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and HDFC Bank on the Defence Salary Package. Earlier a MoU was signed between the same two in which of the following year?

(a) 2010 (b) 2015 (c) 2011 (d) 2016

Answer: (c)

Related Fact:

- On April 3rd 2018 a Memorandum of Undertaking (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and HDFC Bank on the Defence Salary Package.
- The first MoU between HDFC Bank and the Indian Army was signed in year 2011 and was renewed on March 13th
- The current MoU is tailor made to suit the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.
- The signing in ceremony was chaired by the Director General (MP&PS), Lt Gen S K Saini and was attended by the top dignitaries of HDFC Bank headed by Ms Smita Bhagat, Head Government Business and Branch Banking.
- Currently Indian Army has MoUs on Defence Salary Package with 11 public and private sector banks.
- MoUs are considered for inception and renewal with banks on analyzing their utility and suitability to the requirements of serving soldiers, pensioners and families.
- Army is hoping that this MoU will benefit a large number of serving and retired Army personnel who are having their accounts with HDFC bank; and also provide them an opportunity to access modern banking facilities.
- Under the current MoU apart from other benefits the Army personnel will get free personal accident death cover and free permanent disability cover of Rs 30 lakhs, free educational cover of upto Rs 1 Lakh per year for four years for education of dependent child in case of accidental death of defence personnel and 100% processing fees waived for Car Loans and Personal Loans.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178325>

ISRO–BHEL Tie up

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

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 22nd, 2018, ISRO has entered into a Technology Transfer Agreement (TTA) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), which is one of the country's leading



PSUs, to transfer the technology for the manufacture of space grade Li-Ion cells.

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

Reference:

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

Agreement between Indian Army, HPCL and NIDEO

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

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

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



Reference:

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

CONFERENCE

First Ever International SME Convention-2018

Question- At which of the following places the first International SME Conference, 2018 held on April 22nd-24th, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts

- On April 22nd-24th, 2018, First International SME Convention was organized in 2018 New Delhi.
- One hundred and fifty participants from 31 countries and 400 entrepreneurs from India participated in the four days International SME convention.
- This conference was organized by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in collaboration with the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and the COIR Board and the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC).



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178793>

Bhim Mahotsav, 2018

Question: Recently Bhim Mahotsav, 2018 was organized at which of the given places?

(a) Dehradun (b) Haridwar (c) Unresolved (d) Udham Singh Nagar

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The Bhim Festival, 2018, which was organized in Parade Ground Dehra Dun (Uttarakhand) from April 7th-15th, 2018, was inaugurated by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat.
- This festival is being organized by Doon Buddhist Society.
- Bharat Ratna Dr. BR Ambedkar's 127th birthday (April 14) program was held dedicated 'common heritage of magnificent cultural and intellectual Fair' to.
- During the fair, the programs were organized by famous artists, songs, music, poet conferences, dramatics, folk dances, intellectual discussions on contemporary subjects, workshop of entrepreneurship guidance etc Daily from 5th-9th pm.



Reference:

<http://www.cm.uk.gov.in/upload/pressrelease/Pressrelease-2510.pdf>

114th meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission between India and Pakistan

Question: Where was the 114th meeting of the permanent Indus Commission concluded on March 29th-30th, 2018?

(a) Karachi (b) Lahore (c) Islamabad (d) New Delhi

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



Answer: (d)

Related Facts

- On March 29-30, 2018 The 114th Meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission concluded in New Delhi.
- The Indian side, comprising senior officials from foreign and water ministries, is led by Indus water commissioner PK Saxena, while the six-member Pakistani delegation is headed by Syed Muhammad Mehar Ali Shah.
- Representatives from both sides discussed deliberations on the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) dispute and outstanding issues.
- Indeed, in the year 1960, the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was signed between the two countries.
- The fact that all six major rivers of Pakistan, including its lifeline the Indus, have their headwaters in India has always worried Islamabad.
- According to this treaty, the waters of the three western rivers of Indus, Jhelum and Chenab are reserved for Pakistan and the water of the eastern rivers Ravi, Sutlej and Beas is reserved for India.
- Significantly, the 113th meeting of the permanent Indus Commission was held in Lahore, Pakistan on 20-21 March, 2017.

Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/mar/29/india-pakistan-hold-permanent-indus-commission-meet-in-new-delhi-1794402.html>

Meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors

Question: Where was the meeting of the G-20 Finance Ministers and Governors of Central Bank held from April 19th-20th, 2018?

(a) Paris (b) New York (c) Washington D.C. (d) Geneva

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 19th-20th, 2018, second G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors with the objective of advancing on public policymaking, global economic leaders convened in Washington.
- The first meeting was held in Buenos Aires on 19th-20th March 2018.
- In this meeting, the Ministry of Finance of the Government of India is represented by Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs Subhash Chandra Garg.
- Taking place at the headquarters of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the meeting's 55 delegation leaders include 22 finance ministers, 18 central bank governors and eight international organization leaders.
- The two-day agenda, which begins tonight with a working dinner and continues with morning sessions tomorrow, will focus on the future work and the global situation, including the potential risks and hidden financial vulnerabilities of the global economy.
- Apart from this, and on April 19th, 2018, during the spring meeting of the IMF and World Bank, the first meetings of the Finance Ministers of the BRICS countries and the governors of the central bank were held separately.



- During this time BRICS Bond Fund related issues were discussed along with the BRICS Casual Reserve System (CRA).
- It is noteworthy that the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank's Spring Meetings is organized between Washington, DC, 16th-22nd April, 2018.

Reference:

<https://www.g20.org/en/press/press-kit/press-releases/world-economic-leaders-discuss-current-economic-outlook>

1st IBSA Sherpas' / Sous Sherpas' Meeting

Question- Where was the 1st IBSA Sherpas' / Sous Sherpas' Meeting held?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The 1st IBSA (India, Brazil & South Africa) Sherpas' / Sous Sherpas' Meeting, following the 8th IBSA Trilateral Ministerial Meeting, was held in Chennai from April 1st-3rd, 2018.
- Secretary (Economic Relations) in Ministry of External Affairs, Shri T.S. Tirumurti led the Indian delegation. Prof. Anil Sooklal, Sherpa of the Republic of South Africa, and Mr. Kenneth Nobrega, Alternate Sherpa of the Federative Republic of Brazil led respective delegations at the Meeting.
- In particular, IBSA Sherpas reiterated their appreciation for the work done by the IBSA Fund on Poverty and Hunger Alleviation that is spread over 27 projects in 15 countries.
- Representatives of Ministry of Tourism, RIS, Forum for Indian Development Cooperation (FIDC), and Blue Economy Forum participated in the meeting and shared their views on strengthening IBSA cooperation.



Reference:

[http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29742/1st IBSA Sherpas' Sous Sherpas Meeting](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29742/1st%20IBSA%20Sherpas%20Sous%20Sherpas%20Meeting)

Island Tourism Festival- 2018

Question- At which of the following places island tourism festival is being organized?

