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NAVATRA

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KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION 2018



Preface

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

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

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

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

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

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

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NATIONAL

New Chief Minister of Karnataka

Question- May 23, 2018, leader of Janata Dal (S), HD Kumaraswamy sworn in as Chief Minister Who took oath as Deputy Chief Minister?

- (a) Dr. G. Parmeshwaran
- (b) T. Raghavan
- (c) Dr. P. Parmeshwaran
- (d) T.K. Prasad

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- On May 23rd, 2018, the leader of Janata Dal (S) HD Kumaraswamy took oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala gave him oath of office and secrecy.
- At the same time, state Congress President and Dalit leader Dr G. Parmeshwaran took oath as deputy chief minister.
- It is noteworthy that BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa had resigned from the post before the floor test on May 19, 2018.
- After which the Governor had invited the Congress-JD (S) alliance to form the government.
- It is known that voting was held for 222 out of 224 assembly seats in Karnataka.
- In which the BJP got 104 seats, the Indian National Congress had 78 seats, the Janata Dal (S) had 37 seats, the Bahujan Samaj Party one seat, the *KarnatakaPragnyavantha Janatha Party* (KPJP) 1 seat and the others got one seat.
- According to these election results, no party received clear majority.
- For the majority, any party should have 112 MLAs.
- By getting the highest seats in the state, the BJP met with the governor to claim the formation of a government led by BS Yeddyurappa.
- As a result, the Governor invited him to form the government and sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state on May 17, 2018.
- At the same time, the Congress and Janata Dal (S) had filed a petition in the Supreme Court, to challenge the letter given by the Governor for taking oath as Yeddyurappa Chief Minister and not calling the coalition by the Governor after the election results.
- The Supreme Court had ordered the governor to make a floor test on May 19, 2018 by reducing the 15 days given to Yeddyurappa to prove the majority in the assembly.
- On 19th May, 2018 BS Yeddyurappa alone resigned from his post before the floor test.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/elections/karnataka-2018/karnataka-govt-formation-live-updates-kumaraswamy-swearing-in-ceremony/article23966536.ece>

Karnataka Assembly Election

Question: Which one of these governors recently sworn BS Yeddyurappa as the new chief minister of Karnataka?

- (a) Kesarinath Tripathi (b) Balram Das Tandon
(c) P. Sadashivam (d) Vajubhai Wala

Ans: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On May 17, 2018, BJP Legislature Party leader BS Yeddyurappa took oath as the new chief minister of Karnataka.
- He became the Chief Minister of the state for the third time.
- Earlier, he was the Chief Minister of the state from 12 to 19 November 2007 and 30 May 2008 to 31 July 2011.
- On this post, he replaced Siddharamaiah.
- Governor Vajubhai Wala had administered the oath of office and secrecy to him at a function organized in Raj Bhavan.
- Significantly, 222 out of 224 assembly seats were voted for in Karnataka.
- Election results were announced by the Election Commission on May 15, 2018
- In which the BJP got 104 seats, the Indian National Congress 78 seats, the Janata Dal (Secular) 37, the Bahujan Samaj Party one seat, *Karnataka Pragnyavantha Janata Paksha* Party 1 seat and the other got 1 seat.
- According to the election results, the Indian National Congress has got 38.0 percent vote, the BJP has 36.2 percent, J D (S) has 18.3 percent and 0.9 percent of vote remained the nota.
- According to these election results, no party received clear majority.
- For the majority, any party should have 112 MLAs.
- Although the BJP emerged as the largest party in the state with 104 seats.
- By getting the highest number of seats in the state, the BJP met the governor and claimed to form the government.
- As a result, the Governor invited it to form the government and sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state.
- The governor gave them 15 days to prove the majority in the assembly.
- At the same time, the Congress and Janata Dal (Secular) petitioned at midnight, In the Supreme Court for to call the post-poll alliance after the election and to challenge the letter given by the Governor for taking of oath Yeddyurappa as Chief Minister on May 16 2018. In this petition, he had demanded a ban on BS Yeddyurappa swearing in.
- After hearing till late night, the bench of Justice AK Sikri, S.K. Bobde and Justice Ashok Bhushan refused to ban the BS Yeddyurappa swearing-in.
- But, the bench clarified that the process of taking oath in the state and formation of the government will be within the purview of the final judgment pending before it.

