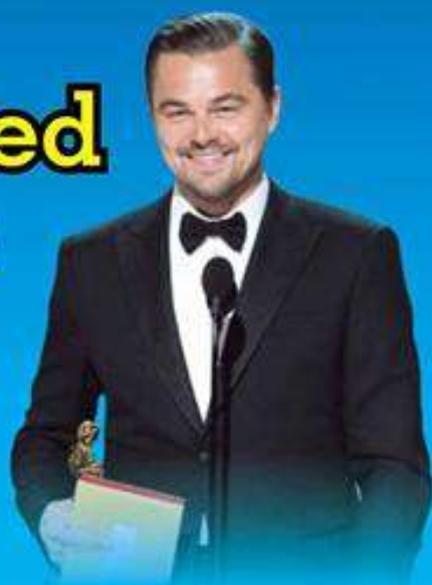


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Current Affairs

Day to Day

Questions
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Uttar Pradesh Budget : 2016-17



1 February, 2016 to 29 February, 2016

Preface

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

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

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

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

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st February to 29th February) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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Union Budget 2016-17

Question: Consider the following statements about Union Budget 2016-17 presented on 29 February 2016-

- i. 100% village electrification by 1st May, 2018.
- ii. New scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan proposed with allocation of Rs 655 crore
- iii. 5000 Stores under Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana will be opened during 2016-17.
- iv. 'National Dialysis Services Programme' to be started under National Health Mission through PPP mode

Which of the above given statements is/are correct?

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 29 February 2016 Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented Union Budget 2016-17 in the Parliament.
- The Major Highlights of the Union Budget 2016-17 are as follows:
- Growth of Economy accelerated to 7.6% in 2015-16.
- Foreign exchange reserves touched highest ever level of about 350 billion US dollars.

Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare:

- Farmer's income to be doubled by 2022.
- Allocation for Agriculture and Farmers' welfare is Rs 35,984 crore
- 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' to be implemented in mission mode. 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation.
- A dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about Rs 20,000 crore.
- Programme for sustainable management of ground water resources with an estimated cost of Rs 6,000 crore will be implemented through 3 multilateral funding
- 5 lakh farm ponds and dug wells in rain fed areas and 10 lakh compost pits for production of organic manure will be taken up under MGNREGA.
- Soil Health Card scheme will cover all 14 crore farm holdings by March 2017.
- 2,000 model retail outlets of Fertilizer companies will be provided with soil and seed testing facilities during the next three years.



- Promote organic farming through 'Parmparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' and 'Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region'.
- Unified Agricultural Marketing E-Platform to be dedicated to the Nation on the Birthday of Dr. Ambedkar on 14th April, 2016.
- Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana increased to Rs 19,000 crore. Will connect remaining 65,000 eligible habitations by 2019.
- To reduce the burden of loan repayment on farmers, a provision of Rs 15,000 crore has been made in the Budget Estimate(BE) 2016-17 towards interest subvention.
- Allocation under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana Rs 5,500 crore.
- Rs 850 crore for four dairying projects - 'Pashudhan Sanjivani', 'Nakul Swasthya Patra', 'E-Pashudhan Haat' and National Genomic Centre for indigenous breeds

Rural Sector:

- Allocation for rural sector - Rs 87,765 crore.
- Rs 2.87 lakh crore will be given as Grant in Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission
- Every block under drought and rural distress will be taken up as an intensive Block under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission
- A sum of Rs 38,500 crore allocated for MGNREGS.
- 300 Rurban Clusters will be developed under the Shyama Prasad 4 Mukherjee Rurban Mission
- 100% village electrification by 1st May, 2018.
- A new Digital Literacy Mission Scheme for rural India to cover around 6 crore additional household within the next 3 years.
- New scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan proposed with allocation of Rs 655 crore.

Social sector including health care:

- Allocation for social sector including education and health care – Rs 1,51,581 crore.
- Rs 2,000 crore allocated for initial cost of providing LPG connections to BPL families
- New health protection scheme will provide health cover up to One lakh rupees per family. For senior citizens an additional top-up package up to Rs 30,000 will be provided.
- 3,000 Stores under Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana will be opened during 2016-17.
- National Dialysis Services Programme' to be started under National Health Mission through PPP mode
- "Stand Up India Scheme" to facilitate at least two projects per bank branch. This will benefit at least 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs.
- Allocation of Rs 100 crore each for celebrating the Birth Centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay and the 350th Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

Education, Skills and Job Creation:

- 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened
- Regulatory architecture to be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions
- Higher Education Financing Agency to be set-up with initial capital base of Rs 1000 Crores.

Skill Development:

- Allocation for skill development – Rs 1804. crore.
- 1500 Multi Skill Training Institutes to be set-up.
- National Board for Skill Development Certification to be setup in partnership with the industry and academia.

Infrastructure and Investment:

- Total investment in the road sector, including PMGSY allocation, would be Rs 97,000 crore during 2016-17.
- India's highest ever kilometres of new highways were awarded in 2015. To approve nearly 10,000 kms of National Highways in 2016-17.
- Allocation of Rs 55,000 crore in the Budget for Roads. Additional Rs 15,000 crore to be raised by NHAI through bonds.
- Total outlay for infrastructure is Rs 2,21,246 crore.
- Comprehensive plan, spanning next 15 to 20 years, to augment the investment in nuclear power generation to be drawn up.
- 100% FDI to be allowed through FIPB route in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India.

Financial Sector Reforms:

- A comprehensive Code on Resolution of Financial Firms to be introduced
- Statutory basis for a Monetary Policy framework and a Monetary Policy Committee through the Finance Bill 2016.
- RBI to facilitate retail participation in Government securities.
- Allocation of Rs 25,000 crore towards recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks.
- sTarget of amount sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana increased to Rs 1,80,000 crore
- General Insurance Companies owned by the Government to be listed in the stock exchanges.

Governance and ease-of-Dong Business:

- Bill for Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services by using the Aadhar framework to be introduced.
- Introduce DBT on pilot basis for fertilizer.
- Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of Rs 900 crore to help maintain stable prices of Pulses
- "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme will be launched to link States and Districts in an annual programme that connects people through exchanges in areas of language, trade, culture, travel and tourism.

Fiscal Discipline:

- Fiscal deficit in RE 2015-16 and BE 2016-17 retained at 3.9% and 3.5%.
- Revenue Deficit target from 2.8% to 2.5% in RE 2015-16
- Total expenditure projected at Rs 19.78 lakh crore
- Plan expenditure pegged at Rs 5.50 lakh crore under Plan, increase of 15.3%
- Non-Plan expenditure kept at Rs 14.28 lakh crores
- Special emphasis to sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, social sector including health, women and child development, welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, infrastructure.
- Mobilisation of additional finances to the extent of Rs 31,300 crore by NHAI, PFC, REC, IREDA, NABARD and Inland Water Authority by raising Bonds.
- Plan / Non-Plan classification to be done away with from 2017-18.

Relief to Small Tax Payers:

- Raise the ceiling of tax rebate under section 87A from Rs 2000 to Rs 5000 to lessen tax burden on individuals with income upto Rs 5 Lakhs.

Corporate Tax rate proposals:

- New manufacturing companies incorporated on or after 1.3.2016 to be given an option to be taxed at 25% + surcharge and cess provided they do not claim profit linked or investment linked deductions and do not avail of investment allowance and accelerated depreciation.
- Lower the corporate tax rate for the next financial year for relatively small enterprises i.e companies with turnover not exceeding Rs 5 crore (in the financial year ending March 2015), to 29% plus surcharge and cess.
- 100% deduction of profits for 3 out of 5 years for startups setup during April, 2016 to March, 2019. MAT will apply in such cases.
- 10% rate of tax on income from worldwide exploitation of patents developed and registered in India by a resident.
- Exemption of service tax on services provided under Deen Dayal Upadhyay Grameen Kaushalya Yojana and services provided by Assessing Bodies empanelled by Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship.

Make in India:

- Changes in customs and excise duty rates on certain inputs to reduce costs and improve competitiveness of domestic industry in sectors like Information technology hardware, capital goods, defence production, textiles, mineral fuels & mineral oils, chemicals & petrochemicals, paper, paperboard & newsprint, Maintenance repair and overhauling [MRO] of aircrafts and ship repair.

Promoting affordable housing:

- 100% deduction for profits to an undertaking in housing project for flats upto 30 sq. metres in four metro cities and 60 sq. metres in other cities, approved during June 2016 to March 2019 and completed in three years. MAT to apply.

Resource Mobilization for Agriculture Rural Economy and Clean Environment:

- Additional tax at the rate of 10% of gross amount of dividend will be payable by the recipients receiving dividend in excess of Rs 10 lakh per annum.
- Surcharge to be raised from 12% to 15% on persons, other than companies, firms and cooperative societies having income above Rs 1 crore.
- Tax to be deducted at source at the rate of 1 % on purchase of luxury cars exceeding value of Rs ten lakh and purchase of goods and services in cash exceeding Rs two lakh.
- Securities Transaction tax in case of 'Options' is proposed to be increased from .017% to .05%.
- Infrastructure cess, of 1% on small petrol, LPG, CNG cars, 2.5% on diesel cars of certain capacity and 4% on other higher engine capacity vehicles 13 and SUVs. No credit of this cess will be available nor credit of any other tax or duty be utilized for paying this cess.
- Excise duty of '1% without input tax credit or 12.5% with input tax credit' on articles of jewellery [excluding silver jewellery, other than studded with diamonds and some other precious stones], with a higher exemption and eligibility limits of Rs 6 crores and Rs 12 crores respectively.
- 'Clean Energy Cess' levied on coal, lignite and peat renamed to 'Clean Environment Cess' and rate increased from Rs 200 per tonne to Rs 400 per tonne.
- Excise duties on various tobacco products other than beedi raised by about 10 to 15%.
- Assignment of right to use the spectrum and its transfers has been deducted as a service leviable to service tax and not sale of intangible goods.
- 11 new benches of Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT) to be opened.

Reference:

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

<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2016-17/bh/bh1.pdf>

<http://indiabudget.nic.in/ub2016-17/keybud/keybud2016.pdf>

Economic Survey 2015-16

Question: According to the Economic Survey 2015-16 tabled in Parliament on 26 February 2016 what is the expected GDP Growth Rate for 2016-17?

- (a) 7 % to 7.75 %
- (b) 7% to 8%
- (c) 8%
- (d) 8 to 8.5%

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 26 February 2016 Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley tabled the Economic Survey 2015-16 in Parliament.
- **Economic Survey 2015-16: Main Highlights**
- India's GDP(at 2011-12 constant prices) is predicted to be in the range of 7.0 to 7.75 per cent during the 2016-17 financial year.
- GDP at constant market prices is projected to increase to 7.6% in 2015-16 from 7.2% in 2014-15.
- It is expected to touch the growth rates of 8 % or higher in the next two of years.
- The growth rates in agriculture sector have been fluctuating at 1.5 per cent in 2012-13, 4.2 per cent in 2013-14, (-) 0.2 per cent in 2014-15 and a likely growth of 1.1 per cent in 2015-16.
- For the year 2015-16 the advance estimate for growth rate of industry is 7.3 per cent.
- Services continue to be key driver and expected to be 9.2% in 2015-16.
- Gross Domestic Product (GVA) growth rate is estimated at 7.3 percent in year 2015-16 compared to 7.1 percent in 2014-15.
- According to advance estimate of 2015-16 the per capita net national income at current prices is Rs 93 231, which is 6.2 percent higher than the previous year 2014-15.
- According to advance estimate of 2015-16 the per capita net national income at constant prices is Rs 77 431, which is 6.2 percent higher than the previous year 2014-15.
- **Fiscal Deficit:**
- Central government's gross fiscal deficit as a percentage of GDP was 4.5 percent in 2013-14, 4.0 per cent in 2014-15 (Provisional Actuals) and in 2015-16 (budget estimate) is 3.9 per cent.
- **Revenue Deficit:**
- The Central government's revenue deficit as a percentage of GDP was 3.2 percent in 2013-14, 2.9 per cent in 2014-15 (Provisional Actuals) and in 2015-16 (budget estimate) is 2.8 percent.
- **Primary Deficit:**

- The central government's primary deficit as a percentage of GDP is 1.1 percent in 2013-14, and 0.8 per cent in 2014-15 (provisional actual) and in 2015-16 (budget estimate) is 0.7 percent.
- At current market prices the gross domestic product (GDP) as a percentage of gross domestic savings rate is 33 percent in year 2013-14 and is 33 percent in year 2014-15.
- At current market prices the gross domestic product (GDP) as a percentage of gross capital formation rate is 34.7 percent in year 2013-14 and 34.2 percent in the year 2014-15.
- India's export growth (in terms of dollar value) was (-) 1.3 percent in 2014-15 and 4.7 per cent in 2013-14.
- During April-January 2015-16, India's exports declined year-on-year by 17.6 per cent to 217.7 billion US dollars and this decline was broad-based.
- In 2014-15, India's import growth rate (in terms of dollar value) was (-) 0.5 per cent and in 2013-14, the import growth rate is (-) 8.3 per cent.
- In year 2015-16 (April-December, 2015-16) it is estimated at (-) 15.5 percent.
- India's foreign exchange reserves at 351.5 billion US dollars, as on 5 February 2016, mainly comprised foreign currency assets amounting to 328.4 billion US dollars, accounting for about 93.4 per cent of the total.
- According to Economic Survey 2015-16 the Percentage Share of Horticulture Output in Agriculture is more than 33 Per Cent.
- The total expenditure on Social Services including Education, Health, Social Security, Nutrition, Welfare of SC/ST/OBC etc. during 2014-15 (RE) was 7% of GDP while it was 6.5% during 2013-14.
- Accordingly, the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the ASEAN Exports from India increased significantly by 33 percent and with 79 percent increase in imports the trade flow has benefited from both the sides.
- According to the Economic Survey 2015-16 Services Sector remained the key driver of economic growth contributing almost 66.1 percent in 2015-16.
- Accounting for 18.5 per cent of world production India recording a Growth of 6.26 % whereas World Milk Production Increases by 3.1 %.
- Per capita availability of milk in India increased from 176 grams per day in 1990-91 to 322 grams per day by 2014-15.
- India ranks first in milk production achieving an annual output of 146.3 million tonnes during 2014-15 as compared to 137.69 million tonnes during 2013-14.
- According to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) the world milk production in 2014 reached 789 million tons compared to 765 million tonnes in 2013.
- Trade deficit declines to 106.8 billion US dollars in April-January 2015-16 from 119.6 billion US dollars in corresponding period 2014-15.
- Current Account Deficit (CAD) limits at 1.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product during April September, 2015-16.

Reference:

<http://indiabudget.nic.in/es2015-16/echapter-vol1.pdf>

<http://indiabudget.nic.in/es2015-16/echapter-vol2.pdf>

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

Railway Budget 2016-2017

Question: How many stations have been proposed to have the Wifi this year?

- (a) 400
- (b) 200
- (c) 100
- (d) 300

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 25 February 2016 Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu presented the Railway Budget 2016-17 in the Parliament.
- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu presented his second rail budget this year.
- He gave the slogan “Chalo, Milkar Kuch Naya Karen” for overcoming challenges – Reorganize, Rejuvenate, Restructure Indian Railways.
- He outlined the 3 pillars of strategy - raise new revenues, raise productivity and efficiency and revamp the processes.
- The highlights of the Rail Budget 2016-17:
 - There is no hike in passenger fares and Freight fares in Railway Budget-2016-17.
 - In order to provide long-term perspective to planning for augmenting the railway network railway have decided to develop ‘National Rail Plan’ (NRP-2030).
 - Sarathi Seva will be expanded to help the old and disabled passenger.
 - 100 stations have been proposed to have the wifi this year and 400 other stations in next two year.
 - Extension of e-catering services from existing 45 large stations to all 408 ‘A-1’ and ‘A’ class stations.
 - It is proposed to take up the following freight corridors: North-South connecting Delhi to Chennai, East-West connecting Kharagpur to Mumbai & East Coast connecting Kharagpur to Vijayawada.
 - This year it is intended to commissioning 1,600 kms of electrification, which is the highest ever. In the next financial year railway have increased the outlay for railway electrification by almost 50% and propose to electrify 2,000 kms.
 - Better connectivity to the North Eastern States is of utmost priority for the railway.
 - The long-awaited Broad Gauge Lumding-Silchar section in Assam has been opened to connect Barak Valley with rest of the country.
 - For senior citizens and women travelers railway has increased quota of lower berths.
 - In the coming financial year railway will increase the senior citizen quota per coach by 50%, resulting in almost 120 lower berths per train for senior citizens.



- Reserving middle bays for women in coaches for women security.
- In pursuance of the objectives of the Accessible India campaign railway will ensure that all stations under redevelopment are accessible by Divyang.
- Railway intends to provide at least one Divyang friendly toilet at each platform in A1 class stations during the next financial year.
- It is propose to introduce the Antyodaya Express, a long-distance, fully unreserved, superfast train service, for the common man to be operated on dense routes.
- There will also two to four Deen Dayalu coaches in some long distance trains for unreserved travel to enhance our carrying capacity for the masses.
- Introduction of three select train services, Humsafar, Tejas and UDAY for the reserved passenger.
- Humsafar would be fully air-conditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals.
- Tejas will ensure cost recovery by way of tariff and non-tariff measures.
- Tejas, on the other hand will also showcase the future of train travel in India. Operating at speeds of 130 kmph and above, it will offer onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, Wi-Fi, etc.
- Railway will also introduce overnight double-decker, Utkrisht Double Decker Air-conditioned Yatri (UDAY) Express on the busiest routes, which has the potential to increase carrying capacity by almost 40%.
- Wireless enabled 'Rakshak' devices to intimate gang men about approaching train.
- Railway will tie up with the Ministry of Health for ensuring an exchange between Railways hospitals and Government hospitals.
- Introduction of 'AYUSH' systems in 5 Railway hospitals.
- Railways will provide internships to 100 students across Engineering and MBA schools for 2-6 months' each year.
- For promoting research in key policy areas railway intend for setting up two chairs.
- One C T Venugopal chair on Strategic Finance, research and policy development and another Kalpana Chawla chair on geo-spatial technology for IR.
- Under 'Make in India' initiative, bids will be finalized for two locomotive factories.
- 17,000 bio-toilets in trains and additional toilets at 475 stations will be provided before the close of this financial year.
- It may be recalled that World's first Bio-Vacuum toilet was developed by Indian Railway and is being used in Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express.
- Installation of additional 30,000 bio-toilets in the next financial year.
- Railway will now open the facility of cancellation through the 139 helpline post verification using 'One Time Password' sent on registered phone number.
- It has been proposed to set up a R&D organization, a Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology & Holistic Advancement, "SRESTHA".

- Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) will now focus only on day to day issues while SRESTHA would drive long term research.
- The great places of pilgrimage in India which have a natural attraction for the Indian traveler will be taken up on priority the provision of passenger amenities and beautification on stations at pilgrimage centres including Ajmer, Amritsar, Bihar Sharif, Chengannur, Dwarka, Gaya, Haridwar, Mathura, Nagapattinam, Nanded, Nasik, Pali, Parasnath, Puri, Tirupati, Vailankanni, Varanasi and Vasco.

Indian Railways look forward to meet the following long-felt desires of the common man by 2020:

- I. Reserved accommodation on trains being available on demand.
- II. Time tabled freight trains with credible service commitments.
- III. High end technology to significantly improve safety record.
- IV. Elimination of all unmanned level crossings.
- V. Punctuality increased to almost 95 per cent.
- VI. Increased average speed of freight trains to 50 kmph and Mail/Express trains to 80 kmph.
- VII. Semi high speed trains running along the golden quadrilateral.
- VIII. Zero direct discharge of human waste.

Financial Performance 2015-16:

- Net reduction in Gross Traffic Receipts by Rs 15,744 crore in Revised Estimate(RE) 2015-16 compared to the Budgeted Estimate (BE) target of Rs 1,83,578 crore.
- Freight earnings impacted mainly on account of low demand from the core sector resulting in resetting the target in R.E. 2015-16 to Rs 1,11,853 crore.
- Stringent economy and austerity measures adopted to contain the Ordinary Working Expenses (O.W.E.) due to which budgeted Ordinary Working Expenses of Rs 1,19,410 crore decreased in the Revised Estimates 2015-16 to Rs. 1,10,690 crore i.e. by Rs 8,720 crore.
- Internal resource generation diminished and appropriation to Depreciation Reserve Fund (DRF) moderated to Rs. 5,500 crore in RE from the BE 2015-16 provisioning of Rs. 7,900 crore.
- Excess of receipts over expenditure in RE 2015-16 stands at Rs. 11,402.40 crore.
- Plan size for 2015-16 is currently estimated at 1,00,000 crore i.e. the BE level.

Budget Estimates 2016-17:

- Gross Traffic Receipts kept at Rs 1,84,820 crore . Passenger earnings growth has been pegged at 12.4 % and earnings target budgeted at Rs. 51,012 crore.
- The freight traffic is pegged at incremental traffic of 50 million tonnes, anticipating a healthier growth in the core sector of economy. Goods earnings is accordingly proposed at Rs. 1, 17,933 crore.
- Other coaching and sundries projected at Rs. 6,185 crore and Rs. 9,590.3 crore respectively.
- Railways are preparing a Plan size of Rs. 1,21,000 crore in 2016-17.

Reference:

http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/finance_budget/Budget_2016-17/RailBudgetSpeech_2016-17_Hinglights_Eng.pdf

http://www.indianrailways.gov.in/railwayboard/uploads/directorate/finance_budget/Budget_2016-17/RailBudgetSpeech_2016-17_Eng.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/pmreleases.aspx?mincode=23>

Visit of Prime Minister of Nepal to India

Question: Recently the Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli was on official visit to India. How many Agreements (MOUs) between the two countries were signed?

- (a) 6
- (b) 7
- (c) 9
- (d) 10

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- At the invitation of the Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli was on official visit to India from 19-24 February 2016.
- It was Prime Minister Oli's first visit abroad after assuming office in October 2015.
- Prime Minister Oli meets Indian Prime Minister and call on the President of India on 20 February 2016.
- During this visit total 7 agreements and MOUs were signed between the two countries. It includes-
- MoU on utilization of US\$ 250 million Grant component of GOI's Assistance package for Post-earthquake reconstruction assistance
- MoU on strengthening of road infrastructure in the Terai area of Nepal
- MoU between Nepal Academy of Music and Drama and Sangeet Natak Academy
- Letters of Exchange on Transit Routes: (i) Transit between Nepal and Bangladesh through Kakarbitta-Banglabandh corridor (ii) Operationalization of Vishakhapatnam Port
- Letters of Exchange on Rail Transport: (i) Rail transport to/from Vishakhapatnam (ii) Rail transit facility through Singhabad for Nepal's Trade with and through Bangladesh
- Inauguration of Muzaffarpur-Dhalkebar transmission line [Initial supply of 80 MW, to be augmented to 200 MW by October 2016 and 600 MW by December 2017]
- Establishment of Eminent Persons Group.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26352/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Nepal+to+India+February+1924+2016>

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

[detail.htm?26376/List+of+Agreements+and+MOUs+exchanged+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Nepal+to+India++February+20+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26376/List+of+Agreements+and+MOUs+exchanged+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Nepal+to+India++February+20+2016)



Swedish Prime Minister visits India

Question: Recently the Swedish Prime Minister was on official visit to India; name the Prime Minister of Sweden?

- (a) Stephen Harper
- (b) Stefan Lofven
- (c) Juha Cipla
- (d) Helen Clark

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister of Sweden, Stefan Lofven was on an official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister of India between February 12-14, 2016.
- He was accompanied by a high-level business delegation.
- During the visit Prime Minister Stefan Lofven participated in the opening ceremony of “Make in India Week “.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Stefan Lofven met in Mumbai on 13 February on the occasion of the Make in India Week in Mumbai.
- Prime Minister Lofven welcomed the ‘Make in India’ initiative. They agreed that the ‘Make in India’ initiative had improved conditions for Swedish companies to expand and deepen their investments.
- This is notable that Swedish companies had been Making in India for many decades and had created employment opportunities directly and indirectly for approximately 1.2 million people.

Reference:

- <http://mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26357/India+Sweden+Joint+Statement+during+the+visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Sweden+to+India+New+Momentum+Higher+Ambition++February+13+2016>
- http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/make-in-india-week-in-mumbai/?comment=disable
- <https://www.indianembassy.se/relationpage.php?id=1>
- <http://www.swedenabroad.com/en-GB/Embassies/Mumbai/Current-affairs/News/Swedish-PM-Stefan-Lofven-visited-India-for-the-Make-in-India-Week--sys/>



Make in India Week

Question: Recently Make in India Week (13-18 February) was held at-

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Make in India Week was held from 13-18 February 2016 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 February 2016 inaugurated Make in India Week at Mumbai.
- It was attended by Prime Minister of Sweden Stefan Löfven and Finland Juha Sipilä.
- During the week-long event following are the highlights-
- Created avenues for showcasing, connecting and collaborating for manufacturing in India
- Promoted an Investment enabling environment
- Provided encouragement to to Design, Innovation, Youth and Startups
- Provided a platform where global CEOs, think tanks, policy makers, Diplomats and Political leaders converged.
- More than 8 lakh people visited the Make In India Expo and other events, of which 49,743 were registered delegates.
- 102 countries were represented in the mega expo.
- A total of 150 events were organized under the Make In India Week banner while more than 25,000 people participated in Seminars and Symposia.
- Over 1,200 experts from various walks of life from Ministers, Chief Ministers, policymakers, industrialists, academicians and spiritual gurus spoke on wide ranging issues concerning business and society.
- The Make In India Expo was spread over 23 lakh sqft area.
- 215 exhibitors show cased their strengths and opportunities in 11 sectors.
- 17 Indian states and 3 countries – Germany, Sweden and Poland had their pavilions in the Make In India Centre.
- **Following Key deals concluded during the Make in India Week(MIIW)-**
- Sterlite Group Company TwinStar Display Technologies & MIDC for LCD manufacturing unit signed agreement for a technical collaboration with Autron of Taiwan.
- Agreement between BAE Systems and Mahindra for assembling and testing of M777 Howitzers.
- Agreement between Yes Bank and IREDA for financing of renewable power projects.
- MoU between M/s Hindustan Coca Cola Beverages Private Ltd. ,Jain Irrigation Pvt Ltd and Dept. of Agriculture and Marketing, Govt. of Maharashtra for setting up a Juice Manufacturing Facility to support farmers growing oranges in Vidarbha
- MoU between M/s Raymond Industries and Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation as part of “Farm to Fabric” initiative.
- Amitabh Kant Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion said the Make In India Week witnessed a business commitment of Rs 15.20 lakh crore in investment.
- Rs 2,200 crore Electronics Development Fund was unveiled by the Communications & IT Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad to finance innovations, research and development in electronics manufacturing sector.

Reference:

<http://www.makeinindia.com/article/-/v/make-in-india-week-mumbai->

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136385>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136388>

MAKE IN INDIA WEEK
13TH-18TH FEBRUARY 2016/MUMBAI



National Capital goods policy-2016

Ques: According to recently released National Capital goods policy-2016, how much it is aimed to increase the production of capital goods by 2025?

- (a) Rs 3,50,000 Crore
- (b) Rs 7,50,000 Crore
- (c) Rs 6,50,000 Crore
- (d) Rs 5,00,000 Crore

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- To promote growth in the capital goods sector, government has released National Capital goods policy-2016 on 15 February 2016.
- The announcement has been made by the Union Minister of Heavy Industry and Public Enterprises Anant Ganga Ram Geete during the Make In India week(13-18 February 2016) in Mumbai.
- The policy expects increasing exports from the current 27% to 40% of production.
- It will also increase the share of domestic production in India's demand from 60% to 80%.
- The policy has been launched with a clear objective of increasing production of capital goods from Rs. 230,000 Cr in 2014-15 to Rs. 750,000 Cr in 2025.
- It also aims at raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136430>

<http://dhi.nic.in/writereaddata/Content/Capital%20Goods%20Report.pdf>

Railway Minister inaugurates three IT enabled projects

Ques: Recently Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Union Minister of Railways during a function held at Rail Bhawan today launched how many IT enabled projects through Video-Conferencing?

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

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2016 Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Union Minister of Railways during a function held at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi launched three IT enabled projects through Video-Conferencing.

• It includes :

1. Paperless unreserved ticketing through mobile phone in suburban section of South Central Railway

- Designed by the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), the app 'UTSONMOBILE' will help to book unreserved tickets on many suburban and some long distance routes in the South Central Railway.
- User can download 'App' from Google Play Store or Window Store.
- In this application, features enable booking of paperless unreserved journey tickets, season tickets and platform tickets through mobile phones.
- The application was earlier launched in selected sectors of Southern, Western, Northern, Eastern and Central Railways.

2. Pilot Project of hand Held Terminals for TTEs on Northern Railway

- This is a project of the Northern Railways that will help in updating the status of the passenger list of the whole train.
- The food-chart/occupancy chart will also be prepared based on the updated list.
- **The biggest benefits of the Project are:-**
- Revenue Yield Maximization, by making onboard accommodation availability visible to downstream Stations so that they can do current bookings against these vacant seats, realizing additional revenue against the same as presently these seats usually go vacant up to the terminal stations due to non-availability of this information with the prospective Passengers.
- The Application ensures greater transparency in the allotment of Accommodation onboard.
- It will ensure better productivity norms amongst TTE's as the process of ticket checking will get simplified considerably.