(a) Dadra and Nagar Haveli (b) Andaman and Nicobar (c) Lakshadweep (d) Daman and Diu

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 18 to 22 April, 2018 Islands Tourism Festival, 2018 (Annual) is being organized in Andaman and Nicobar Island.
- On 18th April, 2018, the festival was inaugurated by Chief Secretary Anindo Majumdar.
- Apart from the artists of the Eastern Union and the cultural associations of the Southern region, artist of Sangeet Natak Akademi is also participating for the first time.



- During the festival, cultural programs, Hasya Kavi Sammelan, traditional sports, kite flying competition, flower show contest, vegetable show contest, dog show etc. will be organized.

Reference:

<http://www.andamans.gov.in/html/itf2018.html>

International Virat Gurukul Sammelan

Question- At which of the given places the 'International Virat Gurukul Sammelan' be organized in April, 2018 by the Madhya Pradesh Culture Department?

(a) Bhopal (b) Indore (c) Rewa (d) Ujjain

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- From April 28th to 30th, 2018 three-day International Virat Gurukul Sammelan will be organised at Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain.
- This programme will be jointly organised by Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal, Nagpur and Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan, Ujjain.
- About 3,000 Gurukul representatives from India and abroad are expected to participate in this conference.
- A 'Gurukul Manifesto' will be prepared with consensus at the end of the event.
- The two main sessions in the conference will include three parallel sessions named 'Ahuti' and three integrated sessions 'Gyan Yagya'.
- Scholar orators will be guiding the Gyan Yagya. During first Gyan Yagya session the illustrious past of Gurukuls and their present status will be discussed, second session will hold discussion on the education system of Gurukuls and in the third session how to bring Gurukul education system into mainstream will be discussed.
- The parallel sessions will also discuss various related issues.
- The valedictory session will be addressed by Shri Suresh Ji Soni in which Uttar Pradesh CM Shri Yogi Adityanath and other seers will be present.



Reference:

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20180415N7&LocID=1&PDt=4/15/2018>

7th edition of Home Expo India 2018

Question: Where is the 7th edition of 'Home Expo India 2018' is being organized from April 16th-18th, 2018?

(a) New Delhi (b) Jaipur (c) Greater Noida (d) Varanasi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During 16th-18th April, 2018, 7th Home Expo India, 2018' event is being organized at India Expo Mart & Center located in Greater Noida.
- The three-day program was inaugurated by Union Information and Broadcasting and Textile Minister Smriti Irani.



- Over this, more than 650 Indian exporters will showcase their products in three categories.
- Expo, the products of the three categories of house ware, textile and furniture are being brought under one roof.
- A wide range of home textiles and kitchen household items are being offered during this time.

Reference:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/business/home-expo-india-2018>

11th Rashtriya Rifles biennial conference

Question: Where was the 11th Biennial Conference of National Rifles organized recently?

(a) Bandipura (b) Nagrota (c) Nagarkot (d) Jaisalmer

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The eleventh Rashtriya Rifles Biennial Conference is being conducted at Nagrota from 26 to 27 March 18.
- The conference was chaired by army Chief Vipin Rawat.
- The Army Commander of the Northern Command, the Director General of the National Rifles, the Corps Commander of the 15th and 16th Corps and all the Army officers of the anti-insurgent forces participated in this conference.
- During the conference, the National Rifles helped locals residing in the remote and remote areas of the state, as well as motivated development, education, empowerment of women, skill development and communal harmony through their multi-faceted competent citizen action programs.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178011>

15th Meeting of India-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

Question: Where did the 15th Meeting of India-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism held?

(a) New York (b) Mumbai (c) Washington (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On March 27th, 2018, the 15th meeting of the India-US Counterterrorism Joint Working Group was held in New Delhi.
- Led by Ministry of External Affairs Joint Secretary Shri Mahaveer Singhvi and the State Department's Principal Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Alina L. Romanowski, the Indian and the U.S. delegations achieved important progress on counterterrorism cooperation between the two countries.
- The Working Group reviewed threats posed by terrorist groups worldwide and in their respective regions including cross border terrorism in the South Asian region.
- Both sides committed to strengthening information sharing on some of the world's most dangerous terrorist groups and individuals and exchanged views on efforts to counter the financing and operations of regional and global terrorist organizations.



- The two sides discussed international efforts to counter threats posed by foreign terrorist fighters.
- The working group also discussed international and bilateral cooperation on justice, law enforcement and capacity building efforts to counter terrorism and UN Security Council Resolution 2396.
- Following up on the inaugural U.S.-India Counterterrorism Designations Dialogue in December 2017, the delegations discussed ongoing efforts to ensure the effective implementation of domestic and international terrorist designations.
- The United States will host the next meeting of the Joint Working Group in 2019.

Reference:

<http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29732/15th+Meeting+of+IndiaUS+Joint+Working+Group+on+Counter+Terrorism>

Gokul Mahotsav

Question: Gokul Mahotsav is related

- (a) the treatment of animals (b) increase in milk production (c) by promotion of culture
(d) None of the above mentioned above

Answer- (a)

Related Fact:

- On March 27th, 2018, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan inaugurated the Gokul Mahotsav at Chief Minister's residence (Bhopal).
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister the veterinarians accompanying the Rath for Gau Seva.
- Gokul Mahotsav will be celebrated from March 27th to May 10th, 2018.
- During the Gokul Mahotsav the Prachar Rathes will visit from door to door and village to village and provide medical facilities to the huge number of cattle of the state at the district level. The veterinarians will redress the problems of the cattle on the spot.
- They will carry out vaccination, castration, de-worming, treatment, fertility problems, artificial conception for breed improvement, surgery, medicine distribution etc.



Reference:

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20180327N3&LocID=1&PDt=3/27/2018>

First National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement

Question: Where was the first National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement recently organized?

- (a) Ahmadabad (b) New Delhi (c) Gururgram (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 23-24 March, 2018, the National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement was organized in New Delhi on the Drug Enforcement Administration.
- The conference is being organized by the Narcotics Control



Bureau (NCB), Ministry of Home Affairs.

- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest at the closing session.
- The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir inaugurated the two-day first National Conference on Drug Law Enforcement
- More than 50 State and Central law enforcement agencies involved in combating drug trafficking are participating in this Conference.
- They include State Police organizations, State Excise departments, Border Guarding Forces, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN), CBI and other Central agencies involved in drug enforcement work. More than 110 delegates are attending this Conference.
- Conference working sessions are focused on various topics such as 'Wider context of drug trafficking in India', 'Financial Investigations' and 'Foreign & Cyber Investigations'.
- During these sessions various agencies would give presentations while UN and other foreign law enforcement agencies would share their experiences.
- It is known that the Narco-Coordination Center was set up in the year 2016 and financial aid scheme for states for the control of Narcotics has been revived.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177912>

First meeting of the NITI Forum for North-East

Question- Where was the first meeting of newly constituted NITI Forum for North East was held in on April 10, 2018?