Related Links:-

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

Venture Capital Symposium 2018

Question- 'Venture Capital Seminar' 2018 organized by which of the following On 18-20 May, 2018?

- (a) Commerce Department (b) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion
(c) SIDBI(d) NITI Aayog

Answer- (d)

Related Facts:

- On 18-20 May, 2018 'Venture Capital Seminar', 2018 was organized in New Delhi.
- NITI Aayog, in association with Vision India Foundation, organized the Venture Capital Symposium 2018 to deepen the economic relationships between France and India.
- Following the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron, 20 of the biggest French venture capital and private equity funds are coming to India to explore investment opportunities.
- The Venture Capital Symposium 2018 is a three day event where the French investors were interacting with 100 early to mid-stage Indian start-ups.
- The Venture Capital Symposium 2018 aims to support the Start-up India programme that was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.
- Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, along with Shri Atul Chaturvedi, Additional Secretary, DIPP addressed the inaugural address of the Symposium, which was attended by Alexandre Ziegler, Ambassador of France to India and Shri Yves Jego, Vice-President of French Parliament.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179401>

Women Safety Division

Question: Which Ministry recently created a new 'Women's Security Division' to deal with the issue of women's security?

- (a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(b) Ministry of Defense(c) Home Ministry(d) Ministry of Law

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 25th May, 2018, Home Ministry has created a new Division to address issues of women safety comprehensively.
- This Division would deal with all aspects of women safety in coordination with relevant Ministries/Departments and State Governments.
- Punya Salila Srivastava, AGMUT Cadre officer of 1993 batch has been posted as Joint Secretary to head this Division.
- The new Division will deal with the following subjects:-
 - Crimes against women, SCs&STs.
 - Crimes against children, elderly persons.
 - Anti-trafficking Cell.
 - Matters relating to Prison legislation and prison Reforms.
 - All schemes under NIRBHAYA fund.
 - Crime and Criminal Tracking & Network System (CCTNS)
 - National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB)



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179554>

Flag hoisting of the largest Tricolor

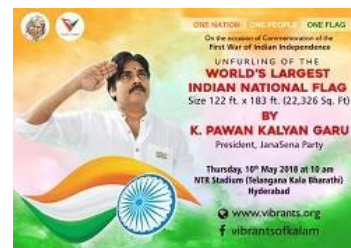
Question: In which of the following states, the flag hoisting of the largest Tricolor of India till date, was done on 10th, 2018?

(a) Gujarat (b) Karnataka (c) Uttarakhand (d) Telangana

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 10th, 2018; on the anniversary of the 1857 freedom struggle (First War of Independence) the flag hoisting of world's largest Tricolor has been done at the NTR stadium located in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- This flag hoisting has been done by Tollywood actor and Jana Sena president Pawan Kalyan, in memory of martyrs of martyrs.
- The program was organized by 'Vibrantes of Kalam'.
- 'Vibrantes of Kalam' is an institution which propagates the ideals and views of the late former president of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- The length of this flag was 183 feet and width is 122 feet.
- The role of women in the construction of this Tricolor remained also important.
- According to an official statement, 20 women had completed the sewing work within 20 days.



Reference:

<http://vibrants.org/unfurling-of-the-worlds-largest-indian-national-flag-2018-vibrants-of-kalam/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/pawan-kalyan-unfurls-largest-indian-flag/article23841823.ece>

International Buddhist Conference

Question: Where did the 'International Buddhist Conference' concluded during April 28-29, 2018?