3. E-booking of disposable linen on trains at New Delhi Railway Station and Nizamuddin Railway Station.

- Passengers can avail bedroll kits through online booking and from some selected IRCTC outlets such as New Delhi Railway Station, Hazrat Nizamuddin, and other major railway stations
- The bedroll scheme will offer a bedroll kit with one pillow and two cotton bed sheets at Rs. 140 while the other will offer a single blanket at Rs. 110.
- The facility can be availed by passengers having confirmed e-tickets at the time of ticketing or up to four hours prior to the scheduled departure of the train on the basis of online payment.
- In addition, Launch at Mumbai Central (BCT) and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CSTM) was also announced on this occasion.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136290>



Swachh Survekshan-2016

Ques: Recently Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the results of 'Swachh Survekshan-2016' survey; accordingly which city bagged lowest position in the survey?

- (a) Raipur
- (b) Meerut
- (c) Varanasi
- (d) Dhanbad

Ans (d)

Reference:



- On 15 February 2016 Minister of Urban Development Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the results of 'Swachh Survekshan-2016' survey.
- 53 cities with a population of above ten lakhs each and 22 capitals that do not have that much population were selected for the survey.
- Mysuru in Karnataka remained the cleanest city second time in the country while Dhanbad in Jharkhand came at the bottom of 73 major cities surveyed for sanitation scenario last month.
- The top 10 cities in terms of sanitation and hygiene in order of rank are: Mysuru, Chandigarh, Tiruchirapalli (Tamil Nadu), New Delhi Municipal Council, Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Surat, Rajkot, both in Gujarat, Gangtok (Sikkim), Pimpri Chindwad and Greater Mumbai, both from Maharashtra.
- The bottom 10 cities are: Kalyan Dombivili (Maharashtra-ranked 64), Varanasi, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), Ghaziabad (UP), Raipur (Chattisgarh), Meerut (UP), Patna (Bihar), Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh), Asansol (West Bengal) and Dhanbad, ranked 73.
- Out of the 73 cities surveyed, 32 have improved ranks since the last survey.
- It includes 17 from the North. 6 from the West, 5 from the South and 2 each from the East and North-East.
- Of these 32, top 10 movers who have substantially improved their ranks in 2016 survey are: Allahabad (improved by 45 ranks), Nagpur (40), Visakhapatnam (39), Gwalior (34), Bhubaneswar(32), Hyderabad(31), Gurgaon (29), Vijayawada(23) and Lucknow (23).
- Top 10 cities that moved down in ranks in 2016 i.e top 10 bottom movers are: Jamshedpur, Kochi, Shillong, Chennai, Guwahati, Asansol, Bengaluru, Ranchi, Kalyan Dombivili and Nashik. While Jamshedpur moved down this year by 53 ranks, Nashik slipped by 23 ranks.
- Quality Council of India has conducted the survey.
- Last cleanliness survey was conducted in 2014 among 476 cities with a population of one lakh and above each and results were announced in year 2015.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136427>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136425>

State Visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India

Ques: Recently Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan was on State Visit to India. How many MoUs are signed between the two countries during the visit?

- (a) 1
- (b) 9
- (c) 15
- (d) 10

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, HH General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces is paying his first State visit to India from 10-12 February, 2016.
- The visit follows the visit of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to UAE in August 2015, during which the two countries agreed to elevate the relationship to a comprehensive strategic partnership.
- India and UAE have historically enjoyed close and friendly relations anchored on mutually beneficial commercial exchanges and extensive people to people contacts.
- The bilateral trade between the two countries amounted to US\$ 59 billion in 2014-15, making UAE our third largest trading partner.
- UAE is among the largest investors in India in terms of foreign direct investments. It contributes significantly to India's energy security and is the sixth largest supplier of crude oil to India in 2014-15.
- During his visit he met President Pranab Mukherjee and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.



- General Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces with the Prime Minister on February 11, 2016, concluded a bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
- During the visit, both countries signed **9 agreements and Memorandums of Understandings**.
 1. Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for technical cooperation in Cyber Space and in the area of Combating Cyber Crime.
 2. MoU on establishing a framework for facilitating the participation of UAE institutional investors in Infrastructure Investments in India.
 3. General Framework Agreement on Renewable Energy Cooperation.
 4. MoU between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the United Arab Emirates Space Agency on Cooperation in the Exploration and use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes.
 5. MoU was signed between Insurance Regulatory Authority of India (IRDA) and the Insurance Authority of UAE.
 6. MoU on Executive Programme for Cultural Cooperation (EPCC).
 7. Letter of Intent between Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the UAE government's National Qualification Authority (NQA) for collaboration on mutual recognition of qualifications and skill developments.
 8. MoU between Dubai Economic Council (DEC) and the Export-Import Bank of the India.
 9. India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) bilateral swapping of Indian Rupee with their Dirham. MoU was signed between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates.

Reference:

- <http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26338/Transcript+of+Media+Briefing+by+Secretary+East+on+State+Visit+of+Crown+Prince+of+Abu+Dhabi+to+India+February+10+2016>
- <http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26331/State+Visit+of+Crown+Prince+of+Abu+Dhabi+and+Deputy+Supreme+Commander+of+the+UAE+Armed+Forces+to+India+1012+February+2016>
- <http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26349/India+UAE+Joint+Statement+during+the+State+Visit+of+Crown+Prince+of+Abu+Dhabi>

Advance Estimates of National Income, 2015-16 & Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product for the Third Quarter

Ques: Recently the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have released the advance estimates of national income at constant (2011-12) and current prices for the financial year 2015-16, During the financial year 2015-16, the gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to be-

- (a) 7.3
- (b) 7.6
- (c) 7.2
- (d) 8.2

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 9 February 2016, the Central Statistics Office (CSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation have released the advance estimates of national income at constant (2011-12) and current prices for the financial year 2015-16.
- With this the quarterly estimates of GDP for the third quarter October-December (Q3), 2015-16 both at constant (2011-12) and current prices along with the corresponding quarterly estimates of expenditure components of GDP are also being released.
- The growth in GDP during 2015-16 is estimated at 7.6 % as compared to the growth rate of 7.2 % in 2014-15.
- These estimates are based on anticipated level of agricultural production from the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Index of Industrial Production (IIP), monthly accounts of Union Government Expenditure maintained by Controller General of Accounts (CGA) and of State Government expenditure maintained by Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG).
- Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant (2011-12) prices in the year 2015-16 is likely to attain a level of 113.51 lakh crore rupees against the First Revised Estimate of GDP for the year 2014-15 of `105.52 lakh crore, released on 29th January 2016.
- GDP at current prices in the year 2015-16 is likely to attain a level of 135.67 lakh crore rupees, as against 124.88 lakh crore rupees in 2014-15 showing a growth rate of 8.6 %.
- The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2015-16 is likely to attain a level of 77431 rupees as compared to 72889 rupees for the year 2014-15.
- The per capita net national income during 2015-16 is estimated to be 93231 rupees showing a rise of 7.3 % as compared to 86879 rupees during 2014-15 with the growth rate of 9.4 %.
- The nominal Net National Income (NNI), also known as national income (at current prices) is likely to be 119.62 lakh crore rupees during 2015-16, as against 110.08 lakh crore rupees for the year 2014-15.
- The sectors which are likely to register growth rate of over 7.0 % are financial, real estate and professional services, trade, hotels, transport, communication and services related to broadcasting, and manufacturing.
- The growth in the agriculture, forestry and fishing, mining and quarrying, electricity, gas, water supply and other utility services, construction and public administration, defence and other services is estimated to be 1.1 %, 6.9 %, 5.9 %, 3.7 % and 6.9 % respectively.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136214>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/gdp-growth-for-fiscal-2015-16-estimated-to-be-7-6-percent-centre-116020800854_1.html



Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations-2016

Ques: When did the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released the 'Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016'?

- (a) 9 February 2016
- (b) 8 February 2016
- (c) 5 February 2016
- (d) 6 February 2016

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 8 February 2016 TRAI has issued the 'Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulations, 2016'.
- This regulation disallows service providers to offer or charge discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content being accessed by a consumer.
- TRAI had earlier issued a Consultation Paper on 'Differential Pricing for Data Services' on 9 December, 2015.
- This Consultation primarily sought the views of the stakeholders on whether the service providers should be allowed to charge differential tariffs based on the websites/applications/platforms being accessed on the internet.
- Based on the responses received and the internal deliberations, the Authority has now issued these Regulations.
- These Regulations are aimed at ensuring that consumers get an unhindered and non-discriminatory access to the internet.
- These Regulations intend to make data tariffs for access to the internet nondiscriminatory on the basis of the content.
- TRAI will keep a close watch on the implementation of the mandate by the service providers and may undertake a review after two years or at an earlier date as it may deem fit.
- TRAI said a fine of Rs. 50,000 would be levied per day, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh, for any violation of these regulations by the service providers. An exemption, however, has been made for offering emergency services.
- The ruling is a big setback for Facebook's free Internet program Free Basics.
- Free Basics by Facebook provides people with access to useful services on their mobile phones in markets where internet access may be less affordable. The websites are available for free without data charges.
- It included content on things like news, employment, health, education and local information.
- The Facebook in 2013 had launched Free Basic Plan by the name of "Internet.org".
- The scheme has been implemented in 36 countries so far.
- Facebook claims north of 1.5 billion monthly active users (MAUs), its approaching saturation point in many western markets.
- Facebook chief Mark Zuckerberg has done huge campaign for the promotion of the Free Basics.
- In recent days Facebook's free Internet program Free Basics has been widely criticized for violating the principles of net neutrality.
- Those who support it, argue that the millions of people who live outside the realm of the Internet can be added free of charge.
- Net Neutrality means that the "Internet equally accessible for everyone".
- Currently, India is ranked second in the world in terms of Internet users.
- It is estimated that at the end of 2015, approximately 400 million people in India are using the Internet.

Reference:

http://www.trai.gov.in/WriteReadData/WhatsNew/Documents/Regulation_Data_Service.pdf

http://traigov.in/WriteReadData/PressRealease/Document/Press_Release_No_13%20.pdf

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136211>



Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act: The Journey of a Decade

Ques: Recently Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has completed its ten years of implementation, when it was came into effect?

- (a) 2 January 2006
- (b) 2 February 2005
- (c) 2 February 2006
- (d) 2 March 2005

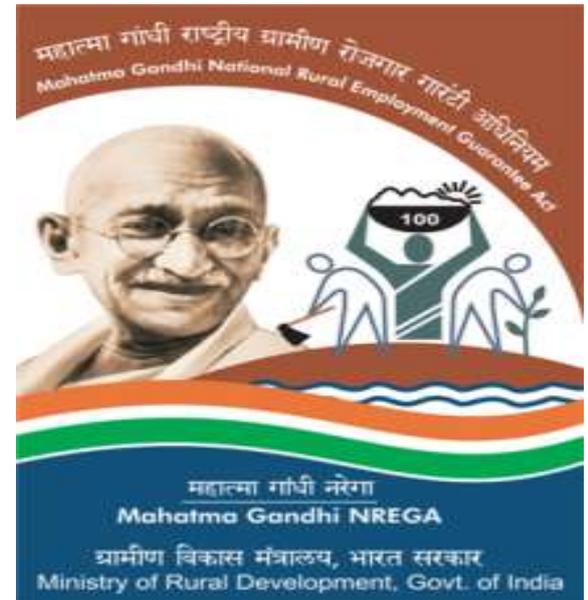
Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) completed ten years of implementation on 2nd February 2016.
- The achievements of a decade are a cause of national pride and celebration.
- Since the start of the programme, the expenditure on the programme has amounted to Rs. 3,13,844.55 crore.
- Out of this 71% has been spent on wage payments to workers.
- Through this programme a total of 1,980.01 crore person days have been generated.
- The past year, 2015-16, has seen a revival of the programme. The person day generation is highest in the second quarter (45.88 crore) and third quarter (46.10 crore)
- The person day generation is more compared to it has been in the last five years.
- More than 65% of the works taken up under the programme are linked to agriculture and allied activities.
- 23% of all person days are being done by SC workers, and 18% by ST workers, the highest in three years.
- Similarly the percentage of Scheduled Caste workers has consistently been about 20% and Scheduled Tribe workers have been about 17%.
- 57% of all workers are women which are well above the statutory requirement of 33% and the highest in three years.
- This revival has been achieved due to a slew of reforms undertaken by the Ministry of Rural Development.
- Most important of these has been the timely release of funds to states to provide work on demand.
- An electronic fund management system has been successfully instituted which allows for real time and transparent release of funds to implementing agencies and beneficiaries.
- The Ministry has reacted swiftly to the distress situation of droughts in nine states by declaring an additional 50 days of employment in the drought affected areas.
- The focus for the upcoming years will be on simplification and strengthening of procedures for the implementation of the MGNREGA as an employment guarantee.
- The Ministry will aim to train and place 10,000 Barefoot Technicians through Project LIFE.
- Training of workers for self-employment and livelihood up gradation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135959>



International

Quality of Living survey

Question: Which city has topped the list in the Mercer's Quality of Living Ranking 2016?

- (a) Vienna
- (b) Zurich
- (c) Auckland
- (d) Munich

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 February 2016, 18th Mercer's annual Quality of Living survey was released.
- According to the survey the capital city of Austria, Vienna is ranked as the world's best city on the basis of overall quality of living.
- In the survey, Zurich, Auckland, Munich and Vancouver was ranked respectively second, third, fourth and fifth place.
- In the Survey Paris (37th), London (39th) and New York (44th) failed to make position in top 35 countries.
- The capital Baghdad, Iraq (230th) is at the bottom of the list.
- In India, Hyderabad (139) is the best Indian city in terms of quality of living followed by Pune (144), Mumbai (152) and New Delhi (161).

Reference:

<http://www.mercer.com/newsroom/western-european-cities-top-quality-of-living-ranking-mercero.html>

<https://www.imercer.com/content/mobility/quality-of-living-city-rankings.html#list>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/Hyderabad-Tops-Quality-Of-Living-Rankings-Yet-Again/2016/02/24/article3293078.ece>



Trends in International Arms transfers-2015

Question: According to annual report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) named “The trends in international arms transfers-2015” the top arm exporter country during 2011-15 is-

- (a) Russia
- (b) United States Of America
- (c) China
- (d) Germany

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 22 February 2016 Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released the report named “The trends in international arms transfers-2015”.
- According to the report the volume of international transfers of major weapons in 2011–15 was 14 per cent higher than in 2006–10.
- The five biggest exporters in 2011–15 were the United States (33%), Russia (25%), China (5.9%), France (5.6%) and Germany (4.7%).
- Together, they accounted for 74 per cent of the total volume of arms exports. Combined, the USA and Russia supplied 58 per cent of all exports.
- The five biggest importers in 2011–15 were India (14%), Saudi Arabia (7%), China (4.7%), the UAE (4.6%) and Australia (3.6%).
- During the year 2011-15, five top arms importer countries together, they received 34 per cent of all arms imports.
- India was the largest importer of major arms in 2011–15, accounting for 14 per cent of the global total. Between 2006–10 and 2011–15 imports increased by 90 per cent.
- China is increasingly capable of producing its own advanced weapons and has become less dependent on arms imports, which decreased by 25 per cent between 2006–10 and 2011–15.
- In 2011–15 Russia supplied 70 per cent of India’s arms imports, the USA 14 per cent and Israel 4.5 per cent.
- The USA emerges as a major supplier to India, 11 times higher in 2011–15 than in 2006–10.
- Pakistan was the main recipient of Chinese exports accounting 63% of Pakistan arms Imports.
- Azerbaijan was the largest importer of major weapons in Europe, with deliveries increasing by 217 per cent between 2006–10 and 2011–15.
- The USA was the largest importer of major weapons in the Americas in 2011–15. Venezuela ranks second and was the largest importer in South America during 2011–15.
- The three largest importers in Africa in 2011–15 were Algeria (30 per cent of imports), Morocco (26 per cent) and Uganda (6.2 per cent).
- During 2011–15, 27 per cent of arms transfers to the Middle East region went to Saudi Arabia, 18 per cent to the UAE and 14 per cent to Turkey.

Reference:

<http://www.sipri.org/research/armaments/transfers/measuring/recent-trends-in-arms-transfers>
<http://books.sipri.org/files/FS/SIPRIFS1602.pdf>



SIPRI Fact Sheet

February 2016

TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, 2015

AUDE FLEURANT, SAM PERLO-FREEMAN, PIETER D. WEZEMAN AND
SIEMON T. WEZEMAN

Acceptances to the IMF reforms

Question: How much does the Overall quota has been increased under the 14th General Quota Review which was implemented January 26, 2016?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 75%
- (c) 100%
- (d) 125%

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- Under the 14th General Quota Review, 100% increase in the overall quota had been recommended.
- As a result, the quotas of each of the IMF's 188 members will increase to a combined SDR 477 billion (about US\$659 billion) from about SDR 238.5 billion (about US\$329 billion).
- Under this reform there is a shift of more than 6 percent of quota shares from over-represented (Developed) to under-represented (Developing) member countries.
- Due to this reform there will be four emerging market and developing countries (EMDCs) (Brazil, China, India, and Russia) among the 10 largest shareholders in the Fund.
- Under the new proposal, the top 10 quota holder countries (in descending order) are United States of America, Japan, China, Germany, France, UK, Italy, India, Russia and Canada.
- As part of the reforms, for the first time, the IMF's Executive Board will consist entirely of elected Executive Directors. Currently the members with the five largest quotas used to appoint an Executive Director.
- With the reform in the quota IMF will ensure that the institution is able to better meet the needs of its members in a rapidly changing global environment.
- The membership in 188-member IMF is quota based.
- A member's quota determines that country's financial and organizational relationship with the IMF, including: -
Subscriptions, Voting power and Access to financing.



Reference:

<https://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1625a.htm>

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/exr/facts/quotas.htm>

<https://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/misc/consents.htm>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/india-gets-more-voting-rights-in-imf-reforms/article8163827.ece>

First train from China to Iran

Ques: The first cargo train from China to Iran recently started operating, the cargo train was started from which of the China?

- (a) Jinhua
- (b) Yiwu
- (c) Changzhou
- (d) Ningbo

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 15 February 2016 the first cargo train from China to Iran arrived in capital city of Iran, Tehran.
- It had left Yiwu city in east China's Zhejiang Province on January 28.
- The train, also referred to as Silk Road train, has passed through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan to Iran, travelling a distance of 10,399 kilometers.
- The cargo train per day journey was about 700 kilometers and it is carried 32 containers each with a capacity of 40 square feet.
- This is a part of a Chinese initiative to revive the ancient Silk Road through which traders traveled from Europe to East Asia.
- In 2013, Chinese President Xi Jinping introduced the new 'Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Maritime Silk Road' initiative to connect stronger logistics networks with Asia, Africa and Europe by building more roads, railways and airports.

Reference:

http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-02/16/c_135101037.htm

<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/81964519/>

International Intellectual Property Index-2016

Ques: Recently the Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) issued the International Intellectual Property Rights Index -2016. Which country is at the top of the index?

- (a) United States Of America
- (b) Sweden
- (c) United Kingdom
- (d) France

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- International Intellectual Property Rights (IIPR) Index is issued by the Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) formed in 2007 which is principal institution of the United States Chamber of Commerce. It was started in 2012.
- On 10 February 2016 the Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) issued the fourth edition of International Intellectual Property Rights Index.
- The Index maps the IP(Intellectual property) environment in 38 economies around the world, collectively accounting for nearly 85% of global gross domestic product (GDP).
- It should be noted that in its third (2015), second (2014) and first (2013) edition it listed 30, 25 and 11 countries respectively.
- IIPR 2016 included in the new countries-Algeria, Brunei, Ecuador, Israel, Italy, Poland, Sweden and Venezuela.
- Each economy's score is based upon 30 indicators spread across six categories – Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Enforcement, and International Treaties
- The United States of America ranked first with a score of 28.6.
- **Whereas Venezuela** is at the bottom of the index with a score of 6.4
- In this edition of IP Index, India has scored 7.1 out of maximum 30 points and ranked 37th.
- This is notable that in the International Intellectual Property Rights Index -2015, India was ranked 29th with a score of 7.23.
- The first five places in the index of out of 38 countries are bagged by the United States (first, score -28.61), United Kingdom (second, score -27.53), Germany (third, score -27.36), France (fourth, score -27.22) and Sweden (fifth, score -27.12).
- The last five places in the index of out of 38 countries are bagged by the Venezuela (38th, score -6.4), India (37th, score -7.05), Thailand (36th, score -7.40), Vietnam (35th, score -7.83) and Algeria (34th, score -8.5).

Reference:

<http://www.theglobalipcenter.com/gipcindex/>

http://www.theglobalipcenter.com/wp-content/themes/gipc/map-index/assets/pdf/2016/GIPC_ExecSummary_Final.pdf

http://www.theglobalipcenter.com/wp-content/themes/gipc/map-index/assets/pdf/2016/GIPC_IPIndex_Annex.pdf

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-near-bottom-of-intellectual-property-index/article8219628.ece>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-ranks-37-38-in-new-us-chamber-ip-index-116021000781_1.html



Visit of External Affairs Minister to Sri Lanka

Ques: The 9th Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission was held at-

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- External Affairs Minister of India, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, led an inter-ministerial delegation to Colombo from February 5-6, 2016 for the 9th Session of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Commission.
- While Minister Swaraj visited Sri Lanka in March 2015 prior to the visit of the Prime Minister of India.
- She co-chaired the Joint Commission meeting on February 5, 2016 with Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mangala Samaraweera.
- The Joint Commission meeting, which was held after a gap of three years, reviewed the progress and developments in bilateral relations since the 8th Session held on January 22, 2013.
- The Joint Commission acknowledged the depth, intensity and uniqueness of the multifaceted India-Sri Lanka relations encompassing all spheres and founded upon civilization and close people-to-people linkages.
- In the sector of tourism, the second meeting of the Joint Working Group on Tourism will be held in mid-2016 to take forward the collaboration on establishing the Ramayana Trail in Sri Lanka and the Buddhist Circuit in South Asia.
- The Joint Commission also took stock of the Festival of India "Sangam" as a celebration of the shared civilizational heritage between the two countries.
- The Joint Commission acknowledged the importance of cooperation in counter terrorism and agreed on the need for the two countries to work together.
- Both sides agreed to find a permanent solution to the fishermen issue.
- The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka and the External Affairs Minister of India agreed to schedule the 10th Joint Commission meeting in February 2017 in India.
- On February 6, 2016, Minister Swaraj inaugurated the exhibition "Rise of Digital India" at the BMICH, which showcases advances made by India in the information technology and the digital revolution over the years.
- During her visit, Minister Swaraj met Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka; Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, and Ms. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, former President of Sri Lanka

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?26328/Remarks+by+External+Affairs+Minister+at+the+Inauguration+of+Exhibition+on+Rise+of+Digital+India+in+Colombo+6+February+2016>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?26330/Visit+of+External+Affairs+Minister+to+Sri+Lanka+February+5+2016>



Vice President's visit to Brunei and Thailand

Ques: Recently Vice president M. Hamid Ansari was on an official visit to Brunei and Thailand, When did India establish diplomatic relations with Brunei?

- (a) May 1985
- (b) June 1984
- (c) May 1984
- (d) June 1986

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The Vice-President (VP) M. Hamid Ansari was on an official visit to Brunei Darussalam from 1-3 February 2016 at the invitation of His Royal Highness (HRH) Crown Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah of Brunei Darussalam.
- This was the first high level visit from India since the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries in May 1984.
- Brunei is an important partner for India in ASEAN and besides contributing to our energy security, hosts a 10,000-strong Indian community.
- The trade volume between India and Brunei is about a billion dollars most of which is made up of crude oil.
- Petroleum products as well as organic chemicals, metal ores and scraps are the other commodities that are imported from Brunei.
- Vice President during his visit met the Sultan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
- India in fact is the third largest destination for exports of Brunei, making up of about 10 per cent of total exports of Brunei.
- VP addressed the Indian Community at a reception and delivered an address at the University of Brunei Darussalam (UBD).
- In his meetings with the Brunei leaders, Hon'ble Vice President discussed bilateral issues/cooperation pertaining to civil aviation, trade and investment, hydrocarbon and natural gas, information and communication and space cooperation, cooperation in ASEAN, EAS and other multilateral fora.
- During his visit to Brunei on February 2, 2016, the following three agreements / MoUs were signed:

1. MoU in Health Cooperation

The following specific areas have been identified for bilateral cooperation:

- i. Exchange of doctors, other professionals and experts.



- ii. Exchange of information on health.
- iii. Medical and health research development
- iv. Regulations of pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics and to promote business development in these areas.
- v. Health promotion and disease prevention

2. MOU on Defence Cooperation

The purpose of this MOU is to enhance Defence Cooperation between India and Brunei in various fields.

3. MOU on Cooperation in Youth and Sports Affairs

- It was signed to provide a framework for exchanges of sports persons and sports teams; to facilitate the exchange of expertise in coaching, Sports talent identification, Sports Management and Administration and exchange of information in the field of youth Affairs.
- Hon'ble Vice President is also visited Thailand from 3-5 February 2016 on an official visit at the invitation of the General Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand.
- This is the first Vice President level visit from India after a gap of 50 years.
- He also met Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.
- The Vice President delivered a speech at the prestigious Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok on the topic 'From Look East to Act East: India's Partnership with Thailand and ASEAN'.
- India's excellent relations with Thailand are an important and integral component of India's strategic partnership with ASEAN.
- Among ASEAN countries Thailand is fourth largest trading partner of India after Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Reference:

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

[detail.htm?26332/Transcript+of+Media+Briefing+by+Secretary+East+in+Bandar+Seri+Begawan+on+Vice+Presidents+ongoing+visit+February+02+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/outoging-visit-detail.htm?26332/Transcript+of+Media+Briefing+by+Secretary+East+in+Bandar+Seri+Begawan+on+Vice+Presidents+ongoing+visit+February+02+2016)

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

[detail.htm?26280/Transcript+of+Media+Briefing+by+Secretary+East+on+Vice+Presidents+forthcoming+visit+to+Brunei+and+Thailand+January+20+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/outoging-visit-detail.htm?26280/Transcript+of+Media+Briefing+by+Secretary+East+on+Vice+Presidents+forthcoming+visit+to+Brunei+and+Thailand+January+20+2016)

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outoging-visit-detail.htm?26281/Visit+of+Vice+President+to+Brunei+February+0103+2016>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outoging-visit-detail.htm?26282/Visit+of+Vice+President+to+Thailand+February+0305+2016>

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

[detail.htm?26311/List+of+MoUs+Agreements+signed+during+the+visit+of+Vice+President+to+Brunei+February+02+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/outoging-visit-detail.htm?26311/List+of+MoUs+Agreements+signed+during+the+visit+of+Vice+President+to+Brunei+February+02+2016)

Bank of Japan announces negative interest rates

Ques: Name the country whose central Bank recently announces negative interest rates?

- (a) India
- (b) China
- (c) Japan
- (d) Bangladesh

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 January 2016, Japan's central bank, the Bank of Japan after two-day monetary policy meeting made an announcement to implement the negative interest rates.
- Voting 5-4 in favour of the measure, the bank announced that it will charge an interest rate of -0.1%.
- The negative interest rate will applied from February 16, 2016.
- In the simplest form it can be understood as, if a commercial bank will deposit the money in the central bank in return the central bank of Japan bank will charge interest at the rate of 0.1 per cent.
- This will boost lending by the commercial bank. This will help the country get out of recession.
- This should be noted that Japan's economy is static for the past ten years despite of several efforts.
- Policy Board of the Bank of Japan decided to introduce "Quantitative and Qualitative Monetary Easing (QQE) with a Negative Interest Rate" in order to achieve the price stability target of 2 percent at the earliest possible time.
- Bank of Japan has adopted a three-tier system in which each financial institution's current account balance is divided into three levels.
 1. The positive interest rate
 2. The zero interest rate
 3. The negative interest rate
- Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda told he want to end the perception of decline in inflation in Japan.
- He also mentioned that there's a risk recent further falls in oil prices, uncertainty over emerging economies, including China, and global market instability could hurt business confidence and delay the eradication of people's deflationary mindset.
- It should be noted that prior to the Japan in many countries of the Euro zone announcement of the negative interest rate had been made.