(a) New Delhi (b) Bhubaneswar (c) Tripura (d) Agartala

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 10, 2018, the first meeting of the newly formed NITI Forum for North-East was organized in Agartala, Tripura to encourage development projects in the North-East.
- The theme of the meeting is to 'Move towards a prosperous North-Eastern region'.
- The meeting was chaired by Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog, Rajiv Kumar and Minister of State for North Eastern Region (Independent Charge) Jitendra Singh.
- It is important that this forum was formed in February, 2018 with the aim of ensuring continuous economic development of the country's North-Eastern region and periodically review of the situation of development in the region.



Reference:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/business/niti-forum-for-north-east-holds-first-meeting201804101215330002/>

VII Moscow Conference on International Security

Question-Who amongst the given represented India in the 'VII Moscow Conference on International Security' from 03 to 05 April 2018?



- (a) Rajnath Singh (b) Sushma Swaraj (c) Nirmala Sitharaman
(d) General V.K. Singh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 4-5 of April 2018, the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation is organizing a regular Conference on International Security, which will be held in Moscow.
- This year the Conference will be focused on the defeat of terrorists in Syria.
- The Russian side will share its experience on combating ISIL and provide estimates on further development of the situation in the Middle East, including post-conflict rehabilitation.
- Security issues facing Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America will also be in the spotlight of the forum.
- Special session will address “Soft power” phenomenon as a tool to pursue military-political objectives.

Reference:

<http://eng.mil.ru/en/mcis/index.htm>

9th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue

Question- 9th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue, 2018 conclude in-

- (a) Jaipur (b) New Delhi (c) Tokyo (d) Mumbai

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 29th, 2018, 9th India-Japan Strategic Dialogue) -2018 concluded in Tokyo.
- In this, the Indian delegation was led by Union Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- While the Japanese delegation was led by Foreign Minister Taro Kono.
- In this, both sides reviewed all aspects of bilateral relations as well as exchanged views on regional and international issues of common interest.



Reference:

[http://mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/29735/Remarks to the Press 9th IndiaJapan Strategic Dialogue](http://mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/29735/Remarks%20to%20the%20Press%209th%20IndiaJapan%20Strategic%20Dialogue)

Swachh Shakti 2018

Question: At which of the following places the Swachh Shakti 2018 recently been held?

- (a) Ahmedabad (b) Lucknow (c) Agra (d) Jaipur

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 8th, 2018, the women’s conference ‘Swachh Shakti’ was organized in Lucknow (UP) on the occasion of International Women’s Day.
- It was organized jointly with the Uttar Pradesh Government through the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.



- For the participation in this conference, 8000 women Sarpanchs, 3000 women Swachhagrahis and 2000 women Swachhagrahis from Uttar Pradesh and women Sarpanchs from across the country were invited.
- Last year 'Swachh Shakti', 2017 was organized in Gujarat on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- This year the country's largest state has hosted it, where there is a widespread rural population.
- Yogi Adityanath (chief minister, UP) was the chief guest on this occasion.
- Special exhibitions, films and other activities related to the role of women in Swachh Bharat Mission were included in this function.
- On this occasion 30 Swachh Shakti' chariots were flagged off in different districts of the state.
- P. The government has set a target of open defecation (ODF) in the open till October, 2018.
- On October 2, 2014, Swachh Bharat Mission was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Its purpose is to make India free from open-defecation (ODF).
- So far, 314 districts and 3.23 lakh villages in 9 states and 2 union territories have been declared free from open-defecation.
- After the clean India campaign began, cleanliness coverage has increased from 38.7 percent to 78.98 percent (double).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177142>

Lead-up Conference to 3rd Annual Meeting of AIIB

Question: Recently, two day lead-up Conference in order to build-up the momentum for the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was held at which of the following palces?

(a) Visakhapatnam (b) Chennai (c) Lucknow (d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 3rd, 2018, two day second lead-up Conference in order to build-up the momentum for the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- The theme of this was "Enhancing Port and Coastal Infrastructure: A Primer on Potential Areas".
- The two-day Regional Conference is being organized by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India in collaboration with AIIB, CII and Research and Infrastructure System (RIS) for Developing Countries.
- Professor Amithab Kundu, Distinguished Fellow, RIS chaired the Inaugural Session of the two-day conference.
- Around 150 delegates representing different industry, academic and research institutions are participating among others to deliberate upon the major bottlenecks in the quest for developing blue economy in the country in order to achieve higher and inclusive economic growth.



- It is notable that India has identified more than 100 waterways under Sagarmala Project in order to lessen the logistic stress on road/rail freight transport in the country.
- Central government has initiated 70 to 80 projects under PPP mode for Coastal Infrastructure Development.
- In Andhra Pradesh, Gangavaram and Krishnapatnam are being developed under PPP mode.
- Visakhapatnam Port is one of the few ports in the country which have highest net-worth in terms of development.
- There are five new AIIB funded projects which are underway in India with investments worth US\$ 1.1 billion.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178341>

5th India Maize Summit 2018

Question: Where was the 5th India Maize Summit 2018 held recently?

(a) Chandigarh (b) Ludhiana (c) Gururgram (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On March 23rd, 2018, 5th India Maize Summit, 2018 was held at FICCI, New Delhi.
- The summit was inaugurated by the Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Radha Mohan Singh.
- On this occasion, he said that during 1950-51, India produced only 1.73 MT, which has reached 25.89 MT in 2016-17 and is expected to cross 27 MT in 2017-18.
- The average productivity in India is 2.43 ton/ha.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=71373>

Rising India Summit

Question- Recently Rising India Summit was head at-

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 16th-17th 2018, the Rising India Summit was held in New Delhi.
- This conference was organized by Network 18.
- This was the first edition of this conference in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi also participated.
- The Chief Guest of the Conference was Nobel Prize Winner economist Paul Krugman.
- The Summit was centered primarily on strategic issues, sports, entertainment and defense.
- This was the concluding conference of the Rising Series organized by Network 18 in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala etc.



Reference:

<https://www.exchange4media.com/industry-briefing/pm-narendra-modi-to-grace-news18-rising-india-summit- 88783.html>

ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS

Bihar State Education Finance Corporation

Question: Under the Student Credit Card Scheme, at which percentage of interest rate, loan will be available to students through the Bihar State Education Finance Corporation?

(a) 3 percent (b) 4 percent (c) 5 percent (d) 2.5 percent

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 4th, 2018, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated the Bihar State Education Finance Corporation in the Communication Room of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.
- In order to speed up the Student Credit Card Scheme, this corporation has been started by the State Government instead of banks, because there was considerable delay in sanctioning of the loan by the banks under this scheme.
- Loan is provided to the students receiving higher education under this scheme.
- In educational loan scheme from banks only students receiving technical education gets the benefits.
- Student credit card scheme will be available to 12th pass students as well as loans to other students.
- After passing the matriculation under this scheme, the students of polytechnic will also get the benefit.
- Through this corporation loans will be provided at the rate of interest of only 4 percent.
- Divyang, girl students and transgender will get loans at just 1 percent interest rate.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/nitish-launches-corporation-for-education-loan-of-students/articleshow/63617741.cms>

Annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation

Question: On April 5th, 2018, the President of India graced and addressed which annual of session of FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) in New Delhi?