(a) Kushinagar (b) Sarnath (c) Lumbini (d) Bodhgaya

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During 28-29 April, 2018, the 'International Buddhist Conference'-2018, completed in Lumbini, Nepal.
- This conference was organized on the occasion of the 2,562th birth centenary of Lord Buddha.
- The conference was inaugurated by Nepal's Prime Minister K.P.Sharma Oli.
- The theme of this conference – "Lumbini, Nepal: The birth place of Lord Buddha and the Fountain of Buddhism & World Peace).
- Participants from over 20 countries including India participated in this two-day conference.
- The main objective of the conference was to spread the teachings of Lord Buddha and spread the message of non-violence, brotherhood, coexistence, love and peace in the international community.



Reference:

<https://www.welcomenepal.com/whats-on/2562nd-buddha-jayanti-celebrations-and-international-buddhist-conference-2018.html>

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-19/pm-says-buddhism-originated-in-lumbini.html>

Prime Minister inaugurated Zojila Tunnel in Jammu and Srinagar

Question- On May 19th, 2018, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Zojila Tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway at an event in Jive-tsal in Leh. Its length is –

(a) 9.15 km (b) 15km (c) 14 km (d) 8.5km

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 19th, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Zojila Tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh National Highway at an event in Jive-tsal in Leh, Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 14 km long Zojila tunnel will be India's longest road tunnel and Asia's longest bidirectional tunnel.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, had approved the construction, operation and maintenance of this 2-lane bi-directional tunnel with Parallel Escape (Egress) tunnel between Baltal and Minamarg on the Srinagar-Leh section of NH-1A at a total cost of Rs 6800 crore earlier this year.
- The tunnel will bring relief to the people of this region by providing all weather connectivity. It will also cut down the time taken to cross the Zojila pass from the present 3.5 hours to just 15 minutes, besides making the drive much safer and convenient.
- The Zojila tunnel has been planned as a smart tunnel. It will have latest safety features like fully transverse ventilation system, Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS), Tunnel Emergency Lighting, CCTV Monitoring, Variable Message Signs (VMS), Traffic Logging Equipment, Over Height Vehicle Detection, Tunnel Radio System, etc.
- It will have pedestrian cross passages at every 250 meter and motorable cross passages and lay-bys at every 750 meter.
- It will have emergency telephones and fire-fighting cabinets at every 125 meter.
- The Ring Roads and Srinagar and Jammu are aimed at reducing traffic congestion at these cities and making road travel safer, faster, more convenient and more environments friendly.
- The 42.1 Km, 4 lane Srinagar Ring Road will link Galandar in West Srinagar to Sumbal. Being built at a cost of Rs 1860 crore, this road will provide a new route from Srinagar to Kargil and Leh, and reduce travel time.
- There will be a major bridge, three flyovers, 23 tunnels and 2 via-ducts on this route.
- The 58.25 km, 4-lane Jammu Ring Road, being built at a cost of Rs 2023.87 crore, will link Jagati (western Jammu) to Raya Morh.
- There will be 8 large bridges, 6 flyovers, 2 tunnels and 4 via ducts on this route.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179386>

<https://www.narendramodi.in/pm-to-visit-jammu-and-kashmir-on-may-19-2018-540127>

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/jammu-kashmir/pm-to-lay-stone-of-pakal-dul-hydel-project-today/591242.html>

Prime Minister's visit to Nepal

Question- On 11-12 May, 2018 Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a state visit to Nepal. During this visit, direct bus service was inaugurated-

(a) between Pashupatinath and Varanasi (b) between Janakpur and Ayodhya
(c) between Pashupatinath and Bodh Gaya (d) between Kathmandu and New Delhi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

- On 11-12 May, 2018, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi was on a State Visit to Nepal at the invitation of the Prime Minister of Nepal the Rt. Hon'ble K P Sharma Oli.