Reference:

https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release_2016/k160129b.pdf

https://www.boj.or.jp/en/announcements/release_2016/k160129a.pdf

<http://www.businessinsider.com.au/japan-cuts-interest-rate-below-0-2016-1>

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/30/business/international/japan-interest-rate.html? r=0>



BANK OF JAPAN

RBI announces the extension of SAARC Swap Arrangement

Question: Recently the Reserve Bank of India has decided to extend the SAARC Currency Swap Arrangement till-

- (a) 14 November 2017
- (b) 15 November 2017
- (c) 16 November 2017
- (d) 17 November 2017

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 23 February 2016, to further financial stability and economic cooperation within the SAARC region, the Reserve Bank of India has extended the SAARC Currency Swap Arrangement.
- The decision of Reserve Bank Of India will remain in force till November 14, 2017.
- It may be recalled that the SAARC Swap Arrangement was offered by the RBI to SAARC nations on November 15, 2012.
- Under this arrangement, RBI will offer Swap Arrangement up to and overall amount of US \$ 2 billion both in foreign currency and Indian rupee.
- The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries, viz., Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36310

Index of Economic Freedom-2016

Question: In the recently released Index of Economic Freedom-2016 India is ranked –

- (a) 158th
- (b) 123rd
- (c) 125th
- (d) 120th

Ans (b)

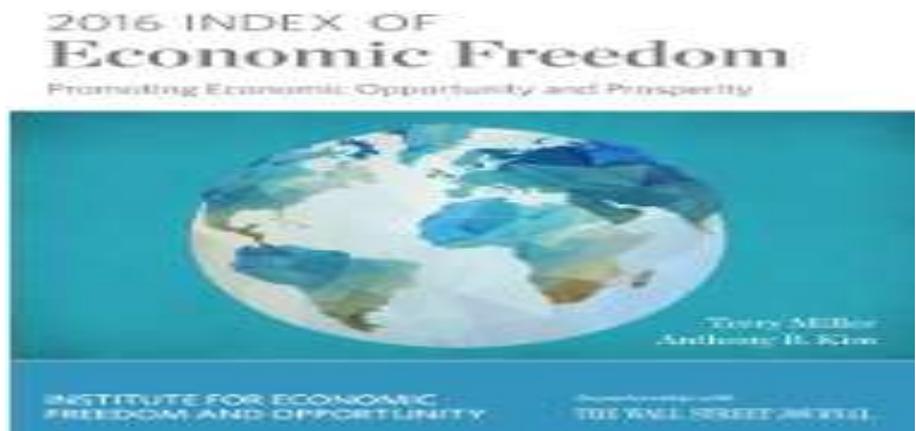
Related facts:

- The Index of Economic Freedom is an annual index and ranking to measure the degree of economic freedom in the world's nations.
- It is created by The Heritage Foundation and The Wall Street Journal in 1995 and published every year.
- The index scores nations on 10 broad factors (Business Freedom, Trade Freedom, Monetary Freedom, Government Size/Spending, Fiscal Freedom, Property Rights, Investment Freedom, Financial Freedom, and Freedom from Corruption and Labor Freedom) of economic freedom using statistics from organizations like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Economist Intelligence Unit.
- The American think-tank released the Index of Economic Freedom-2016 on 1 February 2016.
- In the Index of Economic Freedom-2016, a total of 186 countries included and 178 are ranked.
- In the index the ranking of Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Liechtenstein, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen is not provided.
- A total of 178 countries included in the index and are classified into the following categories:
 - a) 5 economies earned the Index's designation of "free" (scores of 80 or above)
 - b) 87 are classified as "mostly free" (70-79.9) or "moderately free" (60-69.9).
 - c) 62 are considered "mostly unfree" (50-59.9) and
 - d) 24 are "repressed" (scores below 50)
- Of the 178 economies ranked in the 2016 Index, only five in top ten (Hong Kong-88.6, Singapore-87.8, New Zealand-81.6, Switzerland-81, and Australia-80.3) earned the designation of "free" with scores above 80.
- Others in the top ten but rated "mostly free" were Canada, Chile, Ireland, Estonia and United Kingdom.
- The last five ranked countries in the index are respectively -178.North Korea (score -2.3), 177. Cuba (Score -29.8), 176. Venezuela (Score -33.7), 175. Zimbabwe (Score -38.2) 0.174 Turkmenistan (Score -41.9).
- In 2016 Index of Economic Freedom: Though still rated as "mostly unfree", India with a score of 56.2 and ranked 123 is out of 100 was among 32 countries which achieved their highest economic freedom scores ever in the 2016 Index.
- India recorded an increase of 1.6 points in the score compare to the last year.
- It may be noted that India was ranked 128th in last year Index.
- According to this year release, among 41 countries of Asia-Pacific region India ranks 25th.
- India scored its best scores on government spending (78.1), fiscal freedom (77.1), monetary freedom (72.8) and trade freedom (71.0).
- Among other BRICS nation, Russia plunged 10 places in the rankings to 153rd, with its score deteriorating by 1.5 points. The rankings of South Africa, Brazil, and China declined to 80th, 122nd, and 144th, respectively.

Reference:

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

<http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2015/12/2016-index-of-economic-freedom-yet-more-evidence-of-free-trades-benefits>



SBI launched 'Japan Desk'

Question: Recently State Bank of India (SBI) launched 'Japan Desk' to facilitate Japanese investor at-

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Chennai

Ans(c)

Related facts:



- On 16 February 2016 State Bank of India (SBI) launched 'Japan Desk' to facilitate Japanese investor at New Delhi.
- 'Japan Desk', is a first-of-its-kind initiative to facilitate Japanese corporates looking to invest here with banking and advisory services.
- SBI Japan Desk will serve as an one-point comprehensive and reliable information support source for India-bound investments of Japanese companies.
- It will facilitate in the establishment of banking relationship with Japanese corporates and Japanese nationals, provide information on industries, sectors etc.
- Japan Desk will serve as a one-stop shop for both Japanese companies looking to invest here and Indian companies exploring outbound investments into Japan.
- SBI is also planning to set up another dedicated Japan Desk at Chennai.
- There are also requests from South Korea to have a dedicated help desk.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/sbi-launches-japan-desk/article8244277.ece>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/sbi-launches-japan-desk-to-aid-fdi-inflow-116021600478_1.html

<http://asia.nikkei.com/Business/AC/Lender-sets-up-Japan-Desk-hoping-to-woo-investment>

2nd Advance Production Estimates of Major Kharif Crops during 2015-16

Ques: According to the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2015-16 which have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. How many million tonnes of food grain production is estimated to rise?

- (a) 2.25 million tonnes
- (b) 1.14 million tonnes
- (c) 2.14 million tonnes
- (d) 14.2 million tonnes

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2016 the 2nd Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2015-16 have been released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare.
- Total food grains production during 2015-16, estimated at 253.16 million tonnes, has been higher by 1.14 million tonnes over the production of 252.02 million tonnes during 2014-15.
- Total production of rice during 2015-16 is estimated at 103.61 million tonnes, which is lower by 1.87 million tonnes than its production of 105.48 million tonnes during 2014-15.
- Production of wheat estimated at 93.82 million tonnes is higher by 7.29 million tonnes than the production of 86.53 million tonnes of wheat during 2014-15.
- Wheat production in 2015-16 is also higher by 2.29 million tonnes than its 5 years' average production.
- Total production of coarse cereals is estimated at 38.40 million tonnes which is lower by 4.47 million tonnes as compared to their production of 42.86 million tonnes during 2014-15.
- Maize production for 2015-16 is estimated at 21 lakhs tonnes.
- Total pulses production of 17.33 million tonnes during 2015-16 is marginally higher than the previous year's production of 17.15 million tonnes.
- With a decline of 1.17 million tonnes over the previous year's production's total oilseeds production in the country during 2015-16 is estimated at 26.34 million tonnes.
- Production of Cotton estimated at 30.69 million bales (of 170 kg each) is also lower by 4.11 million bales than its production of 34.81 million bales during 2014-15.
- Production of sugarcane estimated at 346.39 million tones, is lower by 15.95 million tonnes than its production during 2014-15.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136419>



Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2015-16

Ques: According to Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2015-16 released by RBI on 2 February 2016,

what is the Repo rate?

- (a) 6.75%
- (b) 8.75%
- (c) 7.75%
- (d) 6.50%

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 2 February 2016 Reserve Bank of India released the Sixth Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2015-16.
- The Reserve Bank of India kept the key policy rates unchanged in 'sixth bi monthly monetary policy statement'.
- RBI has kept the policy repo rate and reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.75 per cent and 5.75 per cent respectively.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate are kept at 7.75 per cent.
- The cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks kept unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liability (NDTL).
- Statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) is also remains the same as earlier i.e 21.5 per cent.
- RBI projected the growth rate for the financial Year (FY) 2015-16 at 7.4%.
- Gross Value Added (GVA) rate for the year 2016-17 is estimated as 7.6 per cent.
- The first bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2016-17 will be announced on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36124

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India

Ques: How much was the foreign direct investment (FDI) in December 2015 in India?

- (a) 4.5 Billion Dollar
- (b) 3.5 Billion Dollar
- (c) 2.5 Billion Dollar
- (d) 5 Billion Dollar

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in December 2015 there was \$ 4.5 billion of FDI.
- FDI inflow to India recorded a whopping 114 per cent growth for December 2015 compared to December 2014.
- In December 2014, India had received \$2.16 billion of FDI.
- The major sectors that attracted foreign inflows include computer software and hardware, trading, services, automobile and telecommunications.
- India receives maximum FDI from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan.
- In 2014-15, foreign fund inflows grew 27 per cent to \$30.93 billion as against \$24.29 billion in 2013-14.
- The government has relaxed FDI norms in as many as 15 sectors, including Defence, single brand retail, construction development, civil aviation and LLPs, to boost FDI in the country.



Reference:

<http://reports.dionglobal.in/EscortSecAdmin/Reports//RR0502201611.PDF>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/fdi-goes-full-throttle-spikes-114-in-december/articleshow/50855868.cms>

India becomes world's largest exporter of Rice

Ques: According to the Thai Rice Exporters Association (TREA) what is the total amount of rice exported by India in 2015?

- (a) 10.23 million tonnes
- (b) 9.79 million tonnes
- (c) 8.5 million tonnes
- (d) 7.3 million tonnes

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- According to data released by the Bangkok based Thai Rice Exporters Association on 28 January 2016. India has beaten Thailand to become the largest exporter of rice in the world.
- According to these figures, in 2015 the world's three biggest rice exporter are:
 1. India (10.23 million tonnes)
 2. Thailand (9.79 million tonnes)
 3. Vietnam (6.61 million tonnes)
- According to the report, in 2015, India exported 10.23 million tonnes of rice.
- Thailand was the second-largest rice exporter, Last year Thailand exported 9.79 million tonnes.
- Vietnam was third after shipping 6.61 million tonnes.
- Due to fluctuations in oil prices and climate change this year rice exporters are expected to see stiffer competition.

Reference:

http://www.thairiceexporters.or.th/default_eng.htm

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/842220/rice-exporters-pessimistic-about-market-prospects>

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/business/news/842220/rice-exporters-pessimistic-about-market-prospects>

First super-Earth exoplanet with an atmosphere

Question: Recently NASA have found a super-Earth exoplanet with an atmosphere for the first time, Its distance from Earth is-

- (a) 20 Light years
- (b) 40 Light years
- (c) 15 Light years
- (d) 80 Light years

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 16 February 2016 NASA astrophysicists has have discovered a "super-Earth" exoplanet with an atmosphere with the help of Hubble telescope's Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3).
- These NASA astrophysicists were working with the European Space Agency (ESA) and the University College London.
- This for the first time that a large planet has been identified by astronomers with the atmosphere, which has been termed as "super Earth".
- It has been named as 55 Cancri e and located around 40 light years away and is eight times bigger than earth.
- Astronomers found evidence for hydrogen and helium in its atmosphere, but no water.
- The surface temperatures on 55 Cancri e are estimated to be 3,630 degrees Fahrenheit (2,000 degrees Celsius) as it is close to its host star.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-35586936>

<http://www.space.com/31946-exoplanet-super-earth-atmosphere-hubble-video.html>

<http://www.engadget.com/2016/02/17/nasa-finds-its-first-super-earth-exoplanet-with-an-atmosphere/>

Anti-Radiation Missile (ARM)

Question: Captive flight trials of an advanced, state-of-the-art Anti-Radiation Missile (ARM) by DRDO are planned for-

- (a) April-May 2016
- (b) March-April 2016
- (c) May-June 2016
- (d) June-July 2016

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Captive flight trials of an advanced, state-of-the-art Anti-Radiation Missile (ARM) are planned for April-May 2016
- The air-to-surface tactical missile being developed by Defense Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL).
- This can target the enemy's air defense capabilities by attacking radars and communication facilities.
- The range of the missile is 100 to 125 km and it will be mounted on combat aircraft Sukhoi (Su-30) and Tejas-Light Combat Aircraft.
- During the captive flight trials, DRDO scientists will assess the capabilities of the seeker, navigation and control system besides evaluating structural capability and aerodynamic vibrations.
- The missile is expected to be deployed on Su-30 and Tejas light combat aircraft.
- Currently, some countries including the US and Germany are only having anti-radiation missile.



Reference:

<http://www.drdo.gov.in/drdo///pub/npc/2016/february/din-18Feb2016.pdf>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/captive-flight-trials-of-antiradiation-missile-soon/article8245955.ece>

<http://www.airforce-technology.com/news/newsindia-to-commence-captive-flight-trials-of-its-anti-radiation-missile-4816656>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/drdo-soon-begin-trials-anti-radiation-missile-667326>

Prithvi-II missile successfully tested

Ques: Recently India test-fired its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile from Chandipur in Balasore districts of Orissa. When the deployment of the Army Strategic Force Command was held?

- (a) Year 2004
- (b) Year 2003
- (c) Year 2006
- (d) Year 2005

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 16 February 2016 India test-fired its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile from Chandipur in Balasore district of Orissa.
- The missile test was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).
- The trial of the missile was conducted by the specially formed Strategic Force Command (SFC).
- With a strike range of 350 km Prithvi-II is a surface-to-surface missile.
- It is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads.
- Prithvi II is 9 meter long a single-stage liquid-fuelled missile and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines.
- Inducted into India's armed forces in 2003, Prithvi II, the first missile is developed by DRDO under India's prestigious IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program) is now a proven technology.
- The last user trial of Prithvi-II was successfully conducted on November 26, 2015 from the same test range in Odisha.

Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/prithvi-ii-missile-capable-of-carrying-up-to-1000-kg-warhead-test-fired-1277899>

Sample of first indigenously developed basic trainer aircraft by HAL is demonstrated

Ques: Name the first indigenously developed basic trainer aircraft by HAL the prototype of which is recently displayed.

- (a) HPT-32
- (b) HPT-40
- (c) HPT-42
- (d) HPT-60



Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2016, the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has rolled-out the first prototype of indigenously developed basic trainer aircraft named Hindustan Turboprop Trainer (HTT-40).
- Hindustan Turboprop Trainer (HTT-40) will act as a replacement for the Indian Air Force's retired HPT-32 Deepak as a basic trainer.
- The HTT-40 will be an all-metal tandem seat aircraft powered by a 950 hp (708 kW) turbo-prop engine.

Reference:

http://www.hal-india.com/Boost%20to%20Make%20in%20India%20%20HAL%20Rolls-out%20HTT-40%20Prototype/ND_151

http://www.hal-india.com/Product_Details.aspx?Mkey=54&IKey=&CKey=69

“MAGIC” process lab

Ques: Recently Union Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated a unique “MAGIC” Process Lab at-

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Pune
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Mumbai

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2016, Union Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated a unique MAGIC [Modular, Agile, Intensified & Continuous] Process Lab at Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR)-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL) Pune.
- This will help in bringing about a paradigm shift in the way in which India’s Fine and Specialty Chemicals industry will operate in the future.
- This process Lab is opened for the benefit of small and medium scale chemical industries.
- This lab will change currently practiced process technologies into modern processes making it cleaner, greener, safer, compact, scalable and economical.
- With this our country will be able to increase its contribution to global production of chemicals from the current levels of 3 to 5% over the next few years.
- The lab was established in 2006 and the main work started in 2010. But most of the work at that time was done for in-house research. Only recently, work started for commercial purposes.
- At present, the lab earns between Rs 13 crore and Rs 15 crore per year from commercial ventures.
- At exhibition in the MAGIC Lab the products and processes developed under the MAGIC program were displayed.
- The products developed under the MAGIC program such as intensified metallic reactors (commercialized by Amar Equipment), tubular glass lined reactors (developed in collaboration with GMM Pfaudler) and reaction calorimeters were also displayed.
- In the exhibition set up at the Polymers and Advanced Materials Laboratory, Dr. Harsh Vardhan witnessed a live demonstration of indigenously developed 1 kW Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell (PEMFC) system.
- CSIR - National Chemical Laboratory Pune India is a research, development and consulting organization with a focus on chemicals and materials.
- NCL is a flagship laboratory of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research which is the largest network of publicly funded research institute in India.
- The laboratory offers 80 PhD degrees every year in important research areas such as healthcare, energy, drinking water, environment, crop and nutrition and strategic sectors.
- CSIR-NCL also offers specialized technical training programs to industry personnel.
- The laboratory has trained as many as 2000 young engineers and scientists working in areas of polyolefin's, engineering plastics, fine and specialty chemicals, etc.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136026>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/MAGIC-lab-for-industry-products/articleshow/50829639.cms>

Akash missile successfully tested

Ques: India on 28 January 2016 test fired its indigenously-developed surface-to-air Akash missile having strike range of-

- (a) 25 kilometers
- (b) 250 kilometers
- (c) 750 Kilometers
- (d) 9 kilometers

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- India on 28 January 2016 test fired its indigenously-developed surface-to-air Akash missile as part of a user trial from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.
- Three rounds of test were carried out by Indian air Force (IAF) personnel aiming at para-barrel targets.
- Akash missile is powered by Ramjet-rocket propulsion system which renders thrust for the missile to intercept the target at supersonic speed without any retardation.
- The missiles, with a strike range of 25 km and capability to carry warhead of 60 kg.
- This is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.
- It can fly at supersonic speed ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5 and can engage aerial targets up to a range of approximately 25 km.
- Compared with the American MIM-104 Patriot, the surface-to-air missile system, Akash has the capability to neutralise aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles.
- The missile was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force in July 2015.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-test-fires-akash-missiles/article8163440.ece>

NASA Space Launch System's First Flight to Send Small Sci-Tech Satellites into Space

Ques: How many satellite secondary payloads or 'CubeSats' will be carried by the first flight of NASA's new rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS)?

- (a) 13 CubeSats
- (b) 15 CubeSats
- (c) 18 CubeSats
- (d) 12 CubeSats

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 2 February, 2016 the American Space Agency NASA in its release mentioned about the first flight of NASA's new rocket, the Space Launch System (SLS).
- It will carry 13 CubeSats to test innovative ideas along with an un-crewed Orion spacecraft in 2018.
- **CubeSats** are in a class of research spacecraft called nanosatellites. The base CubeSat dimensions are 10x10x11 centimeters (about 4x4x4 inches), which equals **one Cube**, or **1U**.
- These small satellite secondary payloads will carry science and technology investigations to help pave the way for future human exploration in deep space, including the journey to Mars.
- SLS' first flight, referred to as Exploration Mission-1 (EM-1), provides the rare opportunity for these small experiments to reach deep space destinations, as most launch opportunities for CubeSats are limited to low-Earth orbit.
- NASA selected two payloads through the Next Space Technologies for Exploration Partnerships (NextSTEP) Broad Agency Announcement:
 - i. Skyfire - It will be developed by Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Denver, Colorado to perform a lunar flyby of the moon, taking sensor data during the flyby to enhance our knowledge of the lunar surface
 - ii. Lunar IceCube – It will be built by Morehead State University, Kentucky to search for water ice and other resources at a low orbit of only 62 miles above the surface of the moon.
- Three payloads were selected by NASA's Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate:
 - i. Near-Earth Asteroid Scout, or NEA Scout- It will perform reconnaissance of an asteroid, take pictures and observe its position in space.
 - ii. BioSentinel – It will use yeast to detect measure and compare the impact of deep space radiation on living organisms over long durations in deep space.
 - iii. Lunar Flashlight will look for ice deposits and identify locations where resources may be extracted from the lunar surface.
- Two payloads were selected by NASA's Science Mission Directorate:
 - i. CuSP – a "space weather station" to measure particles and magnetic fields in space, testing practicality for a network of stations to monitor space weather.
 - ii. LunaH-Map will map hydrogen within craters and other permanently shadowed regions throughout the moon's South Pole.
- Three additional payloads will be determined through NASA's Cube Quest Challenge sponsored by NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate.
- NASA has also reserved three slots for payloads from international partners.
- The first configuration of SLS that will fly on EM-1 is referred to as Block I and will have a minimum 70-metric-ton (77-ton) lift capability and be powered by twin boosters and four RS-25 engines.



Reference:

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-space-launch-system-s-first-flight-to-send-small-sci-tech-satellites-into-space>

Sports Tennis

Delhi Open, 2016

Question: Who has won the men's singles title in Delhi Open -2016?

- (a) Stephane Robert
- (b) Somdev Devvarman
- (c) Saketh Myneni
- (d) None of These

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Delhi Open was a professional tennis tournament played on outdoor hard courts. It was the third edition of the tournament for the men and for the women. It was part of the 2016 ATP Challenger Tour and the 2016 ITF Women's Circuit. It took place in New Delhi, India, on 15–21 February 2016.
- **The results of the competition are:**

Men's singles

- Winner: Stephane Robert(France)
- Runner: Saketh Myneni(India)

Women's singles

- Winner: Sabina Sharipova(Uzbekistan)
- Runner: Nina Stojanovic(Serbia)

Men's doubles

- Winner: Yuki Bhambri and Mahesh Bhupathi(Both are of India)
- Runner: Saketh Myneni and Sanam Singh(Both are of India)

Women's doubles:

- Winner:Hsu Ching-wen and Taipei Lee Ya-hsuan(Both are of Chinese Taipei)
- Runner: Natela Dzalamidze and Veronika Kudermetova(Both are of Russia)

Reference:

<http://www.protennislive.com/posting/2016/6961/x.pdf>

<http://www.itftennis.com/procircuit/tournaments/women's-tournament/info.aspx?tournamentid=1100036584>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/tennis/top-stories/Delhi-Open-Mahesh-Bhupathi-wins-first-title-in-three-years/articleshow/51070359.cms>

<http://www.tennis-tourtalk.com/?p=7984>



Rio Open, 2016

Question: Who has won the men's title of Rio Open, 2016?

- (a) Pablo Cuevas
- (b) Jack Sock
- (c) Roger Federer
- (d) Fabio Fognini



Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Rio Open tennis tournament was held from 15-21 February 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The results of the competition is as follows:
 - **Men's Singles**
 - Winner: Pablo Cuevas(Uruguay)
 - Runner: Guido Pella(Argentina)
 - **Women's Singles**
 - Winner: Francesca Schiavone(Italy)
 - Runner: Shelby Rogers (United States Of America)
 - **Men's Doubles**
 - Winner: Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah (Both from Colombia)
 - Runner: Pablo Carreno Busta and David Marrero(Both from Spain)
 - **Women's Doubles**
 - Winner: Veronica Cepede Roys(Paraguay) and Maria Irigoyen (Argentina)
 - Runner: Tara Moore (Great Britain) and Conny Perrin (Switzerland)

Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/tournaments/rio-de-janeiro/6932/overview>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/news/rio-2016-final-cuevas-pella>

<http://www.rioopen.com/Results.aspx?live=false>

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/tennis/35624684>

Garanti Koza Sofia Open

Ques: Who is the winner of men's singles title in Sofia Open 2016 Tennis Championships?

- (a) Viktor Troicki
- (b) Roger Federer
- (c) Roberto Bautista Agut
- (d) Gilles Muller

Ans(c)

Related facts:

- The **Sofia Open-2016** (currently sponsored by Garanti Koza) is men's tennis tournament was held in Sofia, Bulgaria from 1-7 February 2016.
- **Result of the tournament is as follows:**
- **Men's Singles**
- Winner-Roberto Bautista Agut (Spain)
- Runner-Viktor Troicki (Serbia)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner-Wesley Koolhof and Matwe Middelkoop (both from Netherlands)
- Runner-Philipp Oswald (Austria) and Adil Shamasdin (Canada)

Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/sofia/7434/2016/results>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/sofia/7434/2016/results?matchType=doubles>



Australian Open, 2016

Ques: Who won the men's and women's singles title in Australian Open held at Melbourne on January 31, 2016?

- (a) Novak Djokovic and Angelique Kerber
- (b) Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams
- (c) Andy Murray and Maria Sharapova
- (d) Bruno Soares and Lucie Hradecka

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Australian Open took place at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia from 18–31 January 2016. It was the 104th edition of the Australian Open, and the first Grand Slam tournament of the year.
- The result of the tournament is as follows:
 - **Men's Singles**
 - Winner: Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
 - Runner: Andy Murray (United Kingdom)
 - **Women's Singles**
 - Winner: Angelique Kerber (Germany)
 - Runner: Serena Williams (United States)
 - **Men's Doubles**
 - Winner: Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)
 - Runner: Daniel Nestor (Canada) and Radek Stepanek (Czech Republic)
 - **Women's Doubles**
 - Winner: Martina Hingis (Switzerland) and Sania Mirza (India)
 - Runner: Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka (Both from Czech Republic)
 - **Mixed Doubles**
 - Winner: Elena Vesnina (Russia) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)
 - Runner: Coco Vandeweghe (United states) and Horia Tecau (Romania)
- This was Djokovic 11th Grand Slam title of his career and his sixth title in Australian Open.
- With this win, Djokovic equaled the world record of six titles won by Australian Roy Emerson, who won these titles between 1961 and 1967.
- This was first Grand Slam title of career for Angelique Kerber and she became the second German player after Steffi Graf to win Australian Open.
- Sania-Hingis's pair won their 36th consecutive matches, which is a world record.
- This was third consecutive Grand Slam titles for them.
- Before this the pair won the title of Wimbledon and US Open in 2015.

Reference:

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

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

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

[http://www.ausopen.com/en_AU/news/articles/2016-01-31/novak the leader of the pack.html](http://www.ausopen.com/en_AU/news/articles/2016-01-31/novak%20the%20leader%20of%20the%20pack.html)



Cricket

Visit of Sri Lankan women's cricket team to India -2016

Question: On February 19, 2016, the Indian women's team won the ODI series by-

- (a) 2-1
- (b) 2-0
- (c) 3-0
- (d) None of these

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- Srilankan women's cricket team was on a visit to India from 15 to 19 February 2016.
- During this visit a three-match ODI series was played between Indian women's cricket team of Sri Lanka women's cricket team.
- On 19 february the Indian team completed 3-0 clean sweep after posting a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the third and final ODI at Ranchi.
- Indian women team managed to win the first and the second match of the series by 107 runs and by 6 wickets respectively.
- The Indian women's cricket team was led by Mithali Raj while the Srilankan Women's Cricket team was led by Shashikala Siriwardena.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/news/2016/news/13046/all-round-india-women-register-3-0-series-win>

<http://www.rediff.com/cricket/report/deepti-scalps-620-india-womens-whitewash-lanka-/20160219.htm>

<http://www.bcci.tv/india-womens-vs-srilanka-womens-odi-series-2015-16/news/2016/press-releases/12859/india-mens-and-womens-teams-announced-for-sri-lanka-series>

Under-19 Cricket World Cup-2016

Ques: Who won the title of Under-19 Cricket World Cup-2016?

- (a) India
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) West Indies
- (d) Sri Lanka

Ans (c)



Related facts:

- The 2016 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup was held in Bangladesh from 22 January to 14 February 2016.
- This tournament is played in round robin and knockout format and the final match of competition was held on February 14, 2016.
- West Indies U-19 cricket team in the final match played at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur, defeated the Indian U-19 cricket team by 5 wickets and bagged its maiden ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup.
- Keacy Carty of West Indies scored 52 runs in the final match and got the “Player of the Match” award.
- Bangladesh's captain Mehedi Hasan was named “player of Series”.
- India U-19 cricket team captain was Ishan Kishan and West Indies U-19 cricket team captain was Shimron Hetmyer.
- Jack Burnham of England U-19 cricket team scored 420, the highest in the competition.
- While Fritz Coetzee of Namibia U-19 cricket team took highest 15 wickets in the competition.
- Total 48 matches were played between 16 teams participated in the U-19 World Cup.

Reference:

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/u19-world-cup/news/2016/media-releases/92464/west-indies-wins-maiden-icc-u19-cricket-world-cup>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/u19-world-cup/results>

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/u19-world-cup/results#!>

Sri Lankan cricket team visit to India -2016

Ques: Recently Sri Lankan cricket team was on a tour to India. How many Twenty20 matches were played between India and Sri Lanka?

- (a) 3 matches
- (b) 4 matches
- (c) 5 matches
- (d) 7 matches

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- From February 9-14, 2016 Sri Lankan cricket team was on a tour to India.
- During this 3 Twenty20 matches were played between India and Sri Lanka.
- On February 14 2016 in the third and final Twenty20 match played in ACA-VDCA Stadium, Visakhapatnam, India beat Sri Lanka to win the match by 9 wickets.
- Sri Lanka won the first match of the series by 5 wickets in, while the second match, India won by 69 runs.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the Indian team captain in the series, while Sri Lanka captain was Dinesh Chandimal.
- Indian bowler Ravichandran Ashwin in the third match of the series bowled 4 overs including one maiden and given 8 runs by taking 4 wickets, best bowling stats in his Twenty20 career.
- In third and final match of the series Sri Lanka manage to score 82 runs with losing its all wicket in 20 overs, which is a lowest run scored by Sri Lanka in Twenty20.
- Ravichandran Ashwin was awarded with man of the match in the last match and Man of the Series for his performance in the series.