(a) 33rd (b) 34th (c) 35th (d) 36th

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 5th, 2018, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, graced and addressed the 34th annual session of FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) in New Delhi.



- President praised the women as they contribute to our economy at work and at home, in many diverse ways.
- He urged the members of FLO to see how they can make these businesses – largely run by women – integral to their value chains and emphasize that if more women become part of the workforce, both household incomes and our GDP will rise.
- The government has a role here, but so do civil society and business – and organisations such as FLO.
- It is notable that stand-Up India initiative was launched in April 2016 to encourage entrepreneurship among women, SCs and STs.
- About 45,000 loans have been disbursed, mainly to sole proprietors.
- Almost 39,000 of these have gone to women – an overwhelming proportion. Under the MUDRA scheme, over the past three financial years, about 117 million loans have been sanctioned.
- Close to 88 million of these loans have gone to women entrepreneurs and he was happy to note that, as of December 2017, the number of NPAs in the MUDRA scheme is less than eight per cent of the loans sanctioned.
- It is admirable that at the grassroots of our country – in small hamlets and among traditionally underprivileged and deprived communities – MUDRA entrepreneurs are striving to pay back their loans.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178419>

Cabinet approves formation of 100% owned C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL)

Question: Recently, Cabinet approves formation of 100% owned C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) in which of the given?

(a) England (b) America (c) Japan (d) Russia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 21st, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for formation of 100% owned C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd.(TCIL) in USA as per the details given below:
- Formation of C Corporation of Telecommunications Consultants India Ltd. (TCIL) in the state of Texas, USA with authorization for registering in other states of USA for doing business subsequently.
- TCIL's Equity Investment of 100% in the C Corporation amounting to USD 5 Million (equivalent to INR 33.84 crores taking the exchange rate as Rs. 67.68) in a phased manner.



- TCIL's submission of Counter Guarantees amounting to USD 5 Million to Lenders of Loans/ Facilities / Vendors and also client for Bid bonds / Advance/ Performance Guarantees etc. required in connection with the execution of Projects in USA.
- C Corporation will be earning precious foreign exchange for the country and increasing profitability of TCIL which is a Government PSU.
- C Corporation is formed in the state of Texas, USA in connection with the execution of Projects in USA.
- The newly formed C Corporation shall earn an estimated profit of around 10% in the initial years with turnover of USD 10 Million, which may get increased subsequently depending upon the volume of work.
- Formation of C Corporation in USA shall help TCIL to expand its business/ turnover/profits and ultimately result in increased dividend to the Government being a State PSU.
- Total investment of USD 5 Million will be made by TCIL in the form of Equity from its internal resources.
- TCIL may also be required to provide Counter Guarantees of around USD 5 Million for getting finances in US for expansion of business and also Bid Bonds/ Advance Payment Guarantees/ Performance Bank Guarantees to Govt. authorities/ Final client on behalf of C Corporation.
- As such there will be no financial implication on the part of the Government.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1525669>

LAW & JUSTICE

Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2018

Question: Which is not true in relation to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2018?

- (a) The bill was approved by Union Cabinet on April 3rd, 2018.
- (b) It proposes to include "National Commission for Protection of Child Rights" as deemed Member of the Commission.
- (c) It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission.
- (d) It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission.

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 4th, 2018, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval to the Protection of Human Rights (Amendments) Bill, 2018 for better protection and promotion of human rights in the country.

- **Salient Features:**

1. It proposes to include “National Commission for Protection of Child Rights” as deemed Member of the Commission;
2. It proposes to add a woman Member in the composition of the Commission;
3. It proposes to enlarge the scope of eligibility and scope of selection of Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission as well as the State Human Rights Commission;
4. It proposes to incorporate a mechanism to look after the cases of human rights violation in the Union Territories.
5. It proposes to amend the term of office of Chairperson and Members of National Human Rights Commission and State Human Rights Commission to make it in consonance with the terms of Chairperson and Members of other Commissions.



मानव अधिकार संरक्षण (संशोधन) विधेयक,
2018

- The Amendment will strengthen the Human Rights Institutions of India further for effective discharge of their mandates, roles and responsibilities.
- Moreover, the amended Act will be in perfect sync with the agreed global standards and benchmarks towards ensuring the rights relating to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual in the country.
- The amendment to the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 will make National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) more compliant with the Paris Principle concerning its autonomy, independence, pluralism and wide-ranging functions in order to effectively protect and promote human rights.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178395>

The Arbitration and Reconciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018

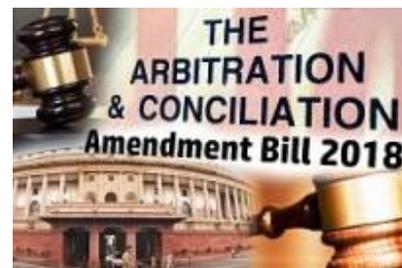
Question: When did the Union Cabinet recently ratify the Arbitration and Reconciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018?

(a) March 5, 2018 (b) March 7, 2018 (c) March 8, 2018 (d) March 3, 2018

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 7th, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved to lay the Arbitration and Reconciliation (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in the Lok Sabha.
- It is part of the government's effort to encourage institutional arbitration to resolve disputes.
- This makes India the center of a strong alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system.
- The amendment in the Act of 1996 will help in achieving the goal of improvement in institutional arbitration by establishing an independent body to set standards, facilitate the arbitration process, and establish an independent body to execute the matter in a timely manner.



- In this amendment there is a provision for the creation of an independent body Arbitration Council of India (ACI).
- This institution will grade the arbitrating institutions and fix the rules and give recognition arbitrators.
- The ACI will be the corporation body.
- The President of the ACI shall be the person who has been the Judge of the Supreme Court or the Chief Justice and Judge of any High Court.
- Among other members in addition to government nominees, renowned educationists will be included,

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177128>

YEAR, DAY & WEEK

World Malaria Day- 2018

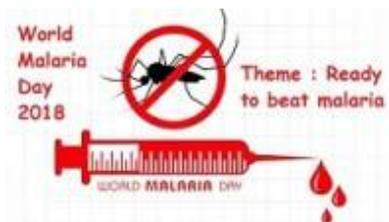
Question: When 'World Malaria Day' is observed?