- Since the formation of a new government in Nepal, it was India's first high-level visit to Nepal.
- During this visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Vidya Devi Bhandari and Vice-President Nand Bahadur again.
- Marking their second bilateral Summit in 2018, the two Prime Ministers held delegation level talks on 11 May 2018.
- The two Prime Ministers recalled their meeting in New Delhi during the State visit of Prime Minister Oli in April 2018 and agreed to maintain the momentum generated by the visit by taking effective measures for the implementation of all the agreements and understandings reached in the past.
- Effective implementation of the bilateral initiatives in agriculture, railway linkages and inland waterways development were also agreed issues.
- Both they emphasized the need for regular convening of bilateral mechanisms, including Nepal-India Joint Commission at Foreign/External Affairs Ministers level, to review the overall state of bilateral relations, and for the expeditious implementation of the economic and development cooperation projects.
- They agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in power sector in line with the bilateral Power Trade Agreement.
- The two Prime Ministers jointly laid the foundation stone of 900 MW Arun-III hydro-electric projects in Nepal.
- They expressed hope that operationalization of the project would help enhance cooperation in the generation and trade of power between the two countries.
- Prime Minister Modi also visited Janakpur and Muktinath and attended civic receptions in Kathmandu and Janakpur.
- With a view to further strengthening the close religious and cultural ties between the two countries and peoples, the two Prime Ministers launched Nepal-India Ramayana Circuit connecting Janakpur, the birthplace of Sita, with Ayodhya and other sites associated with the epic Ramayana. In Janakpur, the two Prime Ministers flagged off the inaugural direct bus service between Janakpur and Ayodhya.



Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1532008>

[http://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-](http://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?29894/IndiaNepal+Joint+Statement+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+I)

[detail.htm?29894/IndiaNepal+Joint+Statement+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+India](http://mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?29894/IndiaNepal+Joint+Statement+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+India)

Haryana start up ranking

Question: How many work points and total score of 100 points with seven points of interference have been included in the startup ranking structure released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion?

(a) 34 (b) 38(c) 40(d) 45

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 30, 2018 Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar approved the proposal related to the adoption of startup ranking issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- Under this clearance, the Haryana Government will adopt the startup ranking framework issued by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (SIPP) to assess the state on key areas of intervention related to healthy startup ecosystem.
- The startup ranking framework is spread across seven areas of interventions with a total of 38 action points and overall score of 100 marks.
- Under the framework, out of 38 action points, 21 action points requires submission of supporting documents, one action point requires only stakeholder feedback and 16 action points required both components for the assessment of state star-up initiatives



- Under the State Government of Haryana, all departments have been directed to present documentary evidence to the Department of Electronic and Information Technology, regarding any initiative taken by them in respect of seven areas defined under this framework.
- It is known that last year Haryana State Government launched Entrepreneur and Start-Up Policy during the Digital Haryana Summit, 2017.

Reference:

<http://www.prharyana.gov.in/en/haryana-government-has-decided-to-adopt-startup-ranking-framework-issued-by-department-of>

6th U.S. India Aviation Summit

Question: Where was the 6th US-India Aviation Summit held between 9th-11th May, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- In collaboration with the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program and the Government of India, USTDA hosted the 6th U.S.-India Aviation Summit in Mumbai, India during 9th-11th May, 2018.
- Summit was jointly organized by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA).
- This event will convene senior representatives from the public and private sectors in both countries to identify opportunities to advance the robust aviation partnership between India and the United States.
- The two-day Summit will promote high-level dialogue on bilateral aviation issues and will provide a forum to identify solutions that support the rapid growth of India's aviation sector.
- Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the summit.
- The Summit provided a forum for representatives of Indian Civil Aviation Agencies and Aviation Industry, which identified advanced American technologies including private sector airlines and airport operators.
- The American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) is organizing this visit on behalf of USTDA.



Reference:

<https://www.ustda.gov/events/2018/south-and-southeast-asia/us-%E2%80%93-india-aviation-summit>

Naval Commander's Conference

Question: From 08 to 11 May, 2018, where will the first edition of the conference of the two Naval Commanders of 2018 be organized?