Reference:

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/match/ind-sl-2016/3>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/india-v-sri-lanka-2015-16/engine/match/963697.html>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/india-v-sri-lanka-2015-16/engine/match/963699.html>

Indian Cricket team tour to Australia

Ques: In the recently concluded India-Australia bilateral series who has won “Player of the series” award in one-day and Twenty20 series respectively?

- (a) Shane Watson and Rohit Sharma
- (b) Virat Kohli and Aaron Finch
- (c) Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli
- (d) Aaron Finch and Shane Watson

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- From 8 to 31 January, 2016 Indian team was on tour of Australia.
- During this both the team played 5 ODI and 3 Twenty20 match series.
- In five matches ODI series Australia won by 4-1.
- Indian batsman Rohit Sharma, who hit 441 runs the highest by any player awarded as “Player of the Series”.
- Steve Smith scored 315 runs, the highest by any Australian batsman in the series.
- John Hastings of Australia took the highest 10 wickets while Ishant Sharma of India took 9 wickets in the series.
- India has become first nation to clean sweep Australian cricket team in Australia in past 140 years.
- India defeated Australia in the third T20 of series by 7 wickets to win three T20 series by 3-0.
- In T20 series Indian batsman Virat Kohli, who scored 199, the highest in the series has been declared as "Player of the Series".
- Shane Watson scored 151, the highest by any Australian batsman in the T20 series.
- India's Jasprit Bumrah took 6 wickets (most wicket taken by an individual in the series) while Australia's Shane Watson managed to take 3 wickets.
- During the one-day series in 5 games total 3159 runs were made, making a world record of most runs scored in any bilateral series consisting of five or more than five matches.
- Earlier 2151 was the highest run scored in the series it was made in year 2015 in series played between England and New Zealand.
- 11 centuries were scored in one-day series which so far the most centuries in a bilateral series.
- Rohit Sharma scored 171 runs making highest individual score in one-day series in Australia against Australia.
- The first match of the ODI series witnessed two Double Hundreds partnership which is first time in the history of ODI series.



- First was between Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli of 207 runs and second was of 242 runs between George Bailey and Steve Smith.
- In the third ODI match Virat Kohli became the fastest (161 matches) man to score 7000 one-day international (ODI) runs.
- In the fourth ODI match Virat Kohli became the fastest (162 matches) to reach 25 centuries in the format.
- In the fourth match the third (TV) umpire Paul Wilson officiated as a field umpire after Umpire Kettle Borough retires hurt.
- In the same match Australian umpire John Ward first time chose to wear a helmet during umpiring.
- In the fifth match India won its first match in the series by scoring 331 target given by Australia.
- This was biggest win ever by India in ODIs against Australia in Australia.
- After losing fifth match they remained deprived of their 19th consecutive victory.
- India has become first nation to clean sweep Australian cricket team in Australia in past 140 years by winning the T20 series by 3-0.
- With this win, India reached top spot in ICC Twenty20 ranking.
- Now India is on the top in both the Test and Twenty20 ranking.
- Due to his performance in Twenty20, Virat Kohli moved up to top position in ICC Twenty20 batsman ranking.
- In Twenty20 series Virat Kohli made 3 consecutive half-century which is a new record.

Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/australia-v-india-2016/results>

<http://www.bcci.tv/australia-v-india-2016/stats/highest-scores>

<http://twenty20wiki.com/india-creates-history-as-whitewash-australia-in-australia/>

http://stats.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/batting/most_runs_career.html?id=10261;type=series

http://stats.espncricinfo.com/ci/engine/records/batting/most_runs_career.html?id=10259;type=series

Hockey

Coal India Hockey India League 2016

Question: Which of the following teams won the title of Coal India Hockey India League 2016?

- (a) Delhi Waveriders
- (b) Kalinga Lancers
- (c) Jaypee Punjab Warriors
- (d) Ranchi Rays

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The 2016 Hockey India League (HIL) (known as Coal India Hockey India League for sponsorship reasons) is the fourth season of the professional hockey tournament began on 18 January and concluded on 21 February 2016.
- On 21 February 2016 Jaypee Punjab Warriors won their maiden title of Hockey India League by defeating Kalinga Lancers 6-1 at the Astro Turf Hockey Stadium, Ranchi.
- Jaypee Punjab Warriors who were crowned Champions of the 4th Coal India Hockey India League walked away with a winner's cheque of INR 2.50 Crores alongwith the winner's trophy and Kalinga Lancers who finished as the Runner's up were awarded a cheque of INR 1.25 Crores.
- On February 21 in a match played for the third place, Delhi Waveriders defeated Ranchi Rays by 2-0 and secured third position in the league.
- Delhi Waveriders received cash prize of INR 75 lakh for its third position in the league.
- The Coal India Player of the Tournament Award of INR 50.00 Lakh was awarded to Rupinder Pal Singh from the Delhi Waveriders.
- The Ponty Chadha Upcoming Player of the Tournament award of INR 20.00 Lakh went to Sumit from the Ranchi Rays.
- The Dhruv Batra Maximum Goals award for the maximum goals scored by an individual of INR 20.00 Lakh was awarded by Mr. Leandro Negre, President, FIH to Kalinga Lancer's Glenn Turner.



Reference:

<http://league.hockeyindia.org/news-2016/jaypee-punjab-warriors-crowned-the-champions-of-the-4th-coal-india-hockey-india-league/>

<http://jaypeepunjabwarriors.com/newsContent.php?id=81>

<http://www.starsports.com/hockey/leagues/competitionid=30000001/schedule/index.html>

<http://www.starsports.com/hockey/leagues/coal-india-hockey-india-league-2016-30000001/standings/index.html>

Football

Sub-junior National football championship 2015-16

Ques: On 2 February 2016 All India Football Federation disqualified four teams from the Sub-junior National Football Championship 2015-16. Which of these is not included in the list?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Punjab
- (c) Chandigarh
- (d) Uttarakhand
- (e) Uttar Pradesh



Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2016 All India Football Federation disqualified four teams from the Sub-junior National Football Championship 2015-16.
- Following are the four state- Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.
- According to the investigation that was carried out by the Team, one Player from each of the following States was found to be over-aged following independent medical tests.

Reference:

<https://www.the-aiff.com/news-center-details.htm?id=6976>

Chess

National Team Open and Women Chess Championship, 2016

Question: Where did the National Team Open and Women Chess Championship-2016 was held?

- (a) Bhubaneswar
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Chennai

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- 36th National Chess Team Championship and 14th National Women Chess Team Championship was held from February 8-14, 2016 at KIIT campus, Bhubaneswar (India).
- On February 14 Indian Railways team, Railway Sports Promotion Board, won the title of 36th National Chess Team Championship for the first time.
- While the 14th National Women Chess Team Championship title was won by Petroleum Sports Promotion Board (PSPB).
- The championship was pool based.

Reference:

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

<http://brainpowerchess.com/national-team-chess-championship-2016-railway-a-took-it-home/http://aicf.in/calendar/national-team-open-and-women-chess-championship-2016/>

<http://aicf.in/calendar/national-team-open-and-women-chess-championship-2016/>



First international chess tournament of Tripura

Ques: Who won the first ever FIDE-rated international chess championship held at Agartala?

- (a) Rajdeep Sarkar
- (b) Rahul Singh
- (c) Prasenjit Dutta
- (d) Sourav Ghosh

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- First ever international open FIDE-rated chess championship held at Agartala, the capital city of Tripura.
- The five-day tournament was organised by the All Tripura Parents Chess Forum at the Sahid Bhagat Singh youth hostel in Khejurbagan.
- This was the first ever big chess tournament held in the state in which 139 players other than locals also from various other states like West Bengal, Manipur, Assam, Mizoram, Delhi and Punjab participated.
- Local veteran chess player of the state Prasenjit Dutta cinched the 1st position and won the title of the championship.

Reference:

<http://www.tripurainfo.com/info/ArchiveDet.aspx?WhatId=16624>

<http://www.bfirst.in/article/chess/2652/first-international-chess-tournament-concludes-agartala>



Badminton

Badminton Asia Team Championships 2016

Question: Which countries have won the Badminton Asia Team Championships 2016 in the men's category?

- (a) Indonesia
- (b) India
- (c) China
- (d) Japan

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Badminton Asia Team Championships in the women and men's categories was organised from 15-21 February 2016 by Badminton Association of Asia (BAC) in Hyderabad, India.
- Indonesia defeated Japan by 3-2 in men's category of the championship.
- While the third and fourth position is bagged by South Korea, India respectively.
- China defeated Japan by 3-2 in the women's category of the championship.
- While the third and fourth are bagged by South Korea and Thailand respectively.

Reference:

http://www.bwfbadminton.org/tournamentcalendar_event.aspx?id=28519

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=B1A7006D-7CB5-4080-9058-430AACDD0962>

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/2538/happening-hyderabad-badminton-asia-team-championships-2016/podium>

<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=B1A7006D-7CB5-4080-9058-430AACDD0962>



Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2016

Ques: Who won the men's singles title in Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2016 who's final held in Uttar Pradesh on 31 January 2016?

- (a) Lee Chong Wei
- (b) Tommy Sugiarto
- (c) Srikanth Kidambi
- (d) Boon Heong Tan

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 31 January the Syed Modi International Badminton Championships 2016 final played at Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow.
- **The results of the competition is as follows:**
- **Men's Singles**
- Winner: Srikanth Kidambi (India)
- Runner: Huang Yuxiang (China)
- **Women's singles**
- Winner: Sung Ji Hyun (South Korea)
- Runner: Sayaka Sato (Japan)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner: Tan Wee Kiong and Goh V Shem Goh (Both from Malaysia)
- Runner: Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar (Both from India)
- **Women's Doubles**
- Winner: Jung Kyung Eun and Shin Seung Chan (Both from South Korea)
- Runner: Eefje Muskens and Selena Piek (Both from Netherland).
- **Mixed Doubles:**
- Winner: Praveen Jordan and Debby Susanto (Both from Indonesia)
- Runner: Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Both from Thailand)

Reference:

- <http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=89E5ADD3-26AA-43CE-8700-78358629CC2D>
- <http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=89E5ADD3-26AA-43CE-8700-78358629CC2D>



Golf

Farmers Insurance Open

Ques: Who won title of the Farmers Insurance Open-2016 golf tournament?

- (a) Kevin Streelman
- (b) Fredrik Jacobson
- (c) Jimmy Walker
- (d) Brandt Snedeker

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- Professional golf tournament of PGA Tour, 2016 Farmers Insurance Open 2016 was concluded on February 1, 2016 in California.
- American golfer Brandt Snedeker won the title of the tournament.



Reference:

<http://www.pgatour.com/daily-wrapup/2016/02/01/farmers-insurance-open-monday.html>

Formula One

MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship season 2015-16

Ques: Who won the 2015–2016 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship?

- (a) Dylan Young
- (b) Tarun Reddy
- (c) Sebastian Balthasar
- (d) Pietro Fittipaldi

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The 2015–2016 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship was the fourth running of the MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship.
- It began on 31 October 2015 at Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi and finished on 31 January 2016 at the Madras Motor Racing Track, India.
- The series comprised of 14 races.
- Brazilian driver Pietro Fittipaldi won 4 out of 14 races to win the championship with total 244 points.
- Tarun Reddy of India ranked 7th in the championship with 74 points.

Reference:

<http://www.mrfracing.in/racing>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015%E2%80%9316_MRF_Challenge_Formula_2000_Championship_season

Athletics

Rajdhani Marathon League

Ques: On 7 February, 2016, who won the Half Marathon in men's category of Rajdhani Marathon League?

- (a) Suresh Kumar
- (b) Pradeep Kumar
- (c) Deepak Patil
- (d) Sandeep Singh

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On February 7, 2016 in Delhi marathon 21 kilometer half-marathon, quarter marathon of 10.5 kilometers and 5 kilometers of the race was held.
- Men's title of Half Marathon was won by **Pradeep Singh** (Army), Pune.
- In the women's half marathon won by Kiran Samdev, She is employed in the U.P railway police.
- The winner of the men's and women's in Quarter marathon category are Balram Singh and Arpita respectively.
- The race of 5 km was just for the fun which was named as RUN FOR FUN.



Reference:

<http://rajghanimarathonleague.in/>

<http://www.samaylive.com/regional-news-in-hindi/ncr-news-in-hindi/341456/ran-the-marathon-in-the-capital-delhi-league.html>

61st National School Athletics championship

Ques: Which of the following state won the 61st National School Athletics championship which concluded in Kerala?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The 61st National School Athletics championship was held in Kozhikode (Kerala) from January 29 to February 2, 2016.
- In this edition of National School Athletics championship, Kerala won the championship with 306 points winning 39 gold, 29 silver and 17 bronze medals (Total-85).
- Tamil Nadu secured second position with 116 points and Maharashtra gained the third position with 101 points.

Reference:

<http://schoolsports.in/schoolsports2015-16/>

[http://schoolsports.in/schoolsports2015-16/index.php/result/resultsite athletics national/meet results menu](http://schoolsports.in/schoolsports2015-16/index.php/result/resultsite%20athletics%20national/meet%20results%20menu)

[http://schoolsports.in/schoolsports2015-16/index.php/result/resultsite athletics national/gold cup/](http://schoolsports.in/schoolsports2015-16/index.php/result/resultsite%20athletics%20national/gold%20cup/)



Sports Miscellaneous

12th South Asian Games, 2016

Ques: Consider the following statements-

- I. 12th South Asian Games was held in Guwahati and Shillong
- II. The mascot of the game was 'Tikhor'
- III. India has won the total 308 medals
- IV. Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Games



Which of the above statements are correct?

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

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The **2016 South Asian Games (SAG)** officially the **XII South Asian Games**, is a major multi-sport event which took place from 5 February to 16 February 2016 in Guwahati and Shillong, India.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2016 South Asian Games in Guwahati on 5 February 2016.
- The event is presently joined by the eight South Asian countries namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.
- A total of 2,672 athletes competed in 226 events over 22 sports.
- The host country India continued its dominance in the game's medal tally with a staggering 308 medals including 188 gold medals, 90 silver and 30 bronze medals.
- Medal tally for the various countries is as follows:

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total

India (IND)	188	90	30	308
Sri Lanka (SRI)	25	63	98	186
Pakistan (PAK)	12	37	57	106
Afghanistan (AFG)	7	9	19	35
Bangladesh (BAN)	4	15	56	75
Nepal (NEP)	3	23	34	60
Maldives (MDV)	0	2	1	3
Bhutan (BHU)	0	1	15	16

- The anthem of the games was chosen to be a famous Assamese song, "Ei Prithibi Ek Krirangan" (The world is a playground) by Bhupen Hazarika, an Indian lyricist, musician, singer, poet and film-maker from Assam.
- The official motto of the game was "Play for Peace, Progress and Prosperity".
- Tikhor, a one-horned rhino that represents endangered fauna of Assam found in Kaziranga National Park, was the official mascot of the event. Tikhor carries the message of Peace, Progress, and Prosperity in the South Asian region
- The logo has eight petals representing the countries participating in the mega event. These petals are seen advancing clockwise. This displayed positive emotion in the game.
- The first South Asian Games were hosted by Kathmandu, Nepal in 1984.
- This is third occasion (1887, 1995, and 2016) that the south Asian games was held in India.
- 13th South Asian Games will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2019.

Reference:

<http://southasiangames2016.com/>

Sports Personalities

Yasir Shah

Ques: Recently which Pakistani player has been banned for three months by the International Cricket Council (ICC)?

- (a) Salman Butt
- (b) Shahid Afridi
- (c) Yasir Shah
- (d) Younus Khan

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- In February 2016, Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah has been banned for three months by the International Cricket Council (ICC) after testing positive for a banned substance in December.
- Yasir was found guilty of consuming banned drugs during the one-day series against England played at Abu Dhabi in November 2015.
- The ban rules Yasir out of the ongoing Pakistan Super League, the upcoming Asia Cup and the World T20.
- The ban will remain in force from December 27, 2015 to March 27, 2016.

Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/pakistan/content/story/970079.html>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1237987>



Piepa Cleary

Ques: Which Australian women's cricketer has been suspended for six months by Cricket Australia?

- (a) Angela Reakes
- (b) Ellyse Perry
- (c) Piepa Cleary
- (d) Nicole Bolton

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2016 Australian women's cricketer Piepa Cleary has been suspended for six months by Cricket Australia for placing bets.
- She was found guilty of breaching Cricket Australia (CA) Anti-Corruption Code for placing several bets on the historic day-night Test match between Australia and New Zealand, played in November 2015.
- Cleary has been charged with breaching Article 2.2.1 of the code.
- She admitted the charge which involved placing as many as six bets, totaling to \$15.50 and would be banned for 24 months, with first 18 months on suspension.
- Piepa Cleary used to play for the Perth Scorchers in the women's Twenty20 Big Bash League.
- The 19-year old Cleary becomes the second female player to be banned for betting in international cricket following the two-year sentence to Sydney Sixers player Angela Reakes.
- She was found guilty of betting a 9 Australian dollars on the Man of the Match award in the 2015 ICC Cricket World cup final.

Reference:

<http://www.cricbuzz.com/cricket-news/77746/australia-womens-cricketer-banned-for-betting-on-day-night-test>



Gianni Infantino

Question: Who has been elected as the new President of FIFA?

- (a) Ali Bin Al Hussein
- (b) Sepp Blatter
- (c) Gianni Infantino
- (d) Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 26 February 2016 Gianni Infantino has been elected as the ninth president of Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)
- He will serve FIFA for the remainder of current term of office (until 2019).
- He was declared winner after winning a second-round vote by securing 115 of the 207 eligible votes by defeating Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa who got 88 votes in the 2016 FIFA Extraordinary Congress held in Zurich, Switzerland.
- This should be noted that the second phase of the election process was conducted for the first time since 1974.
- He has succeeded the 79-year-old Sepp Blatter, who held the position since 1998 and was suspended in 2015 on account of the Corruption charges.
- Issa Hayatou was the acting president of FIFA following the suspension of Sepp Blatter.

Reference:

<http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/the-president/profile.html>

<http://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/news/y=2016/m=2/news=gianni-infantino-elected-fifa-president-2767180.html>



Suresh Raina

Ques: Who has been named as the captain of Gujarat Lions which is set to debut in the ninth edition?

- (a) M.S Dhoni
- (b) Ravindra Jadeja
- (c) Suresh Raina
- (d) Steve Smith

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- Suresh Raina, former Chennai Super Kings player, will lead the Gujarat Lions - the Rajkot Franchise which is set to debut in the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- Former Australian all-rounder Brad Hodge will be the head coach.
- On 2 February 2016 Owner Keshav Bansal, also the director of Mobile phone manufacturers Intex Technologies announced while revealing the logo and name of the Rajkot-based team at a function in new Delhi.
- Raina in the last eight editions played for Chennai Super Kings under captaincy of Mahendra Singh Dhoni.
- But Chennai Super King was suspended for two years by the Lodha committee in the fallout of the spot-fixing controversy.
- Earlier in January 2016, Dhoni already has been announced as the captain of Rising Pune Supergiants, the Sanjeev Goenka-owned franchise.
- The ninth edition of IPL will held from April 9 to May 29, 2016 in various cities of India.

Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/india/content/story/968051.html>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/ipl/news/Suresh-Raina-unveils-Rajkot-based-IPL-franchise-Gujarat-Lions/articleshow/50821217.cms>

Rishabh Pant

Ques: Recently Indian batsman Rishabh Pant made fastest half-century at U19 level against which of the following country?

- (a) West Indies
- (b) Zimbabwe
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Nepal

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2016, Indian opener batsman Rishabh Pant made fastest half-century at ICC- U19 level against Nepal.
- Wicketkeeper-batsman Rishabh Pant slammed fastest U19 half-century in just 18 balls (78 from just 24 balls) while chasing down the target of 170 given by Nepal.
- Earlier this record was hold by Trevon Abashai Griffith who in 2010 scored 50 only in 19 balls against Pakistan U-19.
- U-19 Cricket World Cup is going to be held from January 27th to February 14th, 2016 in central Bangladesh.



Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/icc-under-19-world-cup-2016/content/story/967879.html>

<http://www.bcci.tv/news/2016/news/12855/india-top-group-d-with-by-trouncing-nepal>

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

Soumya Agrawal

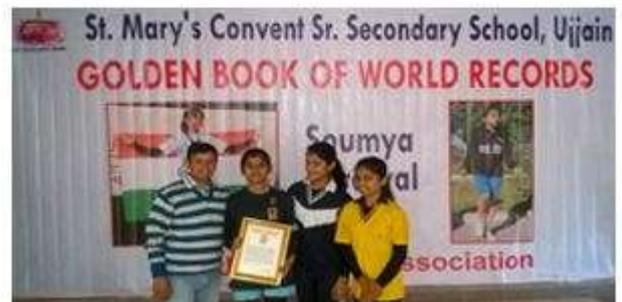
Ques: Recently who has made a new world record in skipping rope?

- (a) Soumya Agrawal
- (b) Ankit Agrawal
- (c) Neelam Singh
- (d) Kirti Pal

Ans(a)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2016 Soumya Agrawal of Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh got herself registered in the golden book of world records, by skipping rope 160 times in a minute.
- The record was created in under 14 years of age category.
- Soumya Agrawal broke the world record of Yadra Voldre (1 min, 158 Jump) of Netherlands.
- The event was organized by St Marys Convent School before the authorities of golden book of world records.



Reference:

<http://www.freepressjournal.in/soumya-enters-golden-book-of-world-records/770865>

<http://hindi.pradesh18.com/news/madhya-pradesh/girl-soumya-agrawal-sets-world-record-as-they-win-rope-skipping-championship-in-ujjain-1351473.html>

Personalities

Piruz Khambatta

Question: Recently who has been named as ambassador of the government's 'Make in India' initiative by the Government of India?

- (a) Anil Ambani
- (b) Ratan Tata
- (c) Aditya Birla
- (d) Piruz Khambatta

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 13 February 2016 Indian beverage company "Rasna" Chairman Piruz Khambatta has been named ambassador of the government's 'Make in India' initiative by the Government of India.
- This statement has been issued by Rasna in its release.
- Rasna will support entrepreneurs who wish to come up with turnkey plant to manufacture food products which it would market under its own brand on a contract manufacturing basis,
- It will also support startup by fostering and mentoring startups as part of the Make in India initiatives.
- Rasna will support Indian SMEs by enhancing our purchase from SMEs from the current 50% to over 70% going forward.



Reference:

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-02-13/news/70592981_1_rasna-indian-smes-ambassador
<http://www.businesstoday.in/current/corporate/food-processing-needs-investments-exemptions-rasna-chief/story/229244.html>

Jayant Misra

Question: Who has been appointed as Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)?

- (a) Najib Shah
- (b) K. N Vyas
- (c) Jayant Misra
- (d) Aaradhya Mishra

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 Senior IRS officer Jayant Misra was appointed as Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI).
- He is currently DG (Systems) at the Directorate General of Systems and Data Management and has replaced Najib Shah, who is now Chairman of Central Board of Excise and Customs.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/jayant-misra-appointed-dg-dri-116021700711_1.html

Sunand Sharma

Question: Recently the French Government has conferred Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour) the highest French civilian distinction on Sunand Sharma. He was former chairman of which of the following company?

- (a) Alstom
- (b) Areva
- (c) Fords
- (d) Siemens

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 the French Government has conferred Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French civilian distinction on Sunand Sharma.
- He was awarded in recognition of his outstanding achievements as Country President, India & South Asia and Chairman, Alstom India, from 2006 to 2014.
- On behalf of the President of the French Republic, Ambassador of France to India, H.E. Mr Francois Richier, conferred the distinction on Mr Sunand Sharma, at a ceremony.
- Mr. Sharma also served as President of the Indo-French Chamber of Commerce & Industry for two terms as well as chaired and served on various committees of the CII and FICCI as well as on the CII National Council and FICCI National Executive Committee, during his tenure with Alstom.
- This award was created in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, the Legion of Honour is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.
- It may be recalled that on 16 February 2016 this was awarded to fashion designer Manish Arora.

Reference:

<http://www.ambafrance-in.org/Highest-French-Distinction-conferred-on-Mr-Sunand-Sharma-13610>
https://fr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ordre_national_de_la_L%C3%A9gion_d%27honneur

Amar Singh

Question: Name the Indian-origin Sikh officer who has been appointed as Kuala Lumpur's Commissioner of police?

- (a) Arjun Singh
- (b) Karan Singh
- (c) Diwakar Singh
- (d) Amar Singh

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2016 Amar Singh, Indian-origin Sikh officer has been appointed as Kuala Lumpur's commissioner of police.
- This is the highest police rank achieved by a Sikh in Muslim majority country, Malaysia.
- Amar Singh will replace Tajuddin Mohamed.

Reference:

<http://www.nripunjab.gov.in/newsdetail.htm?449>



K. N. Vyas

Question: Name the person who recently assumed the role of director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)?

- (a) Dr. Sekhar Basu
- (b) K. N. Vyas
- (c) G. Madhwan Nair
- (d) Mohan Reddy

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 23 February 2016 K. N. Vyas, Distinguished Scientist and Associate Director, Reactor Projects Group of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) took over as Director, BARC.
- He has replaced Dr. Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy.
- K.N Vyas graduated from the 22nd batch of the BARC Training School and joined Fuel Design & Development Section of Reactor Engineering Division of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136670>



H. L. Dattu

Question: Recently who has been selected as the next chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission?

- (a) Justice H.L Dattu
- (b) Justice R. M Lodha
- (c) Justice P. Sathasivam
- (d) Justice K. G. Balakrishnan

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 February 2016 former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Handyala Lakshminarayanawamy Dattu was selected as the next Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).
- The post was lying vacant since May 2015, when KG Balakrishnan demitted office after five-year term.
- Justice Dattu was Chief Justice of India from September 28, 2014 to December 2, 2015
- Under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, the president appoints the chairperson and members of the NHRC on the recommendation of the high-powered committee headed by the prime minister.
- His term of office will be of 5 years.

Reference:

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/former-chief-justice-hl-dattu-will-be-next-chairperson-of-human-rights-body-1280492>



Kalikho Pul

Question: Who recently has sworn in as the 9th chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh?

- (a) Nabam Tuki
- (b) Kalikho Pul
- (c) Prem Khandu Thungan
- (d) Tomo Riba

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2016 Congress rebel Kalikho Pul sworn in as 9th Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.
- Arunachal Pradesh Governor Jyoti Prasad Rajkhowa swore him the oath of office and secrecy at a brief function organised at the Raj Bhavan in Itanagar.
- On 16 February 2016, the Union Cabinet had recommended the removal of President's Rule in the state.
- On 19 February 2016 President Pranab Mukherjee approved it.
- In December 2015, 21 out of 47 ruling Congress legislators in the 60-member house had rebelled along with 11 BJP and 2 independent legislators.
- On 26 January 2016 President's rule was imposed in the state.
- Currently the Chief Minister Kalikho Pul is supported by 19 Congress legislators, 11 of BJP and two Independents.
- The total strength of the Arunachal Pradesh Assembly is 60 seats.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/congress-rebel-kalikho-pul-sworn-in-arunachal-cm/article8258665.ece>



Christine Lagarde

Question: Who has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund for a second five-year term?

- (a) Kim Jong-un
- (b) Christine Lagarde
- (c) Dr. Margaret Chan
- (d) M. V. Kamath

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2016 Christine Lagarde has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the International Monetary Fund for a second five-year term.
- Her second term will start on July 5, 2016.
- Prior to her appointment at the IMF as MD on 5 July 2011, she had served as Minister of Finance and Minister for Foreign Trade of France.



Reference:

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2016/pr1664.htm>

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/100e8bde-d0dd-11e5-986a-62c79fcbcead.html#axzz414Znr4iW>

<http://www.businessinsider.com/ap-imf-gives-christine-lagarde-second-term-as-managing-director-2016-2?IR=T>

Amit Mitra

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the chairman of the empowered committee of state finance ministers (ECSFM) on Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

- (a) Jayant Kumar Malaiya
- (b) AmitMitra
- (c) Manish Sisodia
- (d) KM Mani

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2016 West Bengal finance minister AmitMitrawas named the new chairman of the empowered committee of state finance ministers (ECSFM) on Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- Mitra will succeed Kerala finance minister K M Mani, who had to resign in November 2015 over corruption charges.
- Mitra will be the second finance minister from West Bengal to head this committee.
- The committee is tasked with framing rules for rollout of the ambitious GST regime, which will subsume all indirect taxes and create one national market.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/amit-mitra-to-head-gst-panel-116021900813_1.html

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Amit-Mitra-new-head-of-GST-panel/articleshow/51062606.cms>

David Dean Shulman

Question: Recently Renowned Indologist Professor David Shulman has been selected for which of the following awards?