(a) April 24 (b) April 22 (c) April 20 (d) April 25

Answer- (d)

Related Facts

- On April 25th, 2018 World Malaria Day was celebrated across the world.
- The main theme of this day in year 2018 was – 'Ready to Beat Malaria'.
- According to the latest World Malaria Report, 2017, released in November 2017, there were 216 million cases of malaria in the year 2016.
- Which are more than 211 million cases in year 2015.
- The number of deaths from malaria in the year 2016 was 445,000.
- According to the report, in the year 2016, 90 percent of the total world affairs and 91 percent of total deaths were in the African region.
- Malaria transmission was running in 91 countries and regions in 2016.
- It is known that the infection of malaria spreads through female anopheles mosquito, which carries a parasite called Plasmodium from one body to the other.
- National strategic plan (2017-2022) for eradicating malaria has been prepared.
- India's goal is to eliminate malaria by 2030.



Reference:

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/malaria-day/2018/event/en/>

National Panchayati Raj Day

Question- On April 24th, 2018, 'National Panchayati Raj Day' was celebrated across the country. The day is observed in the celebration of enforcement of which of the followings Constitution



Amendment Act?

- (a) 73rd Constitution Amendment Act
- (b) 62nd Constitution Amendment Act
- (c) 74th Constitution Amendment Act
- (d) 91st Constitution Amendment Act

Answer- (a)

Related Facts

- On 24th April 2018 National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated across the country.
- The 24 April marks the passing of the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24 April 1993.
- This amendment, In turn, had lead to institutionalization of Panchayati Raj (PR) through the village, Intermediate and District level Panchayats.
- So this day is celebrated on 24th April every year as anniversary.
- The first National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated in the year 2010.
- It is worth noting that a new Chapter 9 and 11th schedule was added to the Indian Constitution by the 73rd Amendment Act.
- Various programs were organized across the country on this occasion.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan at Mandla in Madhya Pradesh.

Reference:

<https://bit.ly/2HGUAYL>

World Book and Copyright Day

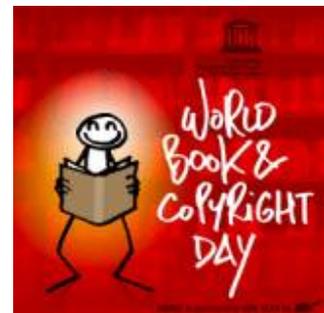
Question- On April 23rd, 2018, 'World Book and Copyright' Day was celebrated all over the world. Which city has been chosen as World Book Capital this year?

- (a) Incheon (b) Conakry (c) Shanghai (d) Athens

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 23rd April 2018, World Book and Copyright Day was observed across the world.
- The aim is to make books accessible to the city's entire population, including migrants and refugees.
- Each year, UNESCO and the international organizations representing the three major sectors of the book industry – publishers, booksellers and libraries, select the World Book Capital for a one-year period, effective 23 April each year.
- The city of Athens was chosen for the quality of its activities, supported by the entire book industry.
- The aim is to make books accessible to the city's entire population, including migrants and refugees.
- 23 April is a symbolic date for world literature. It is on this date in 1616 that Cervantes, Shakespeare and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.



Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/bookday/>

World earth day-2018

Question- On April 22nd, 2018, 'World Earth Day' was celebrated all over the world. For year 2018 the main theme of this day was –

- (a) Water for Earth (b) Tree for Earth (c) Environment and Climate Literacy
(d) End plastic pollution

Answer: (d)

Related Fact:

- On 22nd April, 2018, 'World Earth Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- 'World Earth Day' is also celebrated as 'International Mother Earth Day'.
- In the year 2018, the theme of this day was 'End Plastic Pollution'.
- The General Assembly, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social, and environmental needs of present and future generations, to promote harmony with nature and the Earth, and noting that Earth Day is observed each year in many countries, decided to designate 22 April as International Mother Earth Day through resolution A/RES/63/278, adopted in 2009.
- The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm marked the beginning of a global awareness of the interdependence between people, other living species and our planet.
- United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992.
- In 2005, the General Assembly declared 2008 as the International Year of Planet Earth, convinced that education in Earth sciences provide humankind with tools for the sustainable use of natural resources and for building the scientific infrastructure essential for sustainable development.
- In 2012, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development – or Rio+20 – took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It resulted in a focused political outcome document which contains clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable development.
- In Rio, Member States decided to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post 2015 development agenda.
- It is worth noting that in the year 2020, 50th anniversary of World Earth Day will be celebrated.
- Under which the attitude of change for Earth's security will be given a realistic appearance.



Reference:

<https://www.earthday.org/>

Civil Services Day function

Question: When 'Civil Service Day' is celebrated?

(a) April 22 (b) April 20 (c) April 21 (d) April 18

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions organized a 2-day Civil Services Day function on April 20-21, 2018.
- The Vice President of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function tomorrow (April 20, 2018).
- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi conferred the Awards for Excellence in Public Administration for effective implementation of identified Priority Programmes and Innovation to districts/ implementing units and other Central/ State organisations on April 21, 2018.
- PM Awards for Excellence in Public Administration have been instituted with a view to recognize the extraordinary and innovative work done by Districts & Organizations of the Central and State Governments for the welfare of common citizen.
- Following four priority programmes have been identified for the awards to be presented on Civil Services Day 2018:
 - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana,
 - Promoting Digital Payments,
 - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban & Rural, and
 - Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana.
- In addition there are awards for Innovation for Central, State organisations including Districts.
- 11 awards for 4 identified Priority Programmes were given this year while two awards shall be given to organizations of Central/ State Government/Districts for innovations out of which one award were to an Aspirational District.
- During Awards event on April 21, 2018, the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released two books, namely 'New Pathways' comprising of Success stories on implementation of identified Priority Programmes & Innovations and 'Aspirational Districts: Unlocking Potentials' on evolving strategies for transforming Aspirational Districts.
- The Award ceremony preceded by the Plenary Session on 'Artificial Intelligence for Effective Governance' chaired by Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad, Minister of Law & Justice, Electronics & Information Technology.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178776>

International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action

Question: When ' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action ' is observed?

(a) 2nd April (b) 4th April (c) 3rd April (d) 6th April



Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 4th, 2018, International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was observed across the world.
- For the year 2018, the main theme of this day is: Advancing Protection, Peace and Development.
- It is notable that On 8 December 2005, the General Assembly declared that 4 April of each year shall be observed as the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- Its purpose is to make people aware about mine protection.

Reference:

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

World Liver Day

Question: On which date 'World Liver Day' is observed?

(a) April 18 (b) April 17 (c) April 21 (d) April 19

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 19th, 2018, World liver Day was observed.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2018 – 'Riding New Waves in Liver Diagnosis, Staging & Treatment'.
- This day is celebrated to spread awareness about liver related diseases.
- Liver is the most complex and second largest organ of the body after human brain.
- It plays an important role in the digestive system of the body.
- Other key functions of Liver are:
 - Fighting with features and diseases.
 - Regularize blood sugar.
 - Remove the toxic substances from the body.
 - Controlling the level of
 - Helps in the formation of blood clotting (thickening / thickening).
 - Secretion of bile (a liquid that helps in breaking fat and digestion).