(a) Jaipur (b) Cochin (c) Bangalore (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts

- The first edition of this year's Bi-annual *Naval Commander's Conference* is scheduled from 08 to 11 May 18. During the conference, Navy will review its new *Mission-Based Deployments* philosophy aimed at ensuring peace and stability in the region.
- The new deployment philosophy, in furtherance of the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of *Security and Growth for All in the Region* (SAGAR), aims at *sustained, peaceful* and yet *responsive* presence of Indian Naval ships in critical areas and choke points.
- The Navy's focus over the past year has been on *Combat Efficiency and Materiel Readiness*, and upkeep of its large fleet of 131 ships and submarines.



- Various measures taken to improve *Combat Efficiency*, including the new *Transition Cycle* for ships for transition from *maintenance periods* through a *training phase* and thereon to *full scale operations* will be examined at the conference.
- Measures to ensure *safety, continued training, and checks and balances on crew proficiency* on-board its frontline warships will also be reviewed.
- An overhaul of the training standards of units by revamping the 'Ship Operating Standards (SHOPS)' is also underway.
- The new SHOPS, set to be unveiled shortly, focuses on *Role-based training* in realistic scenarios and sets standards to be met by units as also targets individual crew proficiency levels.
- The Navy has been at the forefront in the absorption and exploitation of cutting-edge technology.
- Naval Commanders would deliberate upon steps to improve the *Teeth-to-Tail ratio* and explore niche fields such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data Analytics.
- Harnessing cutting-edge technology, specifically those '*Made-in-India*', to improve organisational effectiveness and efficiency would be another key focus area of the Commanders.
- Indian Navy has been the flag-bearer of the indigenisation and 'Make in India' initiative.
- 27 ships and submarines are currently under construction in Indian Shipyards, including the first indigenous Aircraft carrier 'Vikrant'.
- The Navy promulgated the 'Indian Naval Indigenization Plan 2015-30' which has laid down our plans for the next fifteen years.
- This allows for Industry to formulate strategies to meet the requirements of the Navy through the new Strategic Partnership Model, notified in May 17, as well as domestic R&D.
- These initiatives, which are aimed at enhancing indigenous defence industrial capability extending up to the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), shall also be discussed.
- The Commanders would also deliberate on the optimal utilisation of the Navy's share of the defence budget through prioritizing capital acquisitions and modernization plans to bridge critical capability gaps. The four day conference would culminate on 11th
- The Naval Commander's Conference would be addressed by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri during the inaugural session followed by discussions with the officials of Ministry of Defence.

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/sitharaman-to-address-naval-commanders-conference-118050600460_1.html

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179147#>

Indian cities included in the list of 20 most polluted cities in the world

Question- According to the data released by the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) on May 2nd, 2018, how many Indian cities are included in the list of the 20 most polluted cities in the world?

(a) 10 (b) 12 (c) 14 (d) 8

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 2nd May, 2018, According to the database released by the World Health Organization (W.H.O.) 14 Indian cities are listed in the list of 20 most polluted cities in the world.
- The 14 Indian cities covered in the list are Kanpur, Faridabad, Gaya, Patna, Agra, Muzaffarpur, Srinagar, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Patiala, Lucknow, Delhi and Varanasi.
- New data from WHO shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe air containing high levels of pollutants.

- Updated estimations reveal an alarming death toll of 7 million people every year caused by ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution.
- WHO estimates that around 7 million people die every year from exposure to fine particles in polluted air that penetrate deep into the lungs and cardiovascular system, causing diseases including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases and respiratory infections, including pneumonia.
- Ambient air pollution alone caused some 4.2 million deaths in 2016, while household air pollution from cooking with polluting fuels and technologies caused an estimated 3.8 million deaths in the same period.
- More than 90% of air pollution-related deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, mainly in Asia and Africa, followed by low- and middle-income countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region, Europe and the Americas.
- Around 3 billion people – more than 40% of the world's population – still do not have access to clean cooking fuels and technologies in their homes, the main source of household air pollution.
- WHO recognizes that air pollution is a critical risk factor for non communicable diseases (NCDs), causing an estimated one-quarter (24%) of all adult deaths from heart disease, 25% from stroke, 43% from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and 29% from lung cancer.