- (a) Padma Bhusan
- (b) MacArthur Fellowship
- (c) Israel Prize
- (d) Rajiv Gandhi Prize

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2016 renowned Indologist Professor David Shulman has been awarded the prestigious Israel Prize for his breakthrough studies in fields like religion and philosophy.
- Education Minister Naftali Bennett made the announcement at the recommendation of the prize committee, headed by Professor ShaulShaked.
- He is an internationally renowned expert in this field, and his work is enhanced by his command of a wide range of languages, including Sanskrit, Tamil, Telegu and Malayalam.
- Shulman is known to be active in a left—wing organisation, Ta'ayush, a joint Israeli—Palestinian initiative active in the south Hebron Hills.
- Israel Prize is considered the country's highest honour presented annually on Independence Day
- It is given to those who have displayed excellence in their fields, or have contributed strongly to Israeli culture or the State.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/renowned-indologist-awarded-prestigious-israel-prize/article8240709.ece>

<http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.703373>

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

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

M K Surana

Question: Recently who has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) by the Union Government?

- (a) S.K Joshi
- (b) M. K Surana
- (c) D. K Joshi
- (d) Nishi Vasudeva

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 M K Surana has been appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL).
- He will replace Nishi Vasudeva on her retirement on 31March 2016.
- Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) is India's third largest oil marketing company.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/hpcl-appoints-m-k-surana-new-chairman/article7769925.ece>

Abdul Rashid Khan

Ques: Recently Eminent Hindustani classical vocalist Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan passed away. In which year he was awarded with Padma Bhushan?

- (a) 2014
- (b) 2013
- (c) 2015
- (d) 2012

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 18 February 2016 eminent Hindustani classical vocalist Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan passed away. He was 107.
- He was born on 19 August 1908 in Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.
- He was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 2013.
- Recipient of Sangeet Natak Akademi award (2009) Abdul Rashid Khan was associated with ITC Sangeet Research Academy for the past 20 years.
- Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan was from Gwalior Gharana. At the age of 105 he became the oldest man to receive the Padma Bhushan.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/eminent-vocalist-abdul-rashid-khan-passes-away/article8253198.ece>

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

Sameer Anjaan

Ques: Recently which Lyricist has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for penning the most number of songs in Bollywood?

- (a) Prasoon Joshi
- (b) Irshad Kamil
- (c) Sameer Anjaan
- (d) Gulzar

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2016 Lyricist Sameer Anjaan (Shitala Pandey) has entered the Guinness Book of World Records for penning the most prolific number of songs in Bollywood.
- With this, Sameer has also become the first ever lyricist to enter the Guinness Book of World Records.
- His name was included in the Guinness Book at an event that was organised at hotel Sun N Sand in Mumbai.
- Sameer, who has been penning songs for the last 30 years and written 3,524 songs for 650 films, No other film lyricist has written this many songs so far.
- Though there was no such category in Guinness, but when the team was conducting research in Mumbai, it was found that Sameer had written most number of songs. A new category was then created and Sameer's name was included in it.



Reference:

<http://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/385839-most-prolific-bollywood-lyricist>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/music/3-524-songs-650-films-1-world-record-meet-lyricist-sameer-anjaan/story-Vo6elxmaNq3GBSNvoYIfuM.html>

Manish Arora

Ques: Name the Indian fashion designer who has been recently awarded with France's highest civilian honor?

- (a) Manish Arora
- (b) Bhanu Athaiya
- (c) Rohit Bal
- (d) Ritu Kumar

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2016 Indian fashion designer Manish Arora was awarded with the France's highest civilian honour Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour).
- He was presented with this award by French Ambassador to India Francois Richier at his residency.
- He was awarded for his renowned and critically-acclaimed contribution to the fashion world and for long-standing connection with France.
- Manish Arora is an Indian fashion designer based in New Delhi.
- He graduated from the National Institute of Fashion Technology in New Delhi in 1994 where he won the Best Student Award.
- Manish Arora's two famous labels are known by the name of 'Manish Arora' and 'fish fry' During 2002 Manish opened his flagship store "Fish Fry" in New Delhi.
- He has participated in various Indian and international fashion week in 2006 a fashion jury in a leading Indian publication Outlook designated him "Best Indian Fashion Designer".
- Manish was invited to show his collection at the "Fashion in Motion" exhibition held at Victoria and Albert Museum, London in September 2007.
- Again some of his work was displayed at the Victoria and Albert Museum, in the Fabric of India 2014-15 Exhibition.
- In 2011, Manish was appointed the Creative Director for Iconic French Fashion House 'Paco Robanne' where he designed two successful collections for them.
- Knight of the Legion of Honour is French's highest civilian award established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802.
- It should be noted that before Manish Arora, Syed Haider Razaan Indian artist was conferred with the highest French civilian honour, the Commandeur de la Legion d'honneur (Legion of Honour) on July 14, 2015.



Reference:

<http://www.ambafrance-in.org/Highest-French-Distinction-conferred-on-celebrated-designer-Manish-Arora>

<http://www.manisharora.com/about-manish>

<http://www.fdc.org/Member.aspx?mid=918346691>

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

Boutros Boutros Ghali

Ques: Recently the former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali passed away. He served united nation as-

- (a) Fifth Secretary-General
- (b) Sixth Secretary-General
- (c) Seventh Secretary-General
- (d) Eighth Secretary-General

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- On 16 February 2016 former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali passed away in Cairo, Egypt. He was 93.
- He was an Egyptian politician and diplomat who was the sixth Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) from January 1992 to December 1996.
- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the first United Nations secretary-general from Africa and the first Arab to hold the post was also the first to serve only one term in the post.
- During his tenure there was a great famine in Somalia that times the first large-scale UN assistance program led by the United Nations.
- During the Rwandan genocide in 1994, he was criticized for the UN's failure to prevent the massacre
- He wrote a report in 1992 named "An Agenda for Peace," a proposal for how the U.N. could respond to and prevent conflict.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-35590039>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/boutros-boutros-ghali-dies-at-93-united-nations/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boutros_Boutros-Ghali

O.N.V Kurup

Ques: Recently Malayalam poet O.N.V. Kurup passed away, in which year he was awarded with Jnanpith award?

- (a) 2011
- (b) 2007
- (c) 2008
- (d) 2010

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 13 February 2016 Malayalam's most celebrated contemporary poet O.N.V. Kurup passed away in Thiruvananthapuram.
- In addition to his valuable contribution to the Malayalam literature he was also associated with theater and the Malayalam film industry.
- In 2007 he won Jnanpith Award, the highest literary award in India.
- In 1998 he was awarded with Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan in 2011.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/jnanpithwinning-poet-onv-kurup-no-more/article8233631.ece>

<https://www.keralatourism.org/leadinglights/o-n-v-kurup/73>

Lance Naik Hanamanthappa Koppad

Ques: On February 11, 2016, Indian Army personnel Lance Naik Koppd Hanumnthppa passed away, He belongs to which of the following Army regiment?

- (a) 18 Maratha Regiment
- (b) 19 Madras Regiment
- (c) 42 Bengal Regiment
- (d) 20 Gorkha Regiment

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On February 11, 2016, Indian Army personnel Lance Naik Hanamanthappa Koppad passed away.
- In an avalanche which occurred on 3 Febraury 2016, including the Hanamanthappa and their 9 partners were buried under thick layer of ice.
- Hanamanthappa was found during the post-disaster Avalanche rescue operations by the Indian Army, six days after the disaster. He was rescued from 35 feet beneath the snow in -45°Celsius temperature.
- On February 9, 2016 he was admitted to the Indian Army's Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi in a very critical condition.
- He belonged to the 19 Madras, the 19th battalion of the Madras Regiment of the Indian Army.
- Lance Naik Hanamanthappa Koppad was born in Betadur village in Kundagoltaluk of Dharwad district of Karnataka.



Reference:

<http://presidentofindia.nic.in/press-release-detail.htm?2059>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/lance-naik-hanumanthappa-koppad-from-a-farming-family-to-the-army/article8215139.ece>

Tamar Hahn

Ques: Recently United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Tamar Hahn as Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Buenos Aires. She belongs to which of the following country?

- (a) Israel
- (b) United Kingdom
- (c) America
- (d) Saudi Arabia

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2016 United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Tamar Hahn of Israel Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Buenos Aires.
- The United Nations Information Centre (UNIC, also known as information services or information offices) is any office around the world which serves as regional couriers of information from the United Nations to the local public.
- She assumes her duties on 10 February 2016.
- Prior to this appointment, Ms. Hahn was the Regional Adviser for Resource Mobilization and Partnerships at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City, Panama, since 2013.
- Between 2008 and 2013, Ms. Hahn served as the Regional Communication Specialist for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Regional Office of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Panama City.
- From 2006 to 2008, she was a UNICEF Communications Officer based in Geneva, and from 2004 to 2006, she served as an Assistant Editor based in New York.
- Hahn holds a master's degree in journalism and Latin American studies from New York University, and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Tel Aviv in Israel.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sga1635.doc.htm>



Ashok Chawla

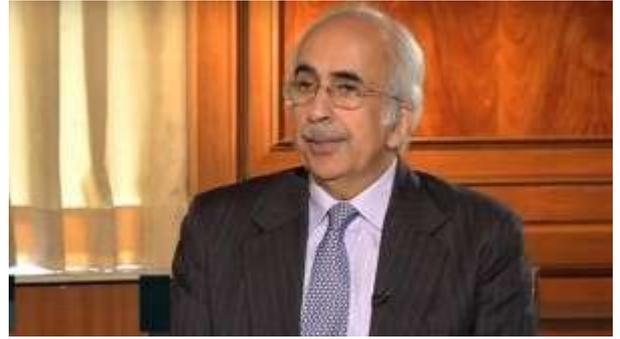
Ques: Who has been appointed as the chairman The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)?

- (a) Deepak Gupta
- (b) Ashok Chawla
- (c) O.P Mathur
- (d) Dr. R K Pachauri

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 12 February 2016 Ashok Chawla former Finance Secretary to the Government of India and former chairman of the Competition Commission has been appointed as new chairman The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- The TERI Governing Council also appointed former director of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency as the new Director General (DG) Ajay Mathur of TERI (DG).



Reference:

http://www.teriin.org/files/press-statement_TERI_feb16.pdf

Edgar Mitchell

Ques: On 4 February, 2016 which of the following astronauts died in West Palm Beach, Florida?

- (a) Edgar Mitchell
- (b) James B Irwin
- (c) Stuart A Roosa
- (d) Ronald E Evans

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On February 4, 2016, American astronaut Edgar Mitchell died in West Palm Beach, Florida, at the age of 85.
- He was a member of the Apollo-14, moon mission in 1971.
- Along with Edgar Mitchell Alan, Shepard Junior and Stuart Roosa were also the part of Apollo-14 mission.
- Edgar Mitchell was the sixth man to walk on the Moon.
- Edgar Mitchell wrote the book titled "The Way of the Explorer".



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35506000>

<http://www.nasa.gov/feature/apollo-astronaut-edgar-mitchell-dies-at-age-85>

<http://www.space.com/31853-edgar-mitchell-apollo-14-astronaut-obituary.html?>

Harinder Sidhu

Ques: Recently who has been appointment as Australia's next High Commissioner to India?

- (a) Patrick Suckling
- (b) Harinder Sidhu
- (c) Peter Varghese
- (d) Alexander Evans

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- Australia on 11 February 2016 announced the appointment of Indian-origin Harinder Sidhu as the country's next High Commissioner to India.
- She will replace the outgoing High Commissioner Patrick Suckling.
- Sidhu will also have non-resident accreditation to Bhutan.
- Sidhu is a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, most recently serving as First Assistant Secretary of the Multilateral Policy Division.
- She has previously served overseas in Moscow and Damascus
- Sidhu's previous roles also included First Assistant Secretary in the Department of Climate Change, Assistant Director-General in the Office of National Assessments and Senior Adviser in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Economics degree from the University of Sydney.
- Both sides of her family are from Punjab, although Sidhu was born in Singapore and settled in Australia with her family as a child.

Reference:

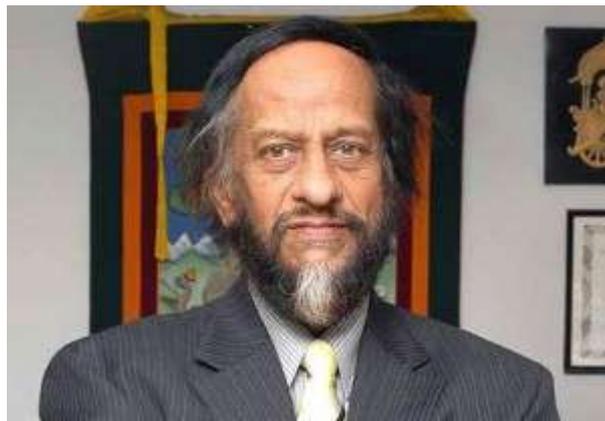
http://foreignminister.gov.au/releases/Pages/2016/jb_mr_160211.aspx

Rajendra Kumar Pachauri

Ques: Recently who has been appointed as Executive Vice Chairman of the Governing Council of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)?

- (a) Dinesh Kumar Mathur
- (b) Sunita Narayan
- (c) Rajendra Kumar Pachauri
- (d) Medha Patkar

Ans (c)



Related facts:

- On 8 February 2016 Rajendra Kumar Pachauri has been appointed as Executive Vice Chairman of the Governing Council of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- The Energy and Resources Institute, also known as TERI, established in 1974, is a research institute based in New Delhi that conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development.
- Prior to this from April 2001 to July 23, 2015 he served as TERI Director General.
- In April 2002 he was elected as chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and in September 2008, re-elected to the post and hold the office till February, 2015.
- As chairman of the IPCC he has been awarded Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice President in 2007.

Reference:

<http://www.teriin.org/our-people>

<http://www.teriin.org/profile/profile/emp/1>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rk-pachauri-removed-as-teri-head/article7457312.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pachauri-back-in-teri-as-executive-vice-chairman/article8210021.ece>

Kailash Yadav

Ques: Recently the Minister of State (MoS) for Panchayati Raj, of Uttar Pradesh Kailash Yadav passed away. He was elected as Member of legislative assembly from which constituency?

- (a) Kairana Constituency
- (b) Amethi Constituency
- (c) Jangipura Constituency
- (d) Mohanlalganj Constituency

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On February 9, 2016 Kailash Yadav, Panchayati Raj Minister of Uttar Pradesh, died in Gurgaon's Medanta hospital.
- He was born on July 10, 1951 in Jaitpura village of Ghazipur and died of brain hemorrhage.
- He was elected as Member of legislative assembly from the Jangipura constituency.
- He represented the Jangipura legislative assembly seat thrice on Samajwadi Party ticket.
- He was a Minister of State (MoS) for Revenue and Industrial Development in the Mulayam Singh government from 2003 to 2007 and in 2012 he was reelected in 16th Assembly election.
- Akhilesh Yadav made him Panchayati Raj Minister in his cabinet.

Reference:

<http://www.upnews360.in/E/33003000300031003800/Chief-Minister-mourns-the-demise-of--Panchayati-Raj-Minister-of-State>

http://information.up.nic.in/View_engnews.aspx?id=867

<http://www.oneindia.com/india/up-minister-kailash-yadav-passes-away-2007910.html>



R K Verma

Ques: Recently who has assumed the charge of the post of Secretary, Railway Board?

- (a) R.S Verma
- (b) R.K Verma
- (c) R.K Sharma
- (d) D.K Mathur

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 9 February 2016, R. K. Verma , has assumed the charge of the post of Secretary, Railway Board.
- He is an officer of 1980 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE).
- Before assuming the post of Secretary, Railway Board he was serving as adviser (Public Grievance) to the Minister of State for Railways.
- He has worked on various railways viz. Southern, North-East Frontier Eastern and Western including Indian Railways Institute of Civil Engineering, Pune in various capacities he has also undergone training in Heavy Haul Operations in South Africa.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136261>

<http://bureaucracykhabar.com/?p=1021>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/shri-r-k-verma-takes-over-as-new-secretary-railway-board-116020901133_1.html

Hydrocarbon Vision 2030

Ques: Recently where did the minister of State (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan release the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for north-east India?

- (a) Shillong
- (b) Dibrugarh
- (c) Guwahati
- (d) Kohima

Ans (c)

Reference:

- On 9 February 2016 the Minister of State (IC) for Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan released the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for north-east India at Guwahati.



- Its aim is to focus efforts towards making hydrocarbons a tool to enable social and economic development in the area.
- The Vision rests on five pillars: People, Policy, Partnership, Projects and Production.
- The Vision aims at doubling Oil & Gas production by 2030, making clean fuels accessible, fast tracking projects, generating employment opportunities and promoting cooperation with neighboring countries.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136255>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/petrochem/ne-hydrocarbon-vision-2030-proposes-rs-130000-crore-investments/articleshow/50914237.cms>

Sudhir Tailang

Ques: On 6 February 2016 Sudhir Tailang passed away, he was a famous-

- (a) Journalist
- (b) Cartoonist
- (c) Singer
- (d) Scientist

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 6 February 2016 famous cartoonist Sudhir Tailang passed away. He was 55 years old.
- He was born in Bikaner, Rajasthan in year 1960.
- He started his career with the Illustrated Weekly of India in Mumbai, in 1982.
- A year later, he joined the Navbharat Times in New Delhi. He had worked with all major English newspapers including the Hindustan Times, the Times of India and the Indian Express.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2004 for his contribution to the art of cartooning.
- He recently launched a book of cartoons titled "No, Prime Minister", a set of cartoons on former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.



Reference:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/cartoonist-sudhir-tailang-passes-away/article8203194.ece>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudhir_Tailang

Dr. D.J. Pandian

Ques: On 5 February, 2016, how many persons were appointed as the vice-president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank?

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

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On February 5, 2016 The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has appointed Dr. D.J. Pandian to the position of Vice President, Chief Investment Officer.
- The primary responsibility of the Chief Investment Officer is leading the planning and supervision of the Bank's infrastructure investment.
- Besides D.J. Pandian four more were appointed as the vice-president of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank:
 - Sir Danny Alexander to the position of Vice President, Corporate Secretary;
 - Dr. Kyttack Hong to the position of Vice President, Chief Risk Officer;
 - Dr. Joachim von Amsberg to the position of Vice President, Policy and Strategy; and
 - Dr. Luky Eko Wuryanto to the position of Vice President, Chief Administration Officer.
- AIIB was established on 25 December 2015 in Beijing, China.
- AIIB's President is Jin Liqun.



Reference:

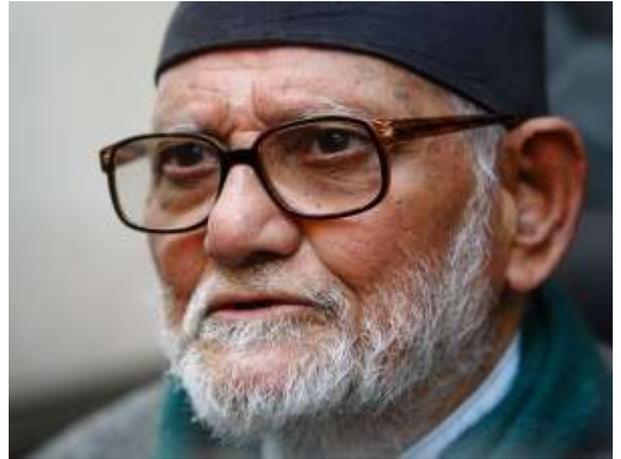
- http://www.aiib.org/html/2016/NEWS_0205/91.html

Sushil Koirala

Ques: On 9 February 2016, Sushil Koirala passed away. He was a former-

- (a) President Of Nepal
- (b) Prime Minister Of Nepal
- (c) Economist Of Nepal
- (d) Scientist Of Nepal

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- On 9 February 2016, Former Prime Minister of Nepal and Nepali Congress President Sushil Koirala passed away. He was 79.
- Koirala was elected Prime Minister of Nepal on February 10, 2014.
- Sushil Koirala was born on 12 August 1939 in Biratnagar, Morang district of Nepal.
- Koirala entered politics in 1954 inspired by the social-democratic ideals of the Nepali Congress.
- Koirala also spent three years in the prisons for his involvement in a plane hijacking in 1973. The purpose of the hijacking was to gather funds for an armed revolution to restore multi-party democracy in the country.
- He was in political exile in India for 16 years amid protest of Nepalese monarchy because of his Ideology and actions.
- While in exile Koirala served as the editor of 'Tarun', the official publication of Nepali congress party.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/south-asia/former-nepal-pm-sushil-koirala-dies/article8211004.ece>

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

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sushil_Koirala<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-02-09/nepali-congress-president-sushil-koirala-dies.html>

Naresh Bedi

Ques: Who has been awarded with the V Shantaram Life Time Achievement Award at the 14th edition of Mumbai International Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films – MIFF 2016?

- (a) Kiran Bedi
- (b) Naresh Bedi
- (c) Dinesh Thapar
- (d) Nalini Jain

Ans(b)

Related facts:

- On 28 January 2016 veteran wildlife film maker Shri Naresh Bedi was awarded with the V Shantaram Life Time Achievement Award at the 14th edition of Mumbai International Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films – MIFF 2016.
- His film '**Cherub of the Mist**' had the honour of being the opening film of the MIFF 2016.
- Naresh Bedi for his contribution to wildlife and environmental documentaries he has been awarded with Wild Screen Award, Prithvi Ratna Award, and the whale award e.t.c.
- He is the first Asian to receive the Wild screen Red Panda award popularly known as Green Oscars for his film '**Ganges Gharial**'
- Bedi has made films which have been shown on National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC, Channel 4 etc.
- Naresh Bedi was born and raised in Haridwar, Uttarakhand and he studied the natural habitats of the animals closely.

Reference:

<http://pibmumbai.gov.in/scripts/detail.asp?releaseId=E2016PR161>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135896>



Nida Fazli

Ques: Nida Fazli who recently passed away in Mumbai, was a famous-

- (a) Singer
- (b) Poet
- (c) Social activist
- (d) Journalist

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Eminent Urdu poet and Bollywood lyricist Nida Fazli passed away of a heart attack in Mumbai on 8 February 2016. He was 78.
- He has written famous ghazals 'kabhi kisi ko mukamil jahan nahi milta' (ahista ahista), 'Aabhi jaa, aabhi jaa' (Sur), 'Tu Is Tarah Se Meri Zindagi Mein' (Aap To Aise Na The), 'Hosh Waalon Ko Khabar Kya' (Sarfaroosh).
- As a song writer he wrote songs for the film like Razia Sultan, Sarfaroosh, Is Raat Ki Subah Nahin and Ahista Ahista.
- His full name was Muqtida Hasan Nida Fazl.
- He wrote two autobiographies namely 'Deewaron Ke Beech' and 'Deewaron ke Bahar'.
- Some of his famous poetry works include Lafzon ke Phool (collection of sher-o-shayari), Safar Mein Dhuup to Hogi and Aankhon Bhar Aakash.
- Nida Fazli was born in Delhi, India into a Kashmiri family and attended school in Gwalior.
- During the partition of India, his parents migrated to Pakistan, but Fazli decided to stay in India.
- He also worked with late ghazal singer Jagjit Singh in 1994 and together they brought out an album 'Insight', which got appreciation for its soulful poetry and music.
- Nida Fazli for his poetry collection 'Khoya Hua Sa Kuch' (published in 1996), was awarded with Sahitya Akademi Award in 1998.
- He was awarded with Khusro Award, Best Poetry Award from Maharashtra Urdu Academy, Bihar Urdu Academy Award and Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy award.
- He received the Mir Taqi Mir award from the Madhya Pradesh government for his autobiographical novel 'Deewaron Ke Beech'.
- He was also awarded with Hindi-Urdu sangam Award (Lucknow), Marwar kala sangam award (Jodhpur), and Punjab kala sangam award (Ludhiana).
- He was awarded with "Padma Shri" in 2013 by the Government of India.

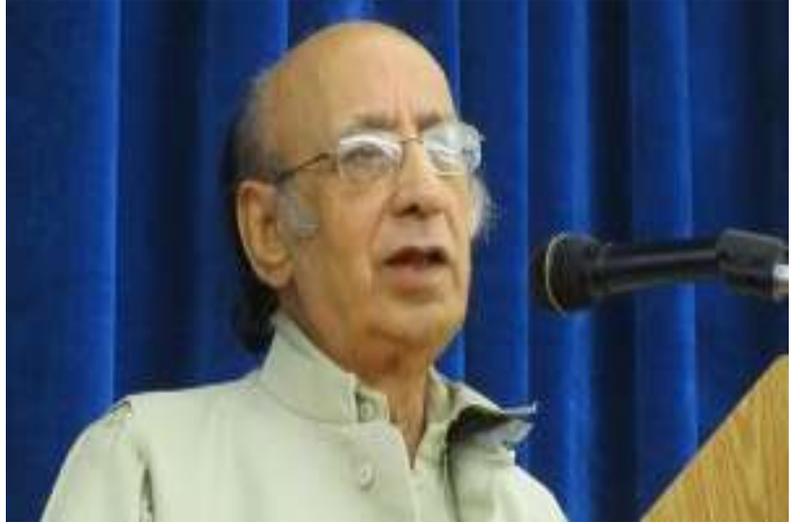
Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/music/noted-lyricist-nida-fazli-passes-away/>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/acclaimed-poet-lyricist-nida-fazli-dies-in-mumbai-1275075>

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

http://www.bbc.com/hindi/india/2016/02/160208_nida_fazli_no_more_ra



Balram Jakhar

Ques: Recently former Lok Sabha Speaker and veteran Congress leader Balram Jakhar passed away; He served as Speaker of Lok Sabha from-

- (a) 1985-1989
- (b) 1980-1989
- (c) 1975-1989
- (d) 1989-1996

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 3 February 2016 former Lok Sabha Speaker and veteran Congress leader Balram Jakhar passed away at the age of 92.
- He served as Speaker of Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1989.
- He became the Central Agriculture minister in P. V. Narasimha Rao Ministry.
- He served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh state from 30 June 2004 to 30 May 2009.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-lok-sabha-speaker-balram-jakhar-passes-away/article8187870.ece>

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



Major General Jai Shanker Menon

Ques: Recently who has been appointed as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon?

- (a) Major General Shiv Shanker Menon
- (b) Major General Jai Shanker Menon
- (c) General Dalbir Suhag
- (d) Major General Arjun Singh

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2016, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Major General Jai Shanker Menon of India as the Head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF).
- Major General Menon will succeed Lieutenant General Purna Chandra Thapa of Nepal, who will complete his assignment on 7 February.

Reference:

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sga1633.doc.htm>



Priyanka Chopra

Ques: Which of the following Bollywood actor/actress has been named one of the 13 presenters at the 88th Oscar award?

- (a) Shah Rukh Khan
- (b) Amitabh Bachchan
- (c) Priyanka Chopra
- (d) Deepika Padukone

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra has been named one of the 13 presenters at the 88th Oscar Awards.
- The others include: Steve Carell, Quincy Jones, Byung-hun Lee, Jared Leto, Julianne Moore, Olivia Munn, Margot Robbie, Jason Segel, Andy Serkis, J.K. Simmons, Kerry Washington and Reese Witherspoon.
- Oscar awards ceremony will be held on 28 February 2016 at the Dolby Theatre.



Reference:

- https://twitter.com/TheAcademy/status/694251077173010432/photo/1?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw
- <http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/priyanka-chopra-to-be-on-the-oscars-stage/article8182420.ece>

Rajendra Chhetri

Ques: General Rajendra Chhetri is army chief of which of the following country to whom Indian President Pranab Mukherjee conferred honorary rank of 'General of the Indian Army'?

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

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 3 February 2016, President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on General Rajendra Chhetri, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepalese Army, who is on a six-day official visit to India.
- He has been awarded for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India.
- It should be noted that to maintain good relations between India and Nepal Army it has been a tradition to confer the Honorary Rank of General to each other's Army chief.



Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136045>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136131>

Aruna Sethi

Ques: Recently who became the first woman to take over charge as the head of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICOAS)?

- (a) Archana Ramasundaram
- (b) Aruna Sethi
- (c) Smita Sabharwal
- (d) Deepika Chaudhary

Ans(b)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2016 Aruna Sethi, the Principal Adviser (Cost) appointed as head of Indian Cost Accounting Service.
- She is Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) officer of 1985 batch.
- With this she became the first lady ICoAS officer who has achieved this laurel.
- She has earlier held important portfolios in Government of India including Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Defence.
- ICoAS is one of the six Organized Accounting Services of the Government of India.
- This Office is responsible for advising the Ministries and Government Undertakings on cost accounts matters and to undertake cost investigation work on their behalf.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136054>



K.V. Krishna Rao

Ques: On 30 January 2016 the former Chief of Army Staff General KV Krishna Rao passed away, Out of the following given state he does not hold the position of governor for which state?

- (a) Arunachal Pradesh
- (b) Nagaland
- (c) Manipur
- (d) Tripura

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 30 January 2016 the former Chief of Army Staff General KV Krishna Rao passed away in New Delhi. He was 90 years old.
- Gen. Rao was commissioned into the Indian Army on 9 August 1942 during Second World War.
- General Krishna Rao was appointed as Chief of Army Staff on 01 June 1981 and served in that capacity till July 1983.
- From June 1984 to July 1989, General Krishna Rao was the Governor of the North Eastern States of Nagaland, Manipur and Tripura. He was also the Governor of Mizoram in June 1988 and March to July 1989.
- Later, General Krishna Rao was appointed as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir during 1989-90, he was reappointed as Governor of J&K and served there from March 1993 to May 1998.
- He is remembered for his contribution in the 1971 war and maintaining the unity and integrity of the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135941>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K. V. Krishna Rao](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K._V._Krishna_Rao)

Datta Padsalgikar

Ques: Who among the following has been appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Mumbai in January 2016?