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/world-liver-day-2018-foods-that-are-good-for-your-liver-5142671/>

World Heritage Day

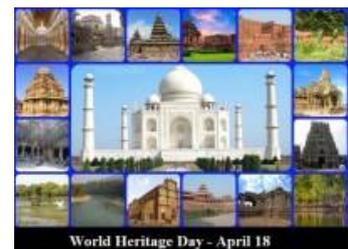
Question: What is the main theme of 'World Heritage Day' celebrated on April 18th?

(a) Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Tourism (b) Heritage for Generations
(c) World Heritage Site and we (d) Cultural Heritage: Facts related to

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 18th, 2018, World Heritage Day or International Day for Monuments and Sites is being observed around the world.



- The 2018 theme for the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites is Heritage for Generations led by the ICOMOS Emerging Professionals Working Group.
- Sharing stories and the transfer of knowledge between generations is a crucial step in cultural development, characterising the human experience since time immemorial.
- On 18th April 1982, on the occasion of a symposium organized by ICOMOS Tunisia and a corresponding meeting of the Bureau in Hammamet, it was suggested that a day be established to celebrate the diversity of heritage throughout the world.
- There was also a proposal to celebrate 'World Heritage Day' during this time.
- Every year on 18th April, ICOMOS celebrates the International Day for Monuments and Sites, whose establishment was approved by the 22nd UNESCO General Conference in 1983.
- This day is celebrated to make common people aware about the diversity and protection of awareness, cultural, historical and natural heritage at protected places.
- Last year, UNESCO included 'Ahmadabad' as 'India's first city' in the list of 'World Heritage City'.
- Founded on November 16th, 1945, United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization, has included total 36 sites in India in the list of World Heritage.
- 28 cultural, 7 natural places and 1 venue have been ranked in mixed category.
- First of all, in the year 1983, the Ajanta Ellora caves from India and the fort of Agra was included in the list of World Heritage.
- Agha Khan Foundation is doing excellent work for the protection of cultural heritage in the Indian subcontinent.
- While undertaking industrial initiatives for the conservation of these heritages, Indian Oil Corporation has raised Rs. 25 crore for the renovation of Kanheri's caves and Konark temple etc. and SAIL decided to spend Rs 1 crore for the repair and maintenance of Lodi Gardens buildings in Delhi.
- The 'International Council of Monuments and Sites' (ICOMOS) organization was established by the International Charters of the Conservation and Renewal of Monuments and Hospices of the year 1964.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/ahmedabad-declared-indias-first-heritage-city-by-unesco/article19244478.ece>

International Day of Human Space Flight

Question: 'International Day of Human Space Flight' is celebrated on-

(a) April 10th (b) April 12th (c) April 9th (d) April 14th

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 12th April, 2018 'International Day of Human Space Flight' was celebrated across the world.
- It is remarkable that the day is to celebrate each year at the international level the beginning of the space era for mankind, reaffirming the important contribution of space science and technology in achieving sustainable development goals and



increasing the well-being of States and peoples, as well as ensuring the realization of their aspiration to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes.”.

- It is notable that 12th April 1961 was the date of the first human space flight, carried out by Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen.
- They traveled the space from a spacecraft named Vostok. Only the first person to go to space gets their status.
- This historic event opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all humanity.
- The General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/65/271 of 7 April 2011, declared 12 April as the ‘**International Day of Human Space Flight**’ to celebrate each year at the international level.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/humanspaceflightday/background.shtml>

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

World Health Day

Question- On April 7th, 2018, ‘World Health Day’ was celebrated across the world. What is the theme of this day for 2018?

- (a) Food Security-Global Scenario (b) Eliminate diabetes
(c) Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere (d) Depression: Let’s talk

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- World Health Day was celebrated on April 7th, 2018 across the world.
- On the 70th anniversary of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) for year 2018 the theme of this day is “Universal Health Coverage: Everyone, Everywhere”.
- The slogan of this day is ‘Health for all’.
- The universal health care system means that all people and communities receive essential health services without financial difficulties and discrimination, and not leaving anyone behind.
- It is a mixture of essential, quality health services in which health promotion involves prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and palliative care.
- At least half of the world’s population still does not have access to all the necessary health services.
- Due to payment in health care services, more than 100 million people go under ‘excessive poverty’ line.
- For health care services, more than 800 million people (approximately 12 percent of the world population) pay at least 10 percent of their home budget.
- It is known that the WHO was established on 7th April, 1948, this day is celebrated to commemorate it.
- The headquarters of the WHO is in Geneva, Switzerland.



Reference:

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2018/en/>

World Homeopathy Day

Question- When is 'World Homeopathy Day' celebrated?

(a) 11 April (b) 10 April (c) 9 April (d) 13 April

Answer- (b)

Related Facts

- On 10th April, 2018, 'World Homeopathy Day' was celebrated across the world.
- This day is observed on Dr. Samuel Hahnemann's, founder of homeopathy; Birthday every year.
- On this occasion, a two-day science conference is being organized by the Central Homeopathic Research Council at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on 10th-11th April, 2018.
- The theme of this convention is "Innovate: Evolve; Progress: Exploring Science since 40 years".
- It is notable that like every year, World Homeopathic Week is also being celebrated from April 10th, which will conclude on April 16th, 2018.
- The main theme of this week is 'Pregnancy and Homeopathy for Pregnancy and Child Birth'.



Reference:

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

International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

Question- 'International Day of Sport for Development and Peace' is celebrated on which of the following dates?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Fact:

- On 6th April 2018, 'International Sports for Development and Peace' Day International was celebrated.
- The purpose of this day is to promote the role and contribution of the game in society.
- It is remarkable that the United Nations General Assembly announced on August 23rd, 2013 every year on April 6 this day.
- It is the fact that on April 6th, 1896, the first modern Olympic Games in Athens (Greece) were inaugurated.
- In 1978, UNESCO described sport and physical education as a "fundamental right for all." But until today, the right to play and sport has too often been ignored or disrespected.



Reference:

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

National Maritime Day

Question- When ' National Maritime Day ' is observed?

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

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On 5th March, 2018 'National Maritime Day' was observed.
- 55th edition of this day was celebrated with the theme of 'Indian Shipping: An Ocean of Opportunity'.
- It is important that the 'Merchant Navy Week' was observed between March 29 and April 5th, 2018.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to make people aware of the activities of the Indian shipping industry and its role in the country's economy.
- India is that on April 5th, 1919, Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd.
- The first Steam Ship 'SS Loyalty' (Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd.) was launched from Mumbai to the international water sector for London's first cruise.
- This day is celebrated every year since 5th April, 1964 in its memory.



Reference:

http://www.dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/20180124054733929167055_NMDC_RPSA.pdf

Samta Diwas

Question: Samta Diwas was observed on which anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram?