Reference:

- <http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/02-05-2018-9-out-of-10-people-worldwide-breathe-polluted-air-but-more-countries-are-taking-action>
<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-43972155>
<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/250141/9789241511353-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

National Committee for Commemoration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

Question – Under whose chairmanship meeting of the National Committee to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was held on May 2nd, 2018 in New Delhi?

- (a) President (b) Prime Minister (c) Minister of Culture (d) Home Minister

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 2nd, 2018, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, chaired the first meeting of the National Committee for the Commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- Meeting was attended by 82 members of the Committee, including two from abroad.
- Significantly, 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi will be celebrated from October 2, 2019 to October 2, 2020.
- The Committee has a total of 125 members, including 116 from India and encompasses the President (as chair), the Vice-President, Prime Minister, Union Ministers, former Prime Ministers, Chief Ministers, senior MPs and political leaders from across party lines, and eminent Gandhians, social thinkers and activists representing a cross-section of Indian society and regional diversity.
- The Committee also has nine international members, including two former Secretaries General of the United Nations – Mr Kofi Annan and Mr Ban Ki-moon – and Nobel



laureates Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa and former US Vice-President Al Gore.

- The committee will inspect the implementation of decisions taken from time to time.
- It is notable that the central government has decided to organize programs at national and international levels to spread Mahatma Gandhi's message.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179084>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171657>

Asia Pacific Regional Training Workshop under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

Question- Where was the Asia Pacific Regional Training Workshop organized under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification during April 24-27, 2018?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During April 24-27, 2018, the Asia Pacific Regional Training Workshop was organized in New Delhi under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).
- This four-day workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Harshvardhan, Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- This Regional Workshop in India is the fourth in a series of UNCCD Workshops held around the world, with Turkey, Ethiopia and Brazil hosting the first two Workshops for their respective regions.
- India has hosted this regional training workshop for the first time.
- In this four-day Workshop (April 24-27, 2018) representatives from nearly 40 Asia-Pacific nations participated.
- During this workshop, 12 representatives of Land Degradation Prone States of India were trained.
- It is known that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification has been effective since December, 1996.
- Its secretariat is in Bonn, Germany.



Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1530019>

<http://www.uniindia.com/achieving-land-degradation-neutrality-by-2030-a-critical-need-harshvardhan/india/news/1209464.html>

<https://www2.unccd.int/news-events/first-regional-workshop-prais-reporting-takes-place-turkey>

Approval of exploration and tapping of coal bed methane

Question: Recently, under which Article of Oil Sector (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948, by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, revising Section 3 (xiii) of the notification issued on November 3, 2015, the right to discover and exploit coal bed methane provided to Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries?

(a) Article 11 (b) Article 12 (c) Article 13 (d) Article 14

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 11, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for issuing a notification amending clause 3(xiii) of the notification dated



03.11.2015 issued by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural gas under Section 12 of the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 (ORD Act, 1948).

- Due to this amendment relaxation is granted under the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules 1959 (PNG Rules, 1959), to Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries for not applying for grant of license/lease under the PNG Rules, 1959 for extraction of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) under their Coal Bearing Areas.
- The decision is in line with the Government's initiatives of 'Ease of Doing Business'.
- It will expedite the exploration and exploitation of CBM, enhance the availability of natural gas and reduce the gap in demand and supply of natural gas.
- The increased development activities for exploration and exploitation of CBM gas reserves in-and-around the block will generate economic activities which in turn has potential to create employment opportunities in CBM operations and in the industries.
- Government of India has earlier issued a notification on 03.11:2015 granting rights to CIL and its subsidiaries for exploration and exploitation of CBM from all coal bearing areas for which they possess mining lease for coal. Clause 3(vi) of the Notification provides that the "Lessee shall submit application under the P&NG Rules 1959 for grant of Mining Lease (ML) for CBM to MoP&NG along with detailed recommendations of Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL)."

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178584>

9th India-Japan Energy Dialogue

Question: Recently the 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue was held in New Delhi. At which of the following places 8th dialogue was held on January 12th, 2016?