- (a) Datta Padsalgikar
- (b) Ahmed Javed
- (c) Ranjit Saxena
- (d) Anjani Kumar Dutt

Ans(a)

Related facts:

- On 30 January 2016, Senior IPS officer Datta Padsalgikar has been appointed as the new Police Commissioner of Mumbai.
- Mr. Padsalgikar succeeds Ahmed Javed whose tenure end on 31 January 2016.
- Padsalgikar is IPS officer of 1982 batch and prior to this appointed he was serving in Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- Former Police Commissioner of Mumbai Ahmed Javed has been appointed as Ambassador to Saudi Arabia. He is IPS officer of 1980 batch.



Reference:

<https://mumbaipolice.maharashtra.gov.in/Home.asp>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/padsalgikar-new-mumbai-police-commissioner/article8171957.ece>

Intizar Husain

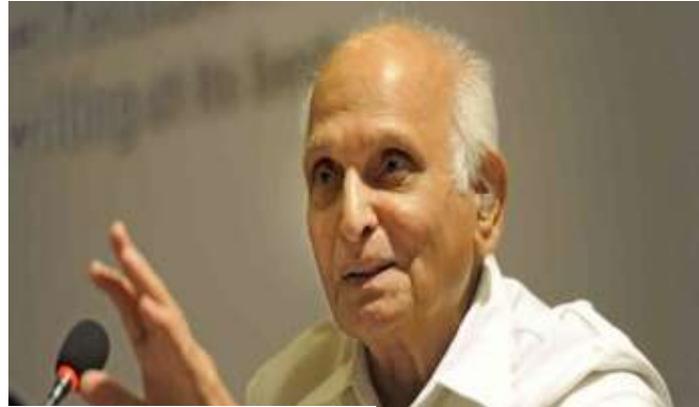
Ques: Recently passed away veteran Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist Intizar Husain was conferred the 'Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters' by France in year-

- (a) 2012
- (b) 2014
- (c) 2010
- (d) 2011

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Intizar Husain, veteran Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist passed away on 2 February 2016 in Lahore, Pakistan. He was 92.
- Hussain was among the 10 finalists and the first Pakistani author ever to be nominated for the Man Booker International Prize for fiction in 2013.
- He was born on December 7, 1923 at Dibai in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh in India; he migrated to Lahore in 1947.
- He completed his degree in 1946 from the Meerut College. He worked in various newspapers and retired from 'Daily Mashriq' in 1988.
- Husain was conferred the 'Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters' by France in 2014.
- His famous books include 'Gali Koochay', 'Kankari', 'Din Aur Dastan', 'Shehr-i-afsos', 'Kachhuay', 'Khaimay Say Door', 'Khali Pinjra', 'Morenama' and 'Sheharzad Kay Naam'.
- He also known for works such as Basti, Hindustan Se Aakhri Khat, Jataka Tales and Janam Kahanian.



Reference:

<http://m.newindianexpress.com/world/612018>

<http://www.dawn.com/news/1236988>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/veteran-pakistani-writer-intizar-husain-dies-at-93/1/585916.html>

Saroj Kumar Jha

Ques: Recently who has been appointed as Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank Group?

- (a) Saroj Kumar Jha
- (b) S.N Jha
- (c) D J Pandian
- (d) Jai Kumar Garg

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- Saroj Kumar Jha has been appointed as the Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank Group.
- He assumed the position on February 1, 2016.
- The World Bank President **Jim Young Kim** assigned him the new role.
- He will provide strategic leadership to address the challenge of fragility, conflict and violence, working across the Bank Group and in close collaboration with partners.
- Before this, Jha was the World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia based in Almaty, Kazakhstan since February 2012.
- Earlier, Jha worked as the World Bank's Global Manager for Disaster Risk Management Practice and served as head of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)
- He joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network.
- Jha holds a dual degree in civil engineering and development economics from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, India.

Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/about/people/saroj-kumar-jha>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/saroj-kumar-jha-appointed-to-key-world-bank-position/articleshow/50816733.cms>

K.K. Sharma

Ques: Recently, senior IPS officer K.K Sharma has appointed as director general (DG) of which paramilitary forces?

- (a) Border Security Force
- (b) Sashastra Seema Bal
- (c) Central Industrial Security Force
- (d) Central Reserve Police Force

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On February 1, 2016, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointed senior IPS officer K.K Sharma as Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF).
- He will replace Devendra Kumar Pathak, who will retire at the end of this month.
- Presently he is serving as Additional DG of BSF.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135995>



Archana Ramasundaram

Ques: Recently, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed senior IPS officer, Archana Ramasundaram as Director General of which of the following paramilitary forces?

- (a) Border Security Force
- (b) Sashastra Seema Bal
- (c) Central Industrial Security Force
- (d) Central Reserve Police Force

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2016 Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed senior IPS officer, Archana Ramasundaram as Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- She is first woman to head a paramilitary force.
- Before this she was serving as Special Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135995>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/senior-ips-officer-archana-ramasundaram-is-sashastra-seema-bal-ssb-chief/article8180048.ece>



K. Durga Prasad

Ques: Recently who has been appointed as Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

- (a) Archana Ramasundaram
- (b) M.K. Singla
- (c) K. Durga Prasad
- (d) K.K. Sharma

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2016, K. Durga Prasad has been appointed as Director General (DG) of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- He is presently working as Special DG of CRPF.
- He is IPS officer of Telangana cadre of the 1981 batch.
- He will replace Prakash Mishra who will retire at the end of this month.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135995>



Kalpana

Ques: Kalpana, who recently died in Hyderabad on 25 January, 2016 is related to which of the following fields?

- (a) Aeronautics
- (b) Journalism
- (c) Industry
- (d) Film Industry

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 25 January 2016, Malayalam actress Kalpana died in Hyderabad. She was 51 years old.
- She has acted in around 300 south Indian films.
- Kalpana had won the national award the best actor in a supporting role the film "Njaan Thanichalla" (2012).

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/malayalam-actor-kalpana-no-more/article8150616.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalpana_\(Malayalam_actress\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalpana_(Malayalam_actress))



in

J.S. Deepak

Ques: Recently who has been appointed as Secretary of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology by appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

- (a) Dr. Aruna Sharma
- (b) Shobhana K Pattanayak
- (c) J S Deepak
- (d) Siraj Hussain

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 29 January 2016, J S Deepak has been appointed as Secretary of Ministry of Communications and Information Technology by appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- He is an UP cadre IAS officer of the 1982 batch.
- He has replaced Rakesh Garg.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135918>

<http://persmin.nic.in/ersheet/MultipleERS.asp?HiddenStr=01UP051400>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/js-deepak-new-telecom-secretary/article8168007.ece>



Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey

Ques: Who has been appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD)?

- (a) Archana Sharma
- (b) Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey
- (c) Dr. Arun Sharma
- (d) Seeraj Hussain

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey has been appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) on 28th January, 2016 by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.
- He has been appointed for a period of three years.
- Dr. Pandey was associated with Saksham, an NGO working in the field of disability.
- The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is appointed by the Central Government from persons having special knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities.
- The CCPD coordinates the work of the State Governments' Commissioners to monitor the utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government; to take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities; and to submit reports to the Central Government on the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135929>

<http://netindian.in/news/2016/01/29/00036666/kamlesh-kumar-pandey-appointed-chief-commissioner-persons-disabilities>

Places

Manesar

Question: Recently where did the new state of the art and modern test facilities installed as a part of the National Automotive Testing and R & D infrastructure project (NATRIP) at International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT)?

- (a) Bhopal
- (b) Singur
- (c) Manesar
- (d) Chinhat



Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 23 February 2016 Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises (MoHI & PE) Anant G Geete inaugurated a new state of the art and modern test facilities installed as a part of the National Automotive Testing and R & D infrastructure project (NATRIP) at International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT), Manesar in Gurgaon district of Haryana.
- The NATRIP project was setup in line with the vision of automotive mission plan 2016.
- This plan will help India to emerge as the destination of choice in the world for design and manufacture of automobiles and auto components with output reaching a level of US\$ 145 billion accounting for more than 10% of the GDP and providing additional employment to 25 million people by 2016.
- NATRIP has helped realize this vision in form of an ambitious project for setting up world-class automotive testing and R&D infrastructure in the country.
- The International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) was set up in 2006 and is the first of the new world class centers established under the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project (NATRIP).

Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136669>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136642>

The world's first solar-powered Parliament

Question: Recently, the world's first solar-powered parliament was inaugurated in which of the following countries?

- (a) Israel
- (b) Pakistan
- (c) Malaysia
- (d) Japan

Ans(b)

Related facts:

- On 23 February 2016 Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the world's first ever solar-powered Parliament House in Islamabad.
- The venture has been funded by the Chinese government as an act of friendship, with the solar power plant costing around \$55 million.
- This project was launched on 22 April 2015 when Chinese President Xi Jinping was on a official visit to Pakistan.



Reference:

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/1052577/pm-nawaz-inaugurates-worlds-first-solar-parliament/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/pakistan-s-parliament-becomes-completely-solar-116022300654_1.html

Hyderabad

Ques: Recently technology giant Apple has confirmed that it will be opening a new development office in-

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Hyderabad

Ans(d)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2016 technology giant Apple has confirmed that it will be opening a new development office in Hyderabad.
- It has no wholly-owned store in India and sells its products through distributors such as Redington and Ingram Micro.
- The company sells its products through Apple-owned retail stores in countries, including China, Germany, the US, the UK and France.
- CEO Cook said that Apple will continue to invest in India despite global slowdown and currency fluctuations.
- The Development Centre will cost about 25 million (250 Lakhs) US dollars and will provide employment to about 4,500 young professional.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Apple-confirms-opening-of-development-centre-in-Hyderabad/articleshow/51008769.cms>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/technology/tech-news-technology/apple-confirms-it-will-open-new-development-office-in-hyderabad/>

Jharkhand gets its First Mega Food Park

Ques: Where did the first Mega Food Park in the Jharkhand was inaugurated?

- (a) Dhanbad
- (b) Hazaribagh
- (c) Village Getalsud
- (d) Rasool village

Ans (c)

Related facts:



- On 15 February 2016 the first Mega Food Park in the Jharkhand promoted by M/s. Jharkhand Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd. was inaugurated by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries at Village Getalsud, District Ranchi.
- This Mega Food Park has been set up with the project cost of Rs. 114.73 crore in an area of 51.50 Acres.
- The park will have facilities of Multi Chamber Cold Storage, Dry Warehouse, Vegetable Dehydration Line, modern Quality Control & Testing Laboratory and other processing facilities for fruits & vegetables.
- This Mega Food Park project will create a modern infrastructure for arresting post-harvest losses of horticultural and non-horticultural produce and provide impetus to the growth of food processing sector in Jharkhand.
- The Mega Food Park is expected to provide direct and indirect employment to about 6000 people and benefit about 25,000-30,000 farmers in its catchment area.
- This Mega Food Park project will help in providing better prices to farmers, reduce wastage of perishables, add value to agricultural produce and create huge opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment for the youth of the State.
- Government is focusing on boosting the Food Processing Industry so that agriculture sector grows exponentially and becomes the engine of growth to drive the "Make in India" initiative and encouraging private investment.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136426>

Inauguration of the first Mega Food Park in Madhya Pradesh

Ques: Recently, where did the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first mega food park in Madhya Pradesh?

- (a) Jhabua
- (b) Indore
- (c) Rewa
- (d) Khargone

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 12 February 2016 the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first mega food park at Village Panwa, Tehsil Kasarwad, District Khargone, and Madhya Pradesh.
- The Mega Food Park in the state promoted by M/s Indus mega Food Part Pvt. Ltd.
- Mega Food Park has been set up with the project cost of Rs.127.70 crore in an area of 53.78 acres.
- In addition, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries approved the establishment of the second mega food parks in Dewas district of the state which will be ready in the next two and a half years.



Reference:

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20160212N38&LocID=1&PDt=2/12/2016>

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

Second district to become free of open defecation

Ques: Recently which district achieved the distinction of becoming free of open defecation practice second in the country and first in Madhya Pradesh?

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 25 January 2016 declared Indore district free of open defecation practice.
- Indore district has become second district in the country and first in Madhya Pradesh to become free of open defecation practice after the Nadia district of West Bengal.
- Under this toilets in 610 villages under 312 village Panchayats were constructed.



Reference:

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/indore/Rural-area-of-Indore-declared-open-defecation-free/articleshow/50726316.cms>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/rural-area-of-indore-declared-open-defecation-free-116012501192_1.html

Tripura

Ques: Recently in which Indian state birds (chickens) were culled due to Avian Influenza. On account of its severity, to prevent it from spreading Post Operation Surveillance Plan is implemented?

- (a) Tripura
- (b) Meghalaya
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Nagaland

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- In January 2016 an unusual mortality in State Poultry Farm, Gandhigram, Tripura West district of Tripura State was occurred.
- On account of this incident on 14-01-2016 samples were sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) on 14-01-2016 which was found positive in RT-PCR and Real time RT-PCR for H5N1 AIV.
- The Director, Animal Resources Development Department, Government of Tripura was requested to take necessary measures as per Action Plan on Avian Influenza.
- The State government carried out control and containment operation at the epicenter which was over on 25-01-2016.
- The State issued the sanitization certificate for the said epicenter on 25-01-2016.
- The Department has issued the Post Operation Surveillance Plan (POSP) on 27.01.2016 which will be continued for a period of three months from the date of issue of sanitization certificate.
- Avian influenza (AI), commonly called bird flu, is a fatal infectious viral disease of birds.
- Avian influenza is caused by a virus; Birds are hosts for the virus. The effects of the virus is shown in domestic birds such as chickens, ducks as well as in other birds.

Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135883>
- http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/avian_influenza/en/

Awards and Honors

88th Oscar Awards

Question: Who has won the Best Actor award in 88th Oscar Awards?

- (a) Leonardo DiCaprio
- (b) Matt Damon
- (c) Michael Fassbender
- (d) Eddie Redmayne

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The 88th Academy Awards ceremony, of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) took place at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, USA.
- The complete list of awards are as follows:
- **Best Picture award: 'Spotlight', the director of the film is Tom McCarthy.**
- **Best Director:** Alejandro Inarritu for 'The Revenant'.
- **Best Actor:** Leonardo DiCaprio for his role as Hugh Glass in the movie The Revenant.
- **Best Actress:** Brie Larson for 'Room' as Joy "Ma" Newsome.
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Mark Rylance for his performance in *Bridge of Spies*.
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Alicia Vikander for The Danish Girl
- **Best Animated Feature Film:** Inside Out (Directors: Pete Docter, Ronnie del Carmen).
- **Best Cinematography:** Emmanuel Lubezki for the movie 'The Revenant'.
- **Best Costume Design:** Jenny Beavan for the movie 'Mad Max: Fury Road'.
- **Best Documentary Feature Film:** Amy (Director: Asif Kapadia)
- **Best Foreign Language Film:** Son of Saul (Director: Laszlo Nemes)
- **Best Music Original Score:** Ennio Morricone for 'The Hateful Eight'.
- Most awards are won by Mad Max: Fury Road (6 Awards) followed by The Revenant (3) and Spotlight (2).
- Mexican filmmaker Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu has become the first repeat winner in 65 years at the Academy Awards by taking home the best director Oscar for "The Revenant"
- With this win, Inarritu has entered the history books, becoming the first director since 1950 to bag the best director trophy two years in a row.
- Before this John Ford won in 1940 and 1941, for "The Grapes of Wrath" and "How Green Was My Valley", respectively; Joseph L Mankiewicz won in 1949 with "A Letter to Three Wives" and in 1950 with "All About Eve" bag the best director trophy two years in a row.
- Leonardo DiCaprio, who has won the award in Best Actor category has been earlier nominated thrice in the best actor category in year 2005, 2007 and 2014.



Reference:

<https://www.oscars.org/oscars/ceremonies/2016>

25th Vyas Samman 2015

Question: Recently who has been selected for the prestigious 25th Vyas Samman 2015?

- (a) Dr. Narendar Kholi
- (b) Dr. Vishwanath Tripathi
- (c) Dr. Kamal Kishore Goenka
- (d) Dr. Sunita Jain

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 25 February 2016 the well-known Hindi scholar and writer Sunita Jain's poetry collection "**Kshama**" has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman 2015.
- According to the release made by foundation the selection of "**Kshama**" a poetry collection published in 2008 made by the Chayan Samiti presided over by eminent litterateur Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
- Sunita Jain has the rare distinction of having made her mark in two literary universes, writing in both English and Hindi.
- Some of the important books written by him include- *Safar Ke Saathi*, *Rang Rati*, **A Girl of Her Age and A Woman is Dead**.
- The "Padma Shri" was conferred on her by the President of India in 2004.
- It may be recalled that eminent Hindi writer Dr Kamal Kishore Goenka has been conferred with prestigious 24th Vyaas Samman for year 2014 in recognition of his work 'Premchand ki Kahaniyon ka Kaal Kramanusaar Adhyayan'.
- The award was instituted by the K.K. Birla Foundation in 1991.
- It is awarded annually for an exceptional contribution made by Hindi writers towards the language and his work published in past 10 years.
- The award carries monetary award of 2.5 lakh rupees, a citation and a plaque.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sunita-jain-s-kshama-selected-for-vyas-samman-116022600688_1.html

<http://www.padmashrisunitajain.com/about.html>

<http://www.kkbirlafoundation.org/vyas.html>



“Mobile-One” Project Awarded with Best M-Government services award

Ques: “Mobile-One” mobile application which provides e-governance services is related to which of the following Indian state?

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2016 His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai has given **Best m-Government Service Awards** at the fourth World Government Summit in Dubai, UAE.
- During the summit **Karnataka’s Mobile One project** received the award in the One Stop App category at the international level in **2016 Best m-Government Service Awards**.
- The award is awarded for best effort made for delivering government services to the people via smart phone.
- In this award ceremony award is given at the university level, the UAE level, the Arab and international level.
- “Mobile-One” is a mobile app and is available at Android and IOS system.
- It provides services like bill payments, Train and Bus ticket booking, agriculture, Income Tax return, Police, Health aid etc.

Reference:

<http://www.wam.ae/en/news/emirates/1395291432467.html>

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/emirates/world-government-summit-edge-of-govt-m-govt-service-awards-presented-2016-02-10-1.620563>

http://www.uaeinteract.com/docs/Mohammed_bin_Rashid_honours_winners_of_best_M-government_services/73939.htm



58th Grammy Awards

Ques: Who won the 58th Grammy Awards in most categories?

- (a) Alabama Shakes
- (b) Kendrick Lama
- (c) Taylor Swift
- (d) Kendra Foster

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- The 2016 Grammy Awards also called as Nobel Prize of Music were given in a ceremony held on February 15, 2016, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California.
- The prestigious awards awards that were presented in the various categories are as follows:
- **Record of the Year:** Mark Ronson ft. Bruno Mars, "Uptown Funk"
- **Album of the Year:** Taylor Swift, *1989*
- **Song of the Year:** Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud"
- **Best New Artist:** Meghan Trainor
- **Best Pop Solo Performance:** Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud"
- **Best Rock Album:** Muse, *Drones*
- Best new album: Grace (Paul Avgerinos)
- Best Children's Album: Home (Tim Kubart)
- Kendrick Lamar Duckworth, an American rapper from Compton, California won 5 (most by anyone) awards in different categories and nominated in more than 11 categories.
- Alabama Shakes star of American blues rock band won the Grammy awards in three categories namely, **Best Rock Song, Best Alternative Music Album and Best Rock Performance**
- Taylor Alison Swift, an American singer-songwriter won Grammy awards in **Album of the Year, Best Music Video and Best Pop Vocal Album categories.**
- Indian origin filmmaker Asif Kapadia bagged a Grammy Award for his film "Amy" in **Best Music Film category.**
- Nominations for the 58th Grammy Awards were announced on December 7, 2015.

Reference:

<https://www.grammy.com/nominees>

http://www.etonline.com/awards/grammys/182336_grammy_awards_2016_the_complete_winners_list/

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/music/asif-kapadia-bags-grammy-for-amy-anoushka-shankar-loses-again/>

69th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) Award-2016

Ques: Which film won the award of Best Film in 69th BAFTA Award-2016?

- (a) Bridge of Spies
- (b) Carol
- (c) Mad Max: Fury Road
- (d) The Revenant

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The 69th British Academy Film Awards held on 14 February 2016 in London. It has taken place in Central London at the Royal Opera House.
- "The Revenant" won the award for the best film, best actor and best director awards at the 69th edition of British Academy Film Awards.
- The other award of BAFTA's are as follow :
- Outstanding British Film: Brooklyn.
- Best Director: Alejandro G. Inarritu (The Revenant).
- Best Actor: Leonardo Di Caprio (The Revenant).
- Best Actress: Brie Larson (Room).
- Best Supporting Actor: Mark Rylance (Bridge of Spies).
- Best Supporting Actress: Kate Winslet (Steve Jobs).
- Best Original Screenplay: Tom McCarthy and Josh Singer (Spotlight).
- Best Adapted Screenplay: Adam McKay and Charles Randolph (The Big Short).
- Best Editing: Margaret Sixel (Mad Max: Fury Road).
- Best Cinematography: Emmanuel Lubezki (The Revenant).
- Best Production Design: Mad Max: Fury Road.
- Best Costume Design: Jenny Beavan (Mad Max: Fury Road).
- Best Original Music: Ennio Morricone (The Hateful Eight).
- Best Makeup and Hair: Damian Martin and Lesley Vanderwalt (Mad Max: Fury Road).
- Best Sound: The Revenant.
- Best Visual Effects: Star Wars: The Force Awakens.
- Best Film Not in the English Language: Wild Tales (Argentina).
- Best Animated Film: Inside Out.
- Best British Short Film: Edmond.
- The EE Rising Star Award: John Boyega.
- Most awards are won by the film "The Revenant" (5 wins).
- Most nominated film was "Bridge of Spies" and "Caro" (9 nominations each).
- Outstanding British contribution to Cinema: Angels costumes
- Bahamian-American actor, film director, author and diplomat Sir Sidney Poitier was honoured with the academy's highest accolade, the Bafta Fellowship.



Reference:

<http://www.bafta.org/press/press-releases/ee-british-academy-film-awards-winners-announced-2016>

<http://awards.bafta.org/award/2016/film>

'Order of Australia' awarded to persons of Indian-origin (PIO)

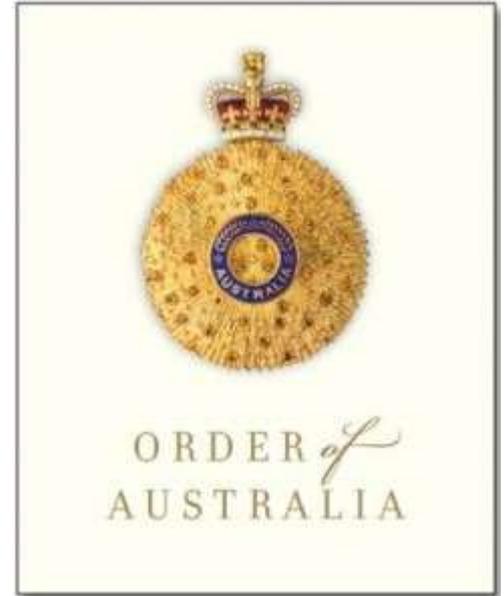
Ques: How many persons of Indian-origin (PIO) have been awarded 2016 Medal of the Order of Australia, Australia's highest civilian honour?

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On January 26, 2016 on the occasion of Australia Day, Australia's highest civilian honor, the "Order of Australia " recipients name were announced.
- In this three Indian-origin persons have been awarded Australia's highest civilian award namely Chennupati Jagadish, Jay Chandra and Sajeev Koshy.
- They have been honour for their contribution in the fields of physics, engineering and medicine.
- Prof. Chennupati Jagadish was conferred with the award for his eminent service to physics and engineering, particularly in the field of nanotechnology, to education as a leading academic, researcher, author and mentor, and through executive roles with national and international scientific advisory institutions.
- Mr.Jagadish, an eminent professor at Australian National University (ANU) in Canberra.
- Prof. Chandra, an eye doctor who has been the head of vitreo-retinal surgery at the Westmead Hospital since the unit opened in 1985.
- He received the award for his significant service to medicine in the field of ophthalmology as a clinician, and to the international community through eye care programs.
- Dr. Sajeev Koshywas awarded the medal for his service to dentistry in the country.
- He is presently the head of the endodontic at the Royal Melbourne Dental Hospital, which is the teaching hospital for the University of Melbourne.



Reference:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/australias-highest-civilian-award-for-3-pios/article8158341.ece>
- http://www.itsanhonour.gov.au/honours/awards/medals/medal_order_australia.cfm
- [https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/ad/ad2016/dvvsf4sc1d05nwtg/Gazette%20-%20of%20A\(2\).pdf](https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/honours/ad/ad2016/dvvsf4sc1d05nwtg/Gazette%20-%20of%20A(2).pdf)
- <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/nris-in-news/three-indian-origin-australians-conferred-with-ozs-highest-civilian-award/articleshow/50740718.cms>

Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award

Ques: Who has been chosen for the prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award for 2015-2016?

- (a) Pandit Ram Narayan
- (b) Lata Mangeshkar
- (c) Hariprasad Chaurasia
- (d) Rajan Mishra

Ans(a)

Related facts:

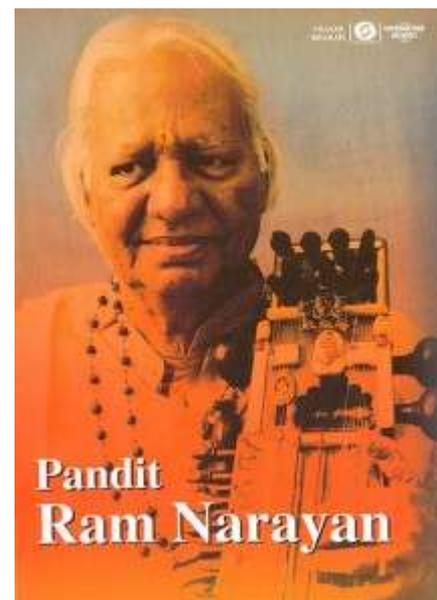
- On 3 February 2016, Sarangi maestro Pandit Ram Narayan has been chosen for the prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award for 2015-2016.
- The annual award, instituted by the Maharashtra government, is given to individuals who have excelled in classical vocal or instrumental music.
- The award comprises Rs.5 lakh in cash, a trophy and a citation.
- He popularised the bowed instrument as a solo concert instrument in Indian classical music and is considered the first Sarangi player who became successful in the international arena.
- He was conferred India's second highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan, in 2005 for his contribution to classical music.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/sarangi-maestro-ram-narayan-gets-bhimsen-joshi-award-116020301155_1.html

<http://ramnarayan.com/awards.htm>

<http://www.loksatta.com/mumbai-news/pt-ram-narayan-to-get-pt-bhimsen-joshi-lifetime-achievement-award-1198558/>



Operations and Campaign

Visit of Indian Warships to Maldives

Question: Which of the following Indian Naval ships visited to Maldives from 15 – 18 Feb 2016?

- (a) INS Vikramaditya
- (b) INS Virat
- (c) INS Kolkata
- (d) INS Visakhapatnam

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Indian aircraft carriers INS



Vikramaditya visited Maldives from 15 – 18 Feb 2016.

- It reached Male, capital city of Maldives on 15 February 2016 along with its support ships INS Mysore and INS Deepak.
- INS Vikramaditya is capable of operating a versatile range of high- performance aircraft, such as the MiG-29K fighters, KM 31 AEW helicopters, multi-role Seakings and utility Chetaks.
- Earlier, INS Vikramaditya was on an official visit to Colombo from 21 -23 Jan 2016 as a manifestation of the close maritime cooperation and mutual trust between India and Sri Lanka.

Reference:

<http://indiannavy.nic.in/content/indian-warships-visit-male-maldives>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136396>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/ins-vikramaditya-2-other-ships-on-4-day-visit-to-maldives-1277384>

Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR)-2016

Question: Where did the the Fourth Edition of the India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) was successfully concluded?

- (a) Andaman Sea
- (b) Bay Of Bengal
- (c) Arabian Sea
- (d) Indian Ocean

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- The Fourth Edition of the India-Myanmar



Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) was successfully undertaken from February 13 to 16, 2016 along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Andaman Sea.

- This should be noted that as part of the ongoing India-Myanmar defence relations, Navies of the two countries have conducted Coordinated Patrols along the Maritime boundary since 2013.
- Indian Navy Ships Saryu and Bitra along with Union of Myanmar Ships Aung Zeya and FAC 563 participated in the 4th IMCOR.
- During the Closing Ceremony of 4th IMCOR, the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for IMCOR was also signed between Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy.
- Myanmar is only the third country with which India has signed a formal agreement for maritime coordinated patrols and reflects growing naval interaction between India and Myanmar.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136531>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=46081>

India, China hold 1st joint tactical exercise

Ques: When did the first joint tactical exercise between India and China “Sino-India Cooperation 2016” was held?