(a) 100th (b) 110th (c) 111th (d) 115th

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 5th, 2018, a homage function on the occasion of the 111th birth anniversary of Babu Jagjivan Ram was organized.
- The function was organized by the Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation under Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment at Samta Sthal, opposite Rajghat, New Delhi.
- The Function at Samta Sthal started by paying homage by Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment and President Babu Jagjivan Ram National Foundation Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Ramdas Athawale, former Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and senior officers of the Ministry, family members of Babuji and large number of followers.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160486>

World Autism Awareness Day

Question: When 'World Autism Awareness Day' is celebrated?

(a) March 28th (b) April 4th (c) April 2nd (d) April 3rd

Answer: (c)

Related Fact:

- On April 2nd, 2018 'World Autism Awareness Day' was celebrated.
- The theme of this day in year 2018 – 'Empowering Women and Girls with Autism'.
- Its purpose is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.
- What is autism –
- Autism is a lifelong neurological condition that manifests during early childhood, irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status. The term Autism Spectrum refers to a range of characteristics.
- Appropriate support, accommodation and acceptance of this neurological variation allow those on the Spectrum to enjoy equal opportunity, and full and effective participation in society.
- In 2008, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities entered into force, reaffirming the fundamental principle of universal human rights for all.



Reference:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/autismday/>

World Theater Day

Question: When is 'World Theater Day' celebrated?

(a) March 26 (b) March 27 (c) March 28 (d) March 30

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 27th, 2018, the World Theater Day was celebrated all over the world.
- To celebrate the 70th Anniversary of the International Theatre Institute and to underline the cross-cultural and international aspect of theatre and of ITI, the Executive Council has selected five message authors to write a message – one from each of the five UNESCO Regions: Africa, the Americas, Arab Countries, Asia Pacific and Europe.
- They are as follows:
- Asia Pacific – Ram Gopal Bajaj (India).
- Arab countries-Maya Jabib (Lebanon).
- Europe- Simon Mcburrey (U.K.)
- America-Sabina Burman (Mexico)
- Africa- Were Were Liking (Ivory Coast).
- It is known that the celebration of this day was started in the year 1962 by the 'International Theater Institute' (ITI).



- The main event of this day is held in UNESCO or in the selected place by ITI.
- This year the main event of this day was held in Paris (France).

Reference:

<http://www.world-theatre-day.org/messageauthor.html>

Earth Hour-2018

Question: When global campaign of energy saving celebrated in year 2018?

(a) March 23 (b) March 22 (c) March 24 (d) March 20

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 24th, 2018 Global campaign for energy saving 'Earth Hour' was observed from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm.
- It is worth noting that this is celebrated every year by the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- It aims to encourage individuals and various communities to reduce energy consumption, for which everyone has been urged to stop the unnecessary lights of their homes and establishments for one hour.
- The global campaign was started in Sydney, Australia in 2007.



Reference:

<https://www.earthhour.org/what-is-earth-hour>

World Down Syndrome Day

Question: When 'World Down Syndrome Day' is celebrated?

(a) March 25 (b) March 24 (c) march 22 (d) March 21

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On March 21st, 2018, World Down Syndrome Day was celebrated all over the world.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2018 is – 'What can I bring for my community'.
- To demonstrate the specificity of trisomy of 21 chromosomes, the 21st of the third month of the year was selected as this day, which causes Down syndrome.
- The name Down syndrome was named after British doctor John Langdon Down who first discovered the syndrome (medical condition) in 1866.
- 1 out of the estimated 1000 children in the world is born with Down syndrome.
- **What is Down syndrome?**
- Down syndrome is a genetic disorder, which is caused by the presence of an additional chromosome in pair of 21 chromosomes.
- Most of the people of most people have 46 chromosomes, but people with Down syndrome have 47 chromosomes in them and because of this, they look different and learn differently.



MISCELLANEOUS

M-Kerala app

Question: Where was the first global digital summit of Kerala 'Future, 2018' organized?

(a) Kochi (b) Trivandrum (c) Thrissur (d) Kollam

Answer: (a)

Related Facts

- On March 22, 2018 Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan unveiled a unified mobile app "M-Kerala App" at #future – a global digital summit in Kochi.
- By using this app citizens can access 100+ government service utilities through the app.
- Future Summit was held between March 22nd-23rd, 2018.
- The topic of this summit was 'Towards a Digital Future'.
- Kerala Government has identified more than 1,000 public hotspots for Wi-Fi in the state.



Reference:

<https://www.theweek.in/news/sci-tech/2018/03/22/pinarayi-vijayan-launches-m-kerala-app-kerala-first-global-digital-summit-future.html>

Total expenditure on the education of martyrs' children will be borne by the Central Government

Question- Recently, the notification has been issued by the Ministry of Defense that the Government of India will now bear the entire expenditure on the education of martyrs' children. How many children will be covered under this initiative?

(a) 2500 (b) 3400 (c) 3500 (d) 4500

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 21st, 2018, the notification was issued by the Ministry of Defense that the Government of India will now bear the entire expenditure on the education of martyrs' children.
- Earlier, Government was giving educational concessions to the children of Armed Forces Officers/Personnel below Officer Ranks (PBORs)/Missing/Disabled/ Killed in Action without the cap of Rs. 10,000 per month.
- This border was named 'Educational Facility'.
- This facility will be made available to the employees below officers / officers / officers of the Armed Forces who were killed / killed in the battles / war.
- About 3400 children will be covered under this initiative.
- This year the government will spend about 5 crore rupees on these children.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1525997>

Kaushambi Mahotsav

Question: Which of the given districts is associated with both Buddhist and Ramayana circuits in Uttar Pradesh?

(a) Allahabad (b) Kaushambi (c) Kushinagar (d) Shravasti

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 4th, 2018, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the 'Kaushambi Mahotsav'.
- This festival was organized at Manjhanpur, headquarter of Kaushambi District.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone of 105 projects of more than Rs. 259 crores.
- During the program, the Chief Minister honored Allahabad High Court's Justice Surendra Kumar Singh and Dr. Rajendra Tripathi Rasraj with Kaushambi Ratna and released a souvenir related to Kaushambi Festival.
- In addition to this, the Chief Minister announced the establishment of a Trauma Center near the National Highway in Kaushambi district.
- The Chief Minister inaugurated the School Chalo campaign and Vaccination program in this district.
- Set off the Kaushal Rath by flagging it from the venue.
- The Chief Minister also visited Ghoshitaram Vihar, an archaeological site located in Eastern Kaushambi.
- The festival concluded on April 5th, 2018.
- It is known that Kaushambi is the only district of the state that is connected to both Buddhist and Ramayana circuits.



Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5ac4fa00-16ac-4739-83b5-38de0af72573.pdf>

Indian Animal Welfare Board Headquarters Transferred

Question: Where the headquarters of the Indian Animal Welfare Board recently has been shifted from Chennai?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On March 6th, 2018, Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Mahesh Sharma informed in the Rajya Sabha that the headquarters of the Indian Animal Welfare Board (AWBI) has been shifted from Chennai to Sikri, Ballabgarh (Faridabad) of Haryana.
- The reason for the transfer of headquarters is to ensure better coordination between the Ministry of Environment and the Board.
- The Indian Animal Welfare Board is a statutory advisory body.
- It was established in year 1962 under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.