(a) New Delhi (b) Tokyo (c) Fukuyama (d) Pune

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 1st, 2018, the 9th India Japan Energy Dialogue was held in New Delhi.
- Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K Singh, and Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) Mr. Hiroshige Seko signed a Joint Statement at the conclusion of the meeting.
- Both Japan and India, as the third and the seventh largest economies respectively, recognized that having access to reliable, clean and economical energy is critical for their economic growth.
- Further strengthening of bilateral energy cooperation for energy development of both countries, while also contributing to worldwide energy security, energy access and climate change issues will be made to achieve this.
- Both countries with a view to implement Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the aegis of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) recognized the importance of development and deployment of next generation technologies including hydrogen to realize de-carbonization.
- Both countries appreciated the relevance of the grid stability given the high penetration of variable renewable energy. Both countries agreed to initiate the discussion towards development of Electric Vehicles (EVs) by collaborating with "Policy dialogue on next generation/Zero emission vehicles".
- Both India and Japan reiterated the continued importance of coal-based electricity generation in the energy mix in both the countries and also agreed to promote the cooperation on environmental measures for coal-fired power plants.
- The two countries further confirmed their commitment to work together in promoting well-functioning energy markets and affirmed to promote transparent and diversified Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) market through the relaxation of destination clause.



- 8th India-Japan Energy Dialogue was held in Tokyo on January 12th, 2016.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179030>

International

Mission Innovation Ministerial-2018

Question-During 22-23 May, 2018 where was the ‘Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting held?

(a) Cuba(b) Sweden(c) Switzerland(d) Norway

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 22-23 May, 2018, the ‘Mission Innovation Ministerial Meeting’ was held in Malmo Sweden.
- Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science and Technology, Earth Science, Environment, Forest and Climate Change, led the Indian delegation in this meeting.
- Mission Innovation is a global platform of 23 countries and the European Union, which is designed to accelerate clean energy innovation through more government assistance, large public private sector involvement and more global cooperation.
- India is the founder member of this forum and partner of the Steering Committee.
- India is also jointly leading role in the field of innovation challenges in smart grid, off grid and long term organic fuels.
- Harsh Vardhan has demonstrated the commitment of partnership, with Mission Innovation countries, by India in the field of clean energy by research development and exhibition.
- Along with participating in the Ministerial Meeting of Mission Innovation, Dr. Harshvardhan also held a bilateral meeting with Ministers of Denmark, Sweden, Canada and the European Union.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179427>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=72309>

Asia Power Index-2018

Question- Which position India has got in 2018, Asia Power Index released by Sydney-based think tank Lowy Institute?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- In May 2018 Asia Power Index -2018 was released by Sydney based Think Tank “Lowy Institute”. Asia Power Index provides 25 countries in Asia-Pacific region to rank in their overall strength. According to this index, the strength of any country is assessed under 8 criteria as under:
 - (i) Economic Resources
 - (ii) Diplomatic Influence
 - (iii) Military Capacity
 - (iv) Economic Relations



- (v) Resilience
- (vi) Defense Networks
- (vii) Future Trends
- (viii) Cultural Influence

America is at top position in the Asia Power Index (Score-85.0).

- America is followed by China (Score-75.5) second place, Japan (score -42.1) third place.
- India has fourth place (score-41.5) in this index.
- India is at fourth position in terms of economic resources, military capability and diplomatic influence.
- While the fifth in flexibility, the third in the future trends, the seventh in terms of economic relations, the tenth in the defense network and third place in the cultural influence.
- Russia, Australia, South Korea and Singapore are ranked fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth in this index respectively.
- Pakistan 14th in neighboring countries of Bangladesh, Bangladesh at 18th, Sri Lanka with Myanmar jointly at 20th and Nepal is at 25th place.

Reference:

<https://power.lowyinstitute.org/>

5th India-CLMV Business Conclave-2018

Question- Where was the '5th India-CLMV Business Conclave' organized during May 21-22 2018?