- (a) 6 February 2016
- (b) 7 February 2016
- (c) 8 February 2016
- (d) 9 February 2016

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 6 February 2016, the first joint tactical exercise between India and China “Sino-India Cooperation 2016” was held.
- The exercise, held in the Chushul-Moldo area near the northern India-China border.
- This is a part of ongoing initiatives taken by India and China to ensure greater interaction between troops stationed along the LAC, and thereby ensure peace and tranquility on the border.
- The exercise focused on actions to be coordinated to jointly tackle aspects of Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief.
- The Indian Army team of 30 personnel was led by Col. Ritesh Chandra Singh while the Chinese delegation was led by Col. Qu Yi.
- The joint exercise, codenamed ‘Sino-India Cooperation 2016’, compliments the Hand-in-Hand series of India-China Joint Exercises and the recently conducted border troops Joint Exercise in Sikkim.

Reference:

<http://idrw.org/india-china-hold-first-joint-drills-in-ladakh/>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/indian-and-chinese-troops-hold-first-joint-tactical-exercise-in-ladakh/>

International Fleet Review 2016

Ques: On 4 February 2016, the 'International Fleet Review' (IFR) -2016 began at-

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Kolkata
- (c) Vishakhapatnam
- (d) Kerala

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2016, the 'International Fleet Review' (IFR) - 2016 began at Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- It's objective is to enhance mutual trust and confidence with neighboring navies by inviting their ships to participate in the event. Indian Navy is to display its maritime capabilities.
- This review is proposed to be done at a larger scale from 4 to 9 February 2016 in Visakhapatnam.
- Warships and Navy personnel from 50 countries participated in the IFR off Vizag coast.
- This is second 'International Fleet Review' the last International Fleet Review by Indian Navy was conducted in January 2001 at Mumbai, participated by 29 countries.
- The motto of the event was "United through Oceans".
- From India over 90 warships and support vessels were participated in IFR.
- The foreign fleet included contingents from Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, France, Indonesia, Iran, Maldives, UK and USA.
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee Addressed the International Fleet Review 2016 on 06 Feb 2016 at Visakhapatnam.
- International Fleet Review is an International Military Exercise hosted and conducted by Indian Navy on behalf of the President of India, Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces.
- On 6 February 2016, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the "International Fleet Review 2016".
- Bollywood celebrities namely Akshay Kumar and Kangana Ranaut also participated in the opening ceremony of IFR.



Reference:

<https://ifr16.indiannavy.gov.in/index.htm>

<https://ifr16.indiannavy.gov.in/PressRIsdetail.htm?60>

<https://ifr16.indiannavy.gov.in/event-schedule.htm>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136182>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136151>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136169>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/akshay-kumar-kangana-ranaut-not-ifr-brand-ambassadors-manohar-parrikar/>

Combined Military Training Exercise “Surya Kiran”-2016

‘Ques: From 08 February to 21 February 2016 the 9th Indo-Nepal Combined Battalion level Military Training Exercise ‘Surya Kiran’ will be conducted at-

- (a) Gwalior
- (b) Jodhpur
- (c) Jaisalmer
- (d) Pithoragarh

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The Ninth Indo-Nepal Combined Battalion level Military Training Exercise “Surya Kiran” will be



conducted at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 08 February to 21 February 2016.

- During the exercise, an Infantry battalion each from Indian Army and the Nepalese Army would be training together.
- The Surya Kiran series of exercises is a bi-annual event which is conducted alternatively in Nepal and India.
- The aim of this combined training exercise is to enhance interoperability between the Indian and the Nepalese Army units in Jungle Warfare and Counter Terrorism operations in mountainous terrain.
- The 8th India-Nepal combined military training exercise was held from February 23 to 8 March 2015 in Nepal.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136130>

Commission and Committee

Justice R M Lodha committee

Question: Who is the chairman of the committee formed to sell assets of PACL and refund crore of amounts to the public who had invested in the firm's collective investment scheme (CIS) that was deemed illegal by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

- (a) Justice M.B Shah
- (b) Justice Sanjay Mishra
- (c) Justice R.M Lodha
- (d) Justice Virendra Singh

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) appointed a committee under former chief justice R M Lodha to sell assets of PACL and refund Rs49,000 crore to the public who had invested in the firm's collective investment scheme (CIS) that was deemed illegal by Sebi.
- Earlier on 2 February 2016, the Supreme Court directed to appoint a committee to investigate the matter under the chairmanship of Justice R.M. Lodha, former Chief Justice of India.
- Whole Time Member of SEBI, S. Raman and Chief General Manager and Regional Director, Northern Regional Office, SEBI Amit Pradhan is the other two members of the committee.

Reference:

http://www.sebi.gov.in/cms/sebi_data/pdf/files/33052_t.pdf

<http://www.sebi.gov.in/sebiweb/home/detail/33052/new/PR-Constitution-of-Committee-In-the-matter-of-PACL-Ltd-Vs-SEBI-and-other-connected-matters->

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/economy/supreme-court-panel-to-sell-pearl-assets-to-refund-investors/206275/http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/sebi-constitutes-justice-lodha-panel-for-refunding-pacl-investors/article8248938.ece>



Cabinet approves nomination of Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog as a part-time Member of the Telecom Commission

Ques: When the Telecom Commission was set up by the Government of India?

- (a) 11 April 1989
- (b) 1 July 1990
- (c) 12 April 1995
- (d) 12 July 1989

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister has given its approval for nomination of Chief Executive Officer, NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog as a part-time Member of the Telecom Commission.
- The participation of Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog in the meetings of Telecom Commission will lend value to the deliberations of the Commission, because the NITI Aayog has been mandated to serve as a Think Tank of the Government.
- The Telecom Commission was set up by the Government of India on 11th April, 1989.
- It has administrative and financial powers of Government of India to promote rapid development in all aspects of telecommunications.
- Before supersession of the Planning Commission, the Telecom Commission was composed of a Chairman [Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Telecommunications], four full time members [Member (Finance), Member (Production), Member (Services) & Member (Technology)] and four part time members [Secretary (Department of Electronics & Information Technology), Secretary (Department of Economic Affairs), Secretary (Planning Commission) & Secretary (Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion)].
- After supersession of the Planning Commission and its replacement by the NITI Aayog, only three part time Members were left with the Telecom commission.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136488>

Cabinet approves nomination of Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog as a part-time Member of the Telecom Commission

Judicial Commission to probe the suicide of research scholar Rohit Vemula

Ques: Who is the head of Judicial Commission set up to probe the suicide of scholar Rohit Vemula?

- (a) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- (b) Justice Ashok Kumar Roopanwal
- (c) Justice Sanjay Mishra
- (d) Justice Virendra Singh

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 28 January 2016, The HRD ministry appointed former Allahabad High Court judge Justice Ashok Kumar Roopanwal to head the one-man judicial commission to probe the suicide of scholar Rohit Vemula.
- On January 22, 2016 the HRD ministry announced, a judicial commission to investigate the matter.
- Judicial Commission will review the entire sequence of events and the circumstances; and to establish the facts and correctives in the context of the University.
- The Judicial Commission will submit its report within 3 months.
- Vemula, a research scholar at Hyderabad University, committed suicide on January 17 after his suspension along with four other Dalit students from Hyderabad University as a disciplinary proceeding over an alleged clash.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135710>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/justice-roopanwal-to-head-panel-probing-rohit-vemula-suicide-116012801513_1.html

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/hyderabad-suicide-retired-high-court-judge-to-probe-rohit-vemula-death/1/581919.html>



Planning and Project

Amazon launches 'Tatkal' initiative for small and medium businesses

Question: Which e-commerce company has launched 'Tatkal' initiative for small and medium businesses?

- (a) Amazon
- (b) Flipkart
- (c) Ebay India
- (d) Jabong



Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 E-commerce giant Amazon announced the launch of 'Amazon Tatkal', an initiative that enables small and medium businesses (SMBs) to go online and sell products on Amazon.
- This initiative has been started in New Delhi, Amazon Tatkal is launched to traverse the country, engaging with thousands of entrepreneurs, artisans, manufacturers and sellers and help them sell online on the spot.
- It will enable thousands of interested sellers to start selling on Amazon in real time and experience the benefits of launching an online business.
- 'Amazon Tatkal' is a specially designed studio-on-wheels offering a suite of launch services including registration, imaging and cataloguing services, as well as basic seller training mechanisms.

Reference:

http://www.amazon.in/b/ref=amb link 206909927 1?ie=UTF8&node=8520698031&pf_rd_m=A1VBAL9TL5WCBF&pf_rd_s=merchandised-search-

[3&pf_rd_r=11SJYRZZOVZD7FVATFY9&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=820289787&pf_rd_i=1592137031](http://www.amazon.in/b/ref=amb link 206909927 1?ie=UTF8&node=8520698031&pf_rd_m=A1VBAL9TL5WCBF&pf_rd_s=merchandised-search-3&pf_rd_r=11SJYRZZOVZD7FVATFY9&pf_rd_t=101&pf_rd_p=820289787&pf_rd_i=1592137031)

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/amazon-launches-tatkal-initiative-for-small-and-medium-biz/article8248760.ece>

<http://www.businesstoday.in/current/corporate/amazon-launches-tatkal-initiative-for-small-and-medium-biz/story/229281.html>

Establishment of Atal Innovation Mission and Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) in NITI Aayog

Question: On 24 February 2016 Union Cabinet has given its approval for establishment of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) in NITI Aayog. The headquarter of ATAL Innovation Mission (AIM) is scheduled at-

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Ahemdabad
- (d) Hyderabad

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 February 2016 the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for establishment of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Self Employment and Talent Utilisation (SETU) in NITI Aayog.
- Establishment of AIM and AIM Directorate would result in implementation of Mission activities in a focused manner. This would be a focal point for innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- The Mission would be guided by a Mission High Level Committee (MHLC) which will take all decisions relating to approval of requisite guidelines including Grand Challenge areas, prize money and implementation of various elements of AIM and SETU.
- The headquarter of the Mission will be New Delhi.
- With a view to give substantial boost to the innovation ecosystem and to catalyze the entrepreneurial spirit in the country, Finance Minister in his Budget Speech 2015-16 announced to establish the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and a mechanism to be known as SETU in NITI with an initial sum of Rs. 500 crore and Rs. 1000 crore respectively.
- As a follow up of Budget announcement, NITI Aayog constituted an Expert Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship under the Chairmanship of Prof. Tarun Khanna, Director, South Asia Institute, Harvard University, USA to work out detailed contours of AIM and SETU.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136754>

http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/establishment-of-atal-innovation-mission-and-self-employment-and-talent-utilisation-in-niti-aayog/



नीति आयोग
National Institution for Transforming India

PM unveils operational guidelines for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

Question: Recently where the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi did unveil the operational guidelines for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana?

- (a) Sehore, Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Panipat, Haryana
- (c) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
- (d) Ludhiana, Punjab

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 18 February the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the operational guidelines for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana at a massive farmers' rally in Sehore in Madhya Pradesh.
- It may be recalled that Cabinet had approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana on 13 January 2016.
- This scheme will come into effect from April 1, 2016 and Farmers would be benefited by the scheme from the kharif crop (2016).
- The main objectives of this scheme are:
 - i. To provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the
 - ii. event of failure of any of the notified crop as a result of natural calamities,
 - iii. pests & diseases.
 - iv. To stabilize the income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
 - v. To encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.
 - vi. To ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector
- According to this scheme there will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops and In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.
- In the new Plan there is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers.
- The capping has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- For the farmers who took loans for them it is mandatory and for others it is voluntary.



- For crop insurance in addition to Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC) several private companies have also been included.
- It has provision of compensation to insured farmers if they have to skip sowing due to natural calamities like floods, unseasonal rains, hailstorm and cyclones.
- The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme.
- The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent.
- Smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers.
- It provides post harvest coverage.
- It also covers the localized risks such as hailstorm, landslide, inundation etc.
- According to the new insurance plan 25 percent of crop losses will be immediately paid and the remaining 75 per cent will be paid in 30-40 days.
- Risks and Losses arising out of War & kindred perils, nuclear risks, riots, malicious damage, theft, act of enmity, grazed and/or destroyed by domestic and/or wild animals shall be excluded.
- The Ministry of Agriculture aims to extend this facility to 50 percent of the country's 14 million farmers in the next 3 years.
- In first year, 2016-17 30 per cent farmers will be included in new crop insurance scheme.
- It would cost the government around Rs 5,700 crore.
- In second year, 2017-18 it will be extended to 40 per cent farmers which will cost the government around Rs7,400 crore.
- In the last year, 2018-19 government will extend this facility to 50 percent of the country's farmers and would cost 8,800 crore to the government.
- Currently about 23 percent of farmers insure their crops.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136545>

http://agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/whatsnew/sch_eng.pdf

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-addresses-kisan-kalyan-mela-at-sehore-release-guidelines-for-pmfby-414262>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Cheaper-crop-insurance-scheme-gets-Cabinet-nod/articleshow/50566942.cms>

West Bengal government launched Utkarsh Bangla Scheme

Question: Recently West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched the Utkarsh Bangla Scheme specially for-

- (a) School Dropouts
- (b) Economically Weaker Students
- (c) Primary Students
- (d) None of these

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 16 February 2016 West Bengal government launched Utkarsh Bangla Scheme at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata.
- The scheme was launched by the Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata. On this occasion, she also released a book on Utkarsh Bangla.
- Utkarsha Bangla is aimed at giving vocational training to school dropouts.
- The Vocational Education Department would be in charge of implementing the scheme.
- Under this scheme each youth will get training ranging from 400 to 1200 hours. The school-dropouts will be trained free of charge in tailoring, driving, repairing television and other electronic equipment and beauty courses etc. and on completion the courses beneficiaries will be given Certificates would be given to the beneficiaries.
- Polytechnic and ITI training to 6 lakh students every year will be provided under the scheme.
- During the inauguration programme, she said that in the last four years, state administration has trained 15 lakh boys and girls in vocational streams. Out of which about 10 lakh secured jobs.
- Along with Utkarsh Bangla she also inaugurated the Kolkata campus of Amity University and launched the 'Online Single-Window Clearance System' portal for industrial projects.
- Some of the companies that will provide employment under the scheme are Samsung, Raymond, Berger Paints, Maruti Suzuki, ASSOCHAM (gems and jewellery), and Confederation of Real Estate Developers Associations of India(CREDAI).

Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/mamata-launches-utkarsh-bangla-scheme-to-help-school-dropouts/other/news/384008.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/with-an-eye-on-polls-mamata-launches-skill-development-scheme/article8246000.ece>



India Handloom Brand Goes Online

Ques: When was the integrated website of 'India Handloom' Brand was launched?

- (a) 13 February 2016
- (b) 11 February 2016
- (c) 15 February 2016
- (d) 16 February 2016

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 11 February 2016 an integrated website (www.indiahandloombrand.gov.in) of 'India Handloom' Brand was launched by Rashmi Verma, Secretary to Government of India, Ministry of Textiles.
- The website will serve as one stop platform for all services to consumers, bulk buyers and handloom producers.
- 'India Handloom' Brand was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi 7th August, 2015, on the occasion of the first National Handloom Day.



Reference:

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

Expansion of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Scheme

Ques: Recently how many districts were added by the Ministry of Women and Child Development to its Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme?

- (a) 62
- (b) 61
- (c) 64
- (d) 50

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 10 February 2016 the Ministry of Women and Child Development has expanded Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme in additional 61 district (covering 11 states).
- Till now the scheme was implemented in 100 districts.
- Gujarat (4 districts), Haryana (8 districts), Himachal Pradesh (2 districts), Jammu and Kashmir (10 districts), Madhya Pradesh (2 districts), Maharashtra (6 districts), NCT of Delhi (2 districts), Punjab (9 districts), Rajasthan (4 districts), Uttar Pradesh (11 districts) and Uttrakhand (3 districts) are the 11 states where the scheme has been expanded.
- Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched on 22nd January, 2015 at Panipat in Haryana.
- Its main objective is to control the falling sex ratio in selected districts and bringing quantitative and qualitative improvement in the situation to the girls.



Reference:

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

“e-Sanchayika” web portal

Ques: Recently which state started the first web portal named “e-Sanchayika” dedicated to the services associated with the women and children?

- (a) Madhya Pradesh
- (b) Rajasthan
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans (a)

ई-संचयिका

द नॉलेज बैंक ऑफ आईसीडीएस मध्यप्रदेश

Related facts:

- On 1 February 2016, Chief Minister Of Madhya Pradesh started the first web portal named “e-Sanchayika” dedicated to the services associated with the women and children.
- It is designed by the Department of Women and Child Development.
- The Web portal e-Sanchayika has 5 parts namely, E-library, e-learning, e-discussions, media updates and upcoming program.
- Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials related to the development of nutrition, health, sanitation, education by other departments and non-government organizations will be provided.
- In addition to the public, targeted beneficiaries it can also be used by public representatives, subject specialists, researchers, policy makers, non-government organizations as well as other departments

Reference:

<http://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20160201N20&LocID=1&PDt=2/1/2016>

<http://esanchayika.in/new/aboutus.aspx>

Union government Launches 24x7 toll free Tourist Infoline in 12 International Languages

Ques: Recently in how many International Languages does the union government Launched 24x7 toll free Tourist Infoline?

- (a) 14
- (b) 10
- (c) 12
- (d) 15

Ans (c)



Related facts:

- On 8 February 2016, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, the Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism & Culture and Minister of State for Civil Aviation launched the “24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline in 12 International Languages.
- The languages handled by the contact centers include ten International languages besides English and Hindi, namely, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- This project is being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India through M/s. TATA BSS.
- This Infoline service will provide information relating to Travel & Tourism in India to the domestic and International tourists/visitors.
- It will also assist the callers with advice on action to be taken during times of distress while travelling in India.
- This service will be available free of cost for domestic and international tourists.
- This is available on the existing Toll Free Number **1800111363** or on a short code **1363**.

Reference:

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

Project Sunrise

Ques: Name the recently started initiative to tackle the rising HIV prevalence Northeastern States?

- (a) Project Sunrise
- (b) Project Moonlight
- (c) HIV control project
- (d) None of the above

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2016, Union Minister in-charge of Health & Family Welfare Jagat Prakash Nadda in Manipur launched a new initiative called 'Project Sunrise' to tackle the rising HIV prevalence in Northeastern States, especially among people injecting drugs.
- The project will be implemented over 5 years during 2015-2020.
- The National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Centers for Disease Control, FHI 360 and several non-governmental organizations will cooperate in the Sunrise project.
- Project Sunrise is launched to complement the ongoing efforts of National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO), Ministry of Health, Government of India and the State Governments.
- The technical and financial support for the Project will be provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- Implementation will be done by 'Family Health International 360' (FHI 360) (a not for profit human development organization).
- According to latest government reports, NE States like Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland account for highest adult (15-49 years) HIV prevalence in the country.
- Estimates of 2015 reportedly show Manipur tops the list with adult HIV prevalence (1.15 per cent) against the national average of 0.26 per cent.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/airnewsalerts/status/695932002076221440>

<http://meghalayatimes.info/index.php/front-page/33205-project-sunrise-launched-to-control-hiv-in-north-east>

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=feb0616/oth053>

National Job Portal

Ques: Social Justice and Empowerment minister, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched an exclusive job portal for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) on-

- (a) 28 February 2016
- (b) 1 February 2016
- (c) 27 February 2016
- (d) 31 January 2016

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 27 January 2016, Social Justice and Empowerment minister, Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot launched an exclusive job portal for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).
- The PwDs can avail the different facilities such as self-employment loan, education loan, skill training, link to scholarships and information about jobs in a single window platform through this National Job Portal.
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India has entrusted National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD) to develop a National level Job portal for the persons with disabilities (PwDs).
- Government has given very high priority to skill training programme for Persons with Disabilities and has a targeted for skilling five lakh persons in next 3 years.
- The skill training will be provided by a network of 200 clusters of "Training Partners" with financial assistance of government.
- A time bound action plan has been prepared for this purpose, the Government will also pursue private sector for providing them job after the training.

Reference:

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

<http://www.disabilityjobs.gov.in/>



Government announces first batch of 20 smart cities

Ques: On January 28, 2016 Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the name first 20 cities to be developed under the Smart City project. Name the state from which maximum numbers of city are included?

- (a) Gujarat
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Rajasthan

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 28 January 2016, Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu announced the name of first 20 cities to be developed under the Smart City project.
- It includes 3 (Maximum from any state) cities from Madhya Pradesh namely Jabalpur, Indore and Bhopal.
- In the list of the 20 cities Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Pune (Maharashtra), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Surat (Gujarat), Cochin (Kerala), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Solapur (Maharashtra), Davanagere (Karnataka), Indore (Madhya Pradesh), New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) (New Delhi), Combattore (Tamil Nadu), Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh), Belagavi (Karnataka), Udaipur (Rajasthan), Guwahati (Assam), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) are included.
- M.Venkhaih Naidu informed that the 20 winning cities and towns have proposed a total investment of Rs.50,802 cr over five years.
- In the next phase of this project, the government will announce the name 40 cities to be development smart cities.
- These cities will be developed to have basic infrastructure such as assured water and power supply, sanitation and solid waste management, efficient urban mobility and public transport, IT connectivity, e-governance and citizen participation.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135889>



India and Armenia Sign MoU

Question: Recently an agreement has been signed between India and Armenia for cooperation in the field of-

- (a) Space
- (b) Agriculture
- (c) Military Cooperation
- (d) Biotechnology

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2016 Radha Mohan Singh, Union Agriculture Minister and Sergo Karapetyan, Armenian Agriculture Minister signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture sectors in New Delhi.
- The MoU (Memorandum of understanding) envisaged various priority sectors such as plant-breeding, including agricultural crop seed-breeding and plant protection; buffalo-breeding and poultry, including pedigree; exchange of experience on agricultural organization in dry lands; milk production and processing e.t.c.
- The MoU provides for establishment of Joint Working Group and preparation of Work Plans, and will be valid, initially for a period of five years, and would be extendable beyond five years.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136575>

Prasar Bharati Signs MoU with Empresa de Brazil Comunicacao (EBC)

Question: Recently PrasarBharati has signed a MoU with Public Communication company of which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia
- (b) Brazil
- (c) China
- (d) France

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2016 PrasarBharati has signed a MoU with Empresa de Brazil Comunicacao (EBC) in connection with several broadcast related activities including exchange of news, programmes and co-production.
- The MoU was signed between PrasarBharati Chief Executive Officer JawharSircar and EBC Vice President Mr Mario in Brasilia, Brazil.
- This MoU is being described as historical as it is the first agreement that PrasarBharati has signed with any South American country.
- Mr. Sunil Lal, the honorable ambassador of India in Brazil facilitated the negotiations between two public service broadcasters.
- The signing MoU with EBC is very important milestone in relations between two countries.

Reference:

<https://twitter.com/prasarbharati/status/700701379875065856>



Memorandum of Understanding signed between India and Singapore

Ques: For cooperation in which of the following field did the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Singapore?

- (a) Medical
- (b) Information Technology
- (c) Urban Planning and Governance
- (d) Space

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), an Agency of Government of Singapore.
- The MoU was signed on 24th November, 2015.
- The MoU will allow the two countries to share experiences in the field of urban development, governance and capacity building.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136490>



MoU signed between India and Sweden

Ques: Recently a MoU was signed between India and Sweden on-

- (a) The Agriculture sector
- (b) The Rail sector
- (c) The meteorology
- (d) The Space Technology

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 February 2016 a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation of the Kingdom of Sweden on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector.
- Main objectives of MoU are to develop cooperation activities in the Railway area to promote efficiency and sustainability and achieve concrete results with regard to bilateral trade, investment, research and technology transfer.
- MoU will remain in force for 5 years from the date of signing.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136437>



RBI and Central Bank of UAE sign MoU to consider Currency Swap Agreement

Ques: Recently Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with-

- (a) Bank Of America
- (b) Bank Of China
- (c) Central Bank of UAE
- (d) Central Bank Of Canada

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 12 February 2016 the Reserve Bank of India, in consultation with the Government of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Bank of the United Arab Emirates to consider entering into a bilateral Currency Swap Agreement subject to the concurrence of the respective Governments.
- Terms and conditions of the Agreement will be firmed up through technical level discussions between the two central banks.
- The MoU to this effect was signed by Governor Dr. Raghuram G. Rajan on behalf of the Reserve Bank and Governor H.E. Mubarak Rashed Al Mansoori on behalf of the Central Bank of United Arab Emirates at the Reserve Bank headquarters in Mumbai.



Reference:

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36229

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/finance/rbi-uaes-central-bank-sign-pact-for-currency-swap/articleshow/50962872.cms>

Memorandum of understanding between Uttar Pradesh and Union government

Ques: Recently Uttar Pradesh government signed a memorandum of understanding with the union government for which of the following scheme?

- (a) Sabla Scheme
- (b) UDAY Scheme
- (c) Atal Pension Yojana
- (d) Metro Rail Project

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- On 30 January 2016, Uttar Pradesh government signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding with the Centre and the Uttar Pradesh Power Corporation Ltd regarding Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).
- Uttar Pradesh government in order to provide 24-hour power supply in the state takes effective step towards the signing of this historic agreement.
- Under the agreement, Uttar Pradesh would take over Rs 39,900 crore of discom debt, which is 75 per cent of the total loan of Rs 53,200 crore.
- The aim of the state government is to provide power supply in rural areas for 16 hours a day and cities for 22-24 hours by October 2016.
- In the current financial year electrification of 35 new transmission substations were completed and in coming 2 years government aimed to electrify 120 new transmission substations.
- The state government aims to facilitate quick availability of power for around 1 lakhs villages and households across Uttar Pradesh by the year 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135939>

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-01-30/news/70201054_1_discoms-coal-reforms-transmission

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/uttar-pradesh-joins-uday-scheme/article8172119.ece>

Memorandum of Understandings between India and cyber security agencies of different countries

Ques: Recently the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) with its counterparts of which of the following three countries-

- (a) Malaysia, Singapore and Japan
- (b) Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Japan
- (c) Myanmar, Nepal and Malaysia
- (d) Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh

Ans (a)

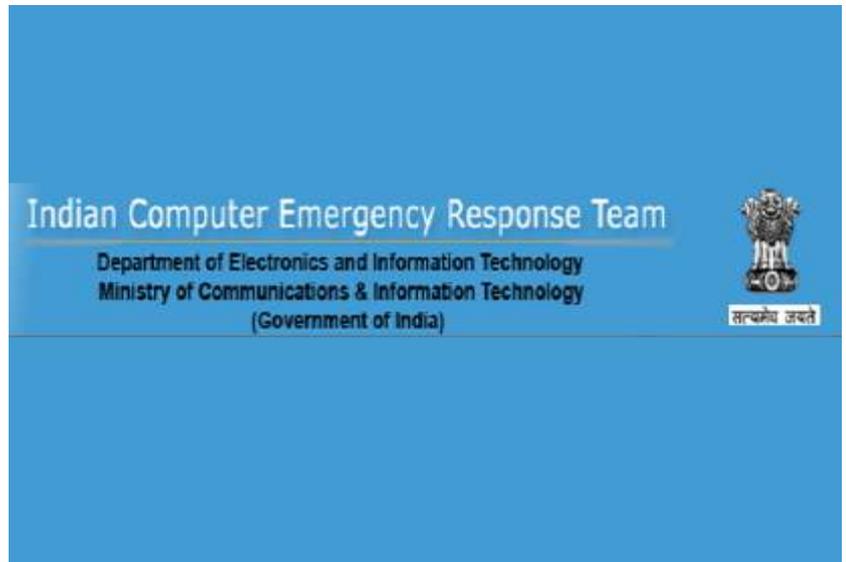
Related facts:

- On 27 January 2016, The Union Cabinet approved of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) with its counterparts in Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.
- MoU between CERT-In of the Republic of India and Cyber Security, Malaysia was signed on 23rd November, 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during Prime Minister's visit to Malaysia.
- MoU between CERT-In of the Republic of India and Singapore Computer Emergency Response Team (SingCERT), Cyber Security Agency (CSA) of the Republic of Singapore was signed on 24th November, 2015 in Singapore during Prime Minister's visit to Singapore.
- MoU between CERT-In and Japan Computer Emergency Response Team Coordination Center (JPCERT/CC) was signed on 7th December, 2015 through diplomatic exchange and exchange of the signed MoU between the two parties completed by 22nd December, 2015.
- The MoUs related to Cyber Security will promote closer cooperation for exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of security related incidents between India and respective country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135831>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/signing-of-memorandum-of-understandings-betweenindian-computer-emergency-response-team-with-116012700491_1.html



Conference

3rd Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation

Question: Name the city in which the 3rd Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation will be held from April 12 to 14, 2016?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Islamabad
- (c) Colombo
- (d) Thimpu

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 21 February 2016 under the chairmanship of Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar a meeting as a prelude to the 3rd Asia Ministerial Conference (3 AMC) on Tiger Conservation.
- The meeting was attended by the representatives of four Tiger Range countries (TRCs) - Bhutan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Russia.
- Notably from 12-14 April 2016 the Third Asian Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation will be held in New Delhi.
- The three-day Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on April 12, 2016.
- The conference will be organised by Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), together with the Government of India.
- There are only 13 countries that have the pride of having tigers in the wild and tiger-bearing areas in the world.
- It may be recalled that according to 2014 calculations there were 2226 tigers in India, while their number in 2006 and 2010 was 1706 and 1411 respectively.
- The tiger population is maximum in Karnataka (406), while Uttarakhand (340) ranks second.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136665>

<http://www.tiger3amc.com/about.html>

http://projecttiger.nic.in/WriteReadData/LetestNews/Document/Tiger%20Status%20booklet_XPS170115212.pdf



Uttar Pradesh's first Tourism Day

Question: Recently Uttar Pradesh Tourism department celebrated February 14, 2016 as the first Tourism day in which of the following cities?