- It provides advice to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India on matters of animal welfare.
- It is known that the famous humanist Rukmini Devi Arundale played an important role in the establishment of this board.

Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/mar/06/animal-welfare-board-of-india-headquarters-shifted-from-chennai-to-haryana-1782557.html>

New Plant Species of West Bengal

Question: New plant species from two protected National Parks in West Bengal has been named after which of the following former President?

(a) Abdul Kalam (b) Pranab Mukherjee (c) Pratibha Patil (d) Rajendra Prasad

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- In February, 2018 Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India have identified a new plant species from two protected National Parks in West Bengal.
- This is a small shrub Named 'Drypetes kalamii'.
- The new plant was named after former President Abdul Kalam.
- This has been found in the smaller version of its nearest species Drypetes Ellisii
- It has now been included in India's rich 'Floral Wealth'.
- This plant is of unisexual nature.
- Its height is only one meter.
- Unisexual means that this plant is found separately as a Male and Female Plant.
- Plants have been found in 'Baksa National Park' and 'Jaldapara National Park' (West Bengal).
- It is important to note that 220 species of 'Drypetes' have been marked worldwide and 20 of which belong to India.
- This new species is close to a medicinal plant known as Putrajivah in Sanskrit.
- It is important that NASA also recently named a bacterium named after Kalam.
- For the recently discovered plant in India, the name of Kalam was chosen because it is a big motivation for students and young researchers.
- Following the rules of IUCN (International Union for the Protection of Nature), scientists have temporarily evaluated this plant as a 'Critically Endangered'.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/new-plant-species-from-west-bengal-named-after-former-president-abdul-kalam/article22845140.ece>

Air India's maiden flight over Saudi Arabia airspace

Question: Recently, which one of the following countries has recently allowed to use its airspace for flights to India from Israel?



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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On March 22nd, 2018, Air India's maiden flight to Israel has landed in Tel Aviv, reducing the travel time substantially after Saudi Arabia for the first time allowed a commercial flight to use its airspace.
- Air India flight number Ai 139 arrived at Ben Gurion Airport of Tel Aviv about half an hour late from the scheduled time.
- Air India took flight from Oman, Saudi Arabia and Jordan during this visit.
- Before this, Saudi Arabia and Oman had no diplomatic relations with Israel.
- After three years of opening of its airspace for Saudi Arabia flights to Israel, it will operate three flights a week.
- Important that the Israeli government aviation company currently operates the Indian service for Mumbai.
- This service operates from the top of the Red Sea to avoid flying over Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines/-aviation/air-india-makes-history-flies-to-israel-over-saudi-arabia/water-cannon-salute/slideshow/63428801.cms>

Mountain Beam

Question: What is 'Mountain Beam'?

- (a) Himachal series peak (b) One statue
(c) High product brand manufactured from the value addition of Himalayan wild products
(d) Uttarakhand Government's Ministry of Environment

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 24th March, 2018 Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat launched the brand Mountain Beam brought out jointly by the Himalayan Action Research Centre (HARC) and Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) by value addition to Himalayan jungle produce at Kaleshwar in Karnprayag..
- It has been jointly manufactured by Himalayan Action Research Center (HARC) and U Cost.
- On the occasion of this event, the Chief Minister honored the women who did excellent work and flagged off the Mountain Van of 14 products manufactured by the Hark Institute.
- Hark Institute has been working in the activities related to livelihood along with marginal farmers of the Himalayan region for the past 30 years.
- Women's Cooperative was formed in Kalshwar 10 years ago by Hark.
- In which about 2 thousand women are currently connected Hork organization started work with 3 products and currently over 30 products are being manufactured.
- Initially, started working with products in this institution.



Reference:

<http://www.thehawk.in/states/uttarakhand-news/uttarakhand-cm-inaugurates-brand-mountains-beam-built-by-harc-98493>

Special Postal Cover on Stephen Hawking released by Department of Posts

Question: In how many circle of postal department Special postal cover on Stephen Hawking were issued by the Indian post recently?

(a) 18 (b) 20 (c) 21 (d) 22

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On March 20th, 2018, as a tribute to the renowned physicist, cosmologist and author, late Professor Stephen Hawking, a special cover on the great personality was released by the Department of Posts.
- Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle, Shri H.C. Agrawal released the cover and presented the first album to Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, Dr. Sandip Trivedi, who was the Chief Guest for the function.
- Special postal cover on Stephen Hawking was issued in all 22 circles of the Postal Department.
- On March 14th, 2018, 76-year-old Stephen Hawking passed away at his home in Cambridge (UK).
- In addition, forty school students received scholarships under 'Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana' of Department of Posts today.
- Chief Postmaster General, Maharashtra Circle distributed the scholarship and certificates to the selected students of Maharashtra Circle, i.e. ten students from each of standards VI, VII, VIII & IX. Philately Scholarship under "Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana" is Rs. 6000/- per annum, for promotion of aptitude & research in stamps as a hobby.
- A total of 579 students participated in the Philately Quiz in Maharashtra Circle, from which 111 students were selected for submission of philately project.
- After evaluation of these 111 philately projects, the 40 students were selected for the SPARSH scholarship.



Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1525433>

First Indian Sign Language Dictionary

Question: A unique dictionary 'The Indian Sign Language' was released with the aim of bringing uniformity in sign language used by silent deaf people. How many words of Hindi and English have been encoded in this dictionary?

(a) 1500 (b) 2000 (c) 2500 (d) 3000



Answer: (d)**Related Facts:**

- On March 23rd, 2018 “First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words” was launched by Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment at a function.
- The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), M/o Social Justice & Empowerment.
- Ministers of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Krishan Pal Gujar and Shri Ramdas Athwale and Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar were also present on the occasion.
- Addressing on the occasion, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot said that the basic aim of developing the ISL Dictionary is to remove communications barriers between the deaf and hearing communities as it is focused on providing more information in Indian sign language.
- Its aim is to give Deaf people the constitutional right to speech and opportunity of freedom of expression and also bringing them into the main stream of the society.
- Soon many new words will be added in this dictionary.
- The ISL dictionary has focused on providing more information in Indian Sign Language. He hoped that more and more people use this dictionary and get the benefit of learning Indian Sign Language.
- ISLR&TC has been working on its dream project of developing the Indian Sign Language Dictionary for last one and a half years.
- As per the census 2011, there are 50, 71,007 Deaf people and 19, 98,535 with speech disability in India.
- ISLR&TC, New Delhi realized the gravity of the situation and issues being faced by the large number of Deaf people in common communication.
- Therefore, ISLR&TC has developed an ISL Dictionary for Deaf people and Hearing people, offering them the maximum words to learn and expressing their feelings, ideas etc.
- ISL dictionary consists of various categories of words for example legal terms, medical terms, academic terms, technical terms and daily use words.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1526046>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=177900>