- (a) Agra
- (b) Safai
- (c) Lucknow
- (d) Varanasi

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 14 February, 2016, "First UP Tourism Day" was held in Lucknow.
- Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav formally inaugurated the Tourism Day at Janeshwar Mishra Park, Lucknow.
- On the occasion, the Chief Minister released the Tourism Policy -2016, Heritage arc and Tourism calendar.
- The decision to organise 14 February as Tourism Day was to dedicate a day for tourism to project UP and highlight its tourism potential.

Reference:

<http://uptourism.gov.in/post/up-tourism-day>



Jal Manthan-2

Question: Where did the event Jal Mantha-2 was organised?

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

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti inaugurated two day event (22-23 February) "Jal Manthan -2" on February 22, 2016 in New Delhi.
- The main theme of two day event was 'Integrated Approach for Sustainable Water Management'.
- The two day event had consultations and discussions on River Basin Approach for Sustainable development, Ground water, Water security, Principles of allocation of water, innovation in water governance, Water management, Coordination between centre and states, Water conservation and need for a National Legislation on water.
- It may be recalled that first Jal Manthan was organized in November 2014.
- Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Sushri Uma Bharti has announced that Jal Manthan convention will be organised every year and some of the issues which could not be included in Jal Manthan-2 will be taken up in India Water Week to be held in April.

Reference:

<http://wrmin.nic.in/forms/list.aspx?lid=1228>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136572>



24th National Homoeopathic Congress 'Homeo-Vision 2016'

Ques: Where did the 24th National Homoeopathic Congress 'Homeo-Vision 2016' was inaugurated?

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The two-day (13th and 14th February, 2016) the 24th National Homoeopathic Congress 'Homeo-Vision 2016' held in Nagpur.
- On 13 February 2016 24th National Homoeopathic Congress 'Homeo-Vision 2016' was inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Health and Family Welfare, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik.
- Indian Institute of Homoeopathic Physician (IIHP), Maharashtra State Branch, Nagpur has organized this two-day National conference to discuss the recent advances in technology, innovative research and quality education in Homeopathy.
- More than 500 Homoeopathic practitioners and educationists from all over the country participated in this national conference.



Reference:

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

National Arogya Fair-2016

Ques: Recently the National Arogya Fair was held at-

- (a) Jaipur
- (b) Dehradun
- (c) Rishikesh
- (d) Haridwar

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- The 4-day (5-8 February) National Arogya Fair at Dehradun in Uttarakhand concluded successfully on 08th February, 2016.
- The Arogya Fair was organized by the Ministry of AYUSH in collaboration with the State government of Uttarakhand and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The Fair was inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Health & Family Welfare, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik.
- The Arogya Fair was aimed to showcase and promote the strengths, efficacy and affordability of the AYUSH systems of medicines.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136274>

Global Ayurveda Festival-2016

Ques: Where did the 3rd edition of Global Ayurveda Festival-2016 was held?

- (a) Kochi
- (b) Trivandrum
- (c) Kozhikode
- (d) Bengaluru

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The 3rd edition of Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF)-2016 was held in Kerala at Kozhikode from 31st January to 4th February 2016.
- Global Ayurveda Festival Kerala is an international Ayurvedic biennial event.
- The main theme of this edition GAF was “Women's Health”.
- The GAF was organised by the Centre for Innovation in Science and Social Action (CISSA) in association with the State government and department of AYUSH.
- About 5,000 delegates from 50 countries took part in the five day event.
- On February 2, 2016, the Prime Minister attended the Global Ayurveda Festival.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and addressed the Vision Conclave at Global Ayurveda Festival (GAF).
- Union AYUSH minister Shripad Yesso Naikand Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy also addressed the Festival.

Reference:

<http://www.gaf.co.in/>

<http://www.narendramodi.in/hi/pm-modi-at-third-global-ayurvedic-conference-in-kozhikode-kerala-412078>



Second Counter-Terrorism Conference, 2016

Ques: Recently where did the second International Conference on Counter Terrorism organized?

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Gandhinagar
- (c) Jaipur
- (d) Ranchi

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- The 2nd edition of the two day Counter-Terrorism Conference was held in Jaipur from 2-3 February 2016.
- This edition of the Counter-Terrorism Conference organised by the India Foundation in collaboration with Government of Rajasthan.
- The theme of the conference was “Tackling Global Terror Outfits”.
- The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the Counter-Terrorism Conference- 2016 on February 2, 2016 at Jaipur.
- Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Chief Executive of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan also addressed the conference.
- Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Shri Kalyan Singh, Governor of Rajasthan, Smt. Vasundhara Raje Scindia, Chief Minister of Rajasthan and Shri Suresh Prabhu, Union Minister of Railways.
- On 3 February 2016, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi addressed the International Conference on Counter Terrorism.
- In this conference topics like social media and terrorism, cyberspace, illegal visas, illegal arms trade, drug trafficking, fake currency were discussed.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136023>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136070>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136043>

<http://www.mofa.gov.bd/media/special-lecture-hon%E2%80%99ble-state-minister-counter-terrorism-conference-2016-conference-theme>

India Investment Summit 2016

Ques: On 4th and 5th February 2016 where did the India Investment Summit-2016 was held?

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

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- In order to attract investments in the field of infrastructure, Ministry of Finance held a two day India Investment Summit in New Delhi on 4th & 5th February, 2016.
- A large Number of long term investors including Sovereign Wealth Funds and Pension Funds across the globe participated in the two day Summit.
- Apart from the infrastructure related Central Ministries/Departments, many State Governments also took part in the Summit.
- There was a Special focus on investment opportunities in the sectors of road transport, highways, ports, urban infrastructure, railways, power and renewable energy, besides State level projects.
- The Government of India has established National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) as a Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Regulations.
- NIIF is financed with Government's own contribution along with equity participation from both foreign and domestic strategic anchor partners.
- Government's share in NIIF is of 49%.

Reference:

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135843>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136004>
- <http://www.nicct.nl/events/179008/>

All India Regional Editors Conference

Ques: Recently where did the All India Regional Editors Conference held?

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Kochi

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- Two Day (1-2 February 2016) All India Regional Editors Conference held at Jaipur Rajasthan.
- The conference was inaugurated by Women and Child Development Minister, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi.
- The two days Conference has been organized by Press Information Bureau, Government of India.
- Over 100 media persons attended the conference.
- In this two days conference editors interacted Union Ministers on Social and Infrastructure Sector issues.
- This conference was attended by the ministers in charge of the following ministry viz. Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Women & Child Development, Minority Affairs, Tourism & Culture, Social Justice & Empowerment, Development of North East Region, Road Transport & Highways and Shipping.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136020>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135949>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135991>



Associations and Organizations

Microsoft acquires SwiftKey

Question: Technology giant Microsoft had acquired SwiftKey in February 2016. SwiftKey company is related which of the following fields?

- (a) Keyboard Application developer
- (b) Software developer company
- (c) Power Distribution Company
- (d) Information Technology Company

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 3 February 2016 the technology giant Microsoft had acquired Indian based software keyboard application maker "SwiftKey".
- It may be recalled that Microsoft also acquired to-do list app 'Wunderlist', a calendar app called 'Sunrise' and email app 'Acomplia'.
- SwiftKey is a free keyboard application that powers more than 300 million Android and iOS devices.
- Microsoft intends to integrate SwiftKey technology with their Word Flow technology for Windows.
- SwiftKey was founded by Jon Reynolds and Ben Medlock
- Microsoft paid US\$50 million to acquire it.

Reference:

<https://blog.swiftkey.com/microsoft-acquires-swiftkey/>

<http://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2016/02/03/microsoft-acquires-swiftkey-in-support-of-re-inventing-productivity-ambition/>

http://www.indiaonline.com/article/news-top-story/microsoft-to-buy-swiftkey-for-us-250mn-116020300017_1.html

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/microsoft-acquires-swiftkey/article8191695.ece>

India become second Associate Member State of European Molecular Biology Organisation

Ques: Recently India Become second Associate Member State of European Molecular Biology Organisation.

Which country is first to do so?

- (a) China
- (b) Singapore
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Brazil

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- On 4 February 2016 India Become second Associate Member State of European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO).
- For this India through the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology signed a Cooperation Agreement with European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO).
- This would strengthen scientific interaction and collaborative research between India and Europe in this field.
- After the signing of an agreement with Singapore by EMBC in July 2015, India will now become second such country outside the European region.
- EMBO is an organization of more than 1700 leading researchers that promotes excellence in the life sciences.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136083>

Year, Day and Week

National Science Day-2016

Question: National Science Day-2016 is celebrated on-

- (a) 26 February
- (b) 28 February
- (c) 23 February
- (d) 22 February

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- National Science Day-2016 is celebrated on 28 February 2016.
- Theme for the National Science Day 2016 is “Make in India: S&T driven innovations”.
- On this day in 1928, Sir C.V. Raman discovered the famous “Raman Effect”, about scattering of light. He was awarded Nobel Prize in physics for this discovery in 1930.
- In 1986, the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC) asked the Government of India to designate 28 February as National Science Day which the then Govt. of India accepted and declared the day as National Science Day in 1986.
- The first National Science Day was celebrated on February 28, 1987.
- It aims to inculcate scientific temper and take pride in the scientific achievements of the country. Reference:

Reference:

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-greets-the-scientists-and-science-lovers-on-national-science-day-remembers-sir-cv-raman-for-his-contribution-to-the-science-422426>

http://www.dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/nsd-theme_0.pdf



International Mother Language Day

Question: International Mother Language Day is celebrated on-

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

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- International Mother Language Day was celebrated on 21 February 2016 all over the world.
- The theme of the 2016 International Mother Language Day is “Quality education, language(s) of instruction and learning outcomes”.
- International Mother Language Day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999.
- International Mother Language Day has been observed every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- The date represents the day in 1952 when students demonstrating for recognition of their language, Bangla, as one of the two national languages were shot and killed by police in Dhaka.
- In memory of this incident the United Nations decided to celebrate this day every year.

Reference:

<http://en.unesco.org/events/international-mother-language-day-2016>

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

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-mother-language-day-2016/>



World Day of Social Justice

Question: When did the World Day of Social Justice is celebrated?

- (a) 21 February
- (b) 19 February
- (c) 20 february
- (d) 18 February

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- On 20 February 2016 the World Day of Social Justice is celebrated all over the world.
- The Theme of the World Day of Social Justice-2016 ia “ A Just Transition - environmentally sustainable economies and societies”.

Reference:

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

http://www.ilo.org/newyork/events-and-meetings/WCMS_449992/lang--en/index.htm



World Radio Day

Ques: When did the World Radio Day is celebrated?

- (a) 16 February
- (b) 13 February
- (c) 12 February
- (d) 18 February

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- World Radio Day was observed globally on 13 February 2016.
- The theme of World Radio Day-2016 was “Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster”.
- UNESCO at its 36th General Assembly on 3 November 2011 proclaimed 13 February as World Radio Day.

Reference:

<http://www.diamundialradio.org/?q=en>



National Deworming Day

Ques: On February 9, 2016, at which place the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, inaugurated the National Deworming initiative?

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

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On February 10, 2016. National Deworming Day was celebrated across the country.
- National Deworming Day (NDD) aims to deworm all children between the ages of 1-19 years through Government, Government-aided and private schools, and centres.
- Also to improve their overall well-being, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.
- On 9 February 2016, J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare launched the National Deworming Day at a function in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- India has launched National Deworming Day 2016 to cover the whole country, aiming towards a massive target of 27 crore children in 536 districts of the country.
- The government first launched National Deworming Day (NDD) in 2015 which was implemented in 11 States/UTs.
- Under this program, on February 9, 2016, Albendazole tablet among all the targeted children was distributed.
- The NDD will be followed by a mop-up day on 15 February to cover children who might be left out earlier due to sickness or absenteeism, and will ensure maximum coverage with optimal utilization of resources.
- India has the highest burden of parasitic worms in the world.
- Parasitic worms in children interfere with nutrient uptake, and can contribute to anemia, malnourishment, and impaired mental and physical development.
- They are transmitted by eggs present in human faces, which in turn contaminate soil in areas where sanitation is poor.
- There are three main types of intestinal worms: 1. Round worm *Ascaris lumbricoides*, 2. whipworm (*Trichuris trichiura*) and 3. hookworms (*Necator americanus* and *Ancylostoma duodenale*).
- Worms can increase the malabsorption of nutrients; roundworm may compete for Vitamin A in the intestine.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136254>

<http://nrhm.gov.in/nrhm-components/rmnch-a/child-health-immunization/national-deworming-day-2016.html>

http://nrhm.gov.in/images/pdf/NDD-2016/Guidelines/Draft_NDD_2016_Operational_Guidelines.pdf

http://nrhm.gov.in/images/pdf/NDD-2016/Guidelines/NDD_Brief.pdf



World Cancer Day 2016

Ques: Every year World Cancer Day (WCD) is being observed on-

- (a) 4 February
- (b) 8 March
- (c) 5 June
- (d) 15 February

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2016 World Cancer Day was observed across the world.
- The day was observed with year's theme – **We can. I can.**
- This day is observed every year in February to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection and treatment.
- In India according to the ministry of health and family welfare, air pollution, certain viral infections, along with tobacco in its many forms, are among the top five avoidable causes of cancer in India.
- The top three carcinogens are smoking and chewing tobacco, areca nut (supari) and betel quid (paan, paan masala), which together have made oral cancer the most common cancer in India.
- Of them, tobacco in its three forms — chewing, smoking and second-hand smoke accounts for 30% of all cancers in India.
- India's National Health Profile 2015 estimates that cancer in men will rise by 19% by 2020, with mouth cancer registering the highest spike.
- In women, cancer cases are estimated to go up by 23%.

Reference:

<http://www.worldcancerday.org/wcd2016-global-press-release>

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

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/world-cancer-day-air-pollution-tobacco-top-list-of-cancer-triggers-in-india/story-7ypMO1JV405NsRTE2fP02H.html>



World Wetlands Day

Ques: When did the World Wetlands Day is observed?

- (a) 1 February
- (b) 2 February
- (c) 3 February
- (d) 15 February

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 February, 2016 the World Wetlands Day was observed.
- The theme of World Wetlands Day this year is **Wetlands for our Future –**

Sustainable Livelihoods.

- It is celebrated every year across the globe to mark the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands in the city of Ramsar in Iran in 1971.
- It is celebrated to promote, create awareness and ensure positive and affirmative action for conservation of wetlands.

Reference:

<http://www.ramsar.org/activity/world-wetlands-day-2016>

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



Miscellaneous

Extension of e-Tourist Visa scheme

Question: Recently the e-Tourist Visa facility is extended to how many more countries?

- (a) 38
- (b) 37
- (c) 28
- (d) 25

Ans (b)



Related facts:

- According to release issued by Ministry Of Home Affairs, on 25 February 2016 the e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) facility has been extended to 37 more countries from 26 February 2016.
- The total count of countries under the scheme has become 150.
- The new 37 countries included in e-Tourist Visa scheme are Albania, Austria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Iceland, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Moldova, Namibia, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Slovakia, South Africa, Swaziland, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Trinidad & Tobago, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
- Government of India had launched the e-TV facility on November 27, 2014.
- 16 Indian airports are designated for providing e-Tourist visa service.
- Since the launch of the scheme more than 7.50 lakh Visas have been issued under the scheme.
- At present on an average 3,500 e-Tourist Visas are being granted daily to foreign nationals.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136761>

Geographical Identification (GI) tag for four traditional Bengali sweets

Question: Recently the West Bengal government is planning to get Geographical Identification (GI) tag for four traditional sweets. Which of the following are included?

- (a) Moa
- (b) Sarpuria
- (c) Sitabhog and Mihidana
- (d) All of the Above

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- The West Bengal government is planning to get Geographical Identification (GI) tag for four traditional sweets of the state with a view to protect them from imitations and for exporting them in future.
- The four sweetmeats for which GI tags are being sought are 'Moa' of Jainagar, 'Sarpuria' of Krishnagar, and 'Sitabhog' and 'Mihidana' of Burdwan.
- A GI tag is given to products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin.
- The GI tag is necessary for these items to protect them from cheap imitations. It will also help in preserving the quality.



Reference:

- <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/gi-tag-planned-for-four-bengali-sweets/article8269133.ece>
- <http://food.ndtv.com/food-drinks/government-plans-to-get-gi-tag-for-these-four-traditional-bengali-sweets-1279955>
- <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/west-bengal-government-plans-to-get-gi-tag-for-4-traditional-bengali-sweets/articleshow/51075608.cms>

Country's lightest revolver 'Nidar'

Question: Name the Country's lightest revolver which has been recently put up for sale?

- (a) Nirhaya
- (b) Nidar
- (c) Nirbheek
- (d) Sastra

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2016 India's first indigenously developed lightest revolver (gun) "Nidar" was successfully launched to boost the "Make In India" initiative.
- It has been designed and manufactured by the state-run Rifle Factory Ishapore of Indian Ordnance Factory located in West Bengal.
- Nidar is a .22 Caliber revolver and the weighs 250 grams.
- The gun comes with a cylinder capacity of eight bullets, a 40-mm barrel, a range 7 meters, and is only 140mm in length.
- It will cost Rs 36,000 for dealers (excludingTax) and Rs 47,661 for individuals (including all taxes).
- Two years ago, in January 2014, India had launched its "first gun for women", Nirbheek the .32-calibre Nirbheek came with a weight of 525 grams and a price tag of Rs 1,22,360 manufactured by the Indian Ordnance field gun Factory, Kanpur

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-35504566>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nidar-india-lightest-gun-ever-rifle-factory-ishapore-nirbheek/1/594983.html>

0.22" Revolver (NIDAR)



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION:-

CALIBRE	: 0.22"
WEIGHT	: 250 gm
RANGE	: 7 mtrs
CYLINDER CAPACITY	: 08
BARREL LENGTH	: 40.3mm

Maritime India Summit 2016

Ques: Where did the Maritime India Summit 2016 is going to be held?

- (a) Mumbai
- (b) Chennai
- (c) Kochi
- (d) Kolkata

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways launched the Website for Maritime India Summit-2016 www.maritimeinvest.in.
- Maritime India Summit 2016 (MIS 2016), is the maiden global summit being organised by the Ministry of Shipping from 14-16 April 2016 in Mumbai to unleash the potential of Indian Maritime Sector.
- The summit will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 14 April 2016 at the Bombay Convention and Exhibition Centre in Mumbai.
- MIS 2016 will comprise of an Investors' Summit on 14–15 April 2016, along with exhibition and demo sessions spread over three days.
- The Republic of Korea is the partner country for the MIS 2016.
- This flagship initiative of the Shipping Ministry aims to provide a unique platform for participants to explore potential business opportunities.
- It will showcase exciting investment opportunities in the maritime sector including Shipbuilding, Ship Repair and Ship Recycling, Port Modernization and New Port Development, Port-based Industrial Development, Port-based Smart Cities and Maritime Cluster Development, Hinterland Connectivity Projects and Multi-Modal Logistics Hubs etc.



Reference:

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

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136498>

Cabinet grants 'in-principle' approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal

Ques: Recently the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its 'in principle' approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal for research on-

- (a) Solar Radiation
- (b) Gravitational waves
- (c) Tidal waves
- (d) Under Current waves

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 17 February 2016 The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister has given its 'in principle' approval to the LIGO-India mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves.
- The proposal, known as LIGO-India project (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory in India) is piloted by Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- The approval coincides with the historic detection of gravitational waves a few days ago that opened up of a new window on the universe to unravel some of its greatest mysteries.
- The LIGO-India project will establish a state-of-the-art gravitational wave observatory in India in collaboration with the LIGO Laboratory in the U.S. run by Caltech and MIT.
- The project will bring unprecedented opportunities for scientists and engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational wave and take global leadership in this new astronomical frontier.
- LIGO-India will also bring considerable opportunities in cutting edge technology for the Indian industry which will be engaged in the construction of eight kilometer long beam tube at ultra-high vacuum on a leveled terrain.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136479>



Paradip Refinery dedicated to the nation

Ques: On 7 February 2016 Paradip Refinery has been dedicated to the nation. Currently the number of refineries in India is-

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

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 7 February 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated Paradip Refinery to the nation.
- This refinery has been established by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) at Paradip in Odisha.
- Spread over 3,344 acres the Paradip refinery is the largest in the public sector, and is IOCL's 11th refinery and 23rd refinery for India giving it a total capacity of 15 million metric tons per annum.
- Paradip refinery is a matter of pride for the country in the sense that it's INDMAX unit is manufactured by indigenous technology.
- PM also described Paradip refinery as Odisha's 'Vikas Deep'.



Reference:

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-at-the-launch-of-iocl-s-paradip-refinery-in-odisha-413000>

India's First Educational Institution to Be Fully Powered By Solar Energy

Ques: Which educational institute becomes India's First Educational Institution to Be Fully Powered by Solar Energy?

- (a) Jawaharlal Nehru University
- (b) Banaras Hindu University
- (c) Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education
- (d) Amity University

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- In February 2016 Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education in Puducherry became India's First Educational Institution to Be Fully Powered by Solar Energy.
- The Institute through its roof-top solar power plant produces electricity three times more than their consumption.
- Which they use for dining rooms, primary school and library.
- The school had become energy self-reliant in September 2014 when it installed its first solar power unit which produced 15 KW.



Reference:

<http://www.thequint.com/hot-wire/2016/02/10/puducherry-school-is-indias-first-solar-powered-institution>

<http://www.indiatimes.com/news/india/this-school-in-puducherry-becomes-india-s-first-educational-institution-to-be-fully-powered-by-solar-energy-250263.html>

Growth in Tourists Arrival on E-Tourist Visa

Ques: According to the report by Ministry of Tourism, union government registered how much Percentage of Growth in Tourists Arrival on E-Tourist Visa in January 2016?

- (a) 50%
- (b) 160%
- (c) 252.3%
- (d) 180.5%

Ans (c)

Related facts:

- According to the report by Ministry of Tourism, union government registered 252.3% Growth in Tourists Arrival on E-Tourist Visa in January 2016 over the same Period in 2015.
- A total of 88,162 tourists arrived in January 2016 on e-Tourist Visa as compared to 25,023 during the month of January, 2015 registering a growth of 252.3%.
- Commencing from 27th November 2014, e-Tourist Visa facility is presently available for citizens of 113 countries arriving at 16 Airports in India.
- The percentage shares of top 5 source countries availing e-Tourist Visa facilities during January, 2016 were as follows UK (25.37%), USA (15.17%), Russia (9.58%), France (6.00%), and Australia (5.25%).
- The percentage shares of top five airports in tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa during January, 2016 were as follows New Delhi Airport (33.18%), Mumbai Airport (20.81%), Goa Airport (19.10%), Chennai Airport (6.95%), and Bengaluru Airport (5.35%).

Reference:

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



National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030 launched

Ques: The recently launched National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) outlines India's strategy for elimination of the malaria by-

- (a) 2020
- (b) 2030
- (c) 2022
- (d) 2019

Ans (b)

Related facts:



- On 11 February 2016 the Union Health Minister, J P Nadda launched the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030,
- It outlines India's strategy for elimination of the malaria by the year 2030.
- This framework has been developed with a vision to eliminate malaria from the country and contribute to improved health and quality of life and alleviation of poverty.
- NFME clearly defines goals, objectives, strategies, targets and timelines and will serve as a roadmap for advocating and planning malaria elimination in the country in a phased manner.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136328>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/pharma/latest-updates/jp-nadda-launches-national-framework-for-malaria-elimination/210546/>

GI tag for Indian Basmati rice

Ques: For which of the following Indian crop the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has directed to issue a geographical indication (GI) tags?

- (a) Basmati Rice
- (b) Yellow mustard
- (c) Red Corn
- (d) Golden Rice

Ans (a)

Related facts:



- On 5 February 2016, The Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB) has directed to proceed with registration of a geographical indication (GI) tag for Basmati rice.
- It will be issued according to the geographical demarcation conducted by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA).
- Under this seven north Indian Basmati rice-producing states like Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand and parts of Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir will get the GI tag.
- The appellate authority also asked to reconsider the matter of inclusion of uncovered areas, including Madhya Pradesh, Odisha in the area covered under the GI for Basmati.
- India exported 37 lakh million tons of Basmati Rice to the world worth 27,597.87 crore in 2014-15.
- India export majority of the basmati rice to the following countries Saudi Arabia, Iran, United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Kuwait.

Reference:

<http://www.ipabindia.in/pdfs/OrderNo.6-2016-OA-1-6and8-9-2012-GI-CH.pdf>

National Institute of Science Education and Research dedicated to the nation

Ques: Recently the Prime Minister dedicated to the nation, the National Institute of Science Education and Research. Where it is located?

- (a) Cuttack
- (b) Bhubaneswar
- (c) Visakhapatnam
- (d) Ahmedabad

Ans (b)

Related facts:

- On 7 February 2016 the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation, the National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER) at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- National Institute of Science Education and Research is an autonomous institute under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) which was established in 2007.
- In the context of NISER, situated in Odisha, he mentioned the possibilities for innovation in areas such as coal gasification and clean energy, the blue economy, and housing for all by 2022.

Reference:

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



PM dedicates to the nation, Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, and wax plant of Numaligarh Refineries Ltd

Ques: Where did the recently inaugurated Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited is situated?

- (a) Dibrugarh
- (b) Tinsukia
- (c) Guwahati
- (d) Shillong

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 February 2016, The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation, Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, a petrochemical complex, at Lepetkata, near Dibrugarh.
- He also dedicated to the nation, the wax plant of Numaligarh Refineries Limited.
- The main objective of starting the petrochemical plant in Assam is to provide boost to Union Government's scheme like MUDRA and Start-up India and for creating fresh opportunities for the youth.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136114>



National Organic Farming Research Institute

Ques: Recently where did the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare have decided to set up the National Organic Farming Research Institute

(NOFRI)?

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

Ans (d)

Related facts:

- On 4 February 2016 while addressing 87th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the ICAR Society at NASC, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister recommended opening of a National Research Centre on Organic Farming at Gangtok, Sikkim for further development of new technologies in this challenging field.
- He emphasized the important role of organic farming in enhancing farmer income as well as in soil fertility and human health and desired the replication of Sikkim model in other suitable states.
- It should be noted that Sikkim is declared as the first organic farming State in the country in January 2016 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136093>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=45725>



One Rank One Pension (OROP) implementation tables issued

Ques: Recently Union government has issued implementation tables for the long standing demand of the Defence Forces personnel regarding One Rank One Pension (OROP). Under this the arrears will be paid with effect from-

- (a) 1 July 2014
- (b) 31 December 2015
- (c) 1 April 2015
- (d) 31 March 2014

Ans (a)



Related facts:

- On 3 February 2016 Union government had issued implementation tables for the long standing demand of the Defence Forces personnel regarding One Rank One Pension (OROP).
- Earlier on 7 November 2015, the central government had taken the historic decision to implement 'one rank one pension' scheme.
- "One Rank One Pension" will come into effect from 1 July 2014, Payment of arrears and revision of pension under OROP is to be made by the Pension Disbursing Authorities in four installments, except for family pensioners and pensioners in receipt of gallantry awards who will be paid arrears in one installment.
- It will benefit over 18 lakh ex-servicemen and war widows.
- The annual recurring financial implication on account of implementation of OROP at the current rate will be approximately Rs. 7500 crore.
- Whereas the arrears from 01/07/2014 to 31/12/2015 would be approximately Rs. 10,900 crore.
- The total increase in the Defence Budget for pensions is estimated to go up from Rs. 54,000 crore in 2015-16 to around Rs. 65,000 crore 2016-17.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=136068>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=126658>

Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory

Ques: Where did the union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan lead the Bhoomi-Pujan ceremony for construction of the Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory?

- (a) Maharashtra
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

Ans (a)

Related facts:

- On 2 February 2016, The Union Minister for

*Borehole Geophysics
Research Laboratory (BGRL)
is being set up at Karad to
understand Earthquakes
Mechanism in the Koyna
Region of Maharashtra*

Science, Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan led the Bhoomi-Pujan ceremony for construction of the Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) at Hazarmachi, Karad, in the Koyna Region of Maharashtra.

- It will help to understand Earthquakes Mechanism through drilling investigations.
- The goal of BGRL is to emerge as an Institution of international repute housing highly specialized geophysical, geological and geotechnical facilities related to earthquake research.
- This Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) is being established by the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135996>