- (a) Phnom Penh(b) New Delhi(c) Mumbai(d) Bangkok

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- During 21-22 May, 2018, the '5th India CLMV Business Conclave' was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- The conference of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, along with the Ministry of Commerce of Cambodia organized this conference.
- In this program, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is an institutional partner.
- The inaugural session of the conference was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia.
- In this, Suresh Prabhu, the Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Government of India, led the Indian delegation.
- On this occasion, Commerce and Trade Minister of Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Lao PDR or Laos were also present.
- About 400 ministerial and business representatives from India, Cambodia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Laos joined the inaugural program.
- In this program, along with Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu, business delegation led by Dr. Naushad Forbes, President of Indian Industry Federation and other well-known businessmen and heads of Indian industries also participated.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179525>

71st edition of Cannes Film Festival

Question: Who was the recipient of the Best Picture Award (PALME D'OR) at the 71st Cannes Film Festival?

- (a) Lovelace(b) The Square(c) Manbiki Kazoku (Shoplifts)(d) In the Fed

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The 71st annual Cannes Film Festival was held from 8 to 19 May 2018.
- Australian actress Cate Blanchett acted as President of the Jury.^[3] The Japanese film *Shoplifters*, directed by Hirokazu Kore-eda, won the Palme d'Or.
- Festival was launched from Ashghar Farhadi's psychological thriller 'Everybody Knows'.
- The Festival was concluded with the film 'The Man Who Killed Don Quixote'.
- Some of the major awards presented in the Festival are:
 - Grand Prix- 'Black Klansman' (Black Klansman) Director-Spike Lee.
 - Juri Prize- 'Capharnaum' Director-Nadine Labaki.
 - Best Director-Pawel Pawli Kowski Film-Cold War.
 - Best Actor – Marcello Fonte, Film-Dogman
 - Best Actress – Samal Yeslyamova, Film – Ayka
 - Best Short Film (PALME D'OR) – 'All these creatures', director-Charles Williams
 - Best budding director (CAMERA D'OR) – Lukas Dhont, Film-graphic 'GIRL'.
- At the festival, late actress Sridevi was given the *TITAN Reginald F Lewis Film Icon Award*.
- It was received by filmmaker Subhash Ghai and producer Namrata Goyal on behalf of his family.



Reference:

<https://www.festival-cannes.com/en/infos-communiqués/communiqué/articles/71st-festival-de-cannes-awards>

International Conference on the Trips-CBD Linkage-2018

Question: Where will the international conference be held on the Trips-CBD Linkage during June 7-8, 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The International Conference on the TRIPS-CBD Linkage will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, during June 7-8, 2018.
- It will be organized by the Government of India in collaboration with the WTO Learning Center, the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade and the South Center (an inter-governmental organization located in Geneva).
- In this conference, resource persons, stakeholders and experts from many countries including Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Peru, Philippines, New Zealand, South Africa, Switzerland and the US will participate.
- It is significant that the CBD on Biological Diversity is a multilateral agreement on the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of continuous development and the use of genetic resources.
- Trips-CBD combination is very important for India and other developing countries because it will solve the problem of bio-piracy.
- In this way, India is leading the campaign to resume WTO discussions on issues related to the prevention piracy of traditional knowledge.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179635>

New Prime Minister of Malaysia

Question: Who amongst the given sworn in as the new Prime Minister of Malaysia on May 10th, 2018?

(a) Abdul Razak (b) Najib Razak (c) Mahathir Mohamed (d) Nashid Mohammad

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 10th, 2018, Mahathir Mohammed sworn in as the 7th Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- With this, he became the head of government of any country at 92 years of age.
- He became the Prime Minister of Malaysia for the second time.
- Prior to this, he has remained as the fourth Prime Minister of the country from 1981-2003.
- On this post, he replaced Najib Razak.



Reference:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-malaysia-election/malaysian-leader-mahathir-wont-be-sworn-in-as-prime-minister-on-thursday-idUSKBN11B03S>

List of World's Most Powerful People-2018

Question: Who has been ranked top in the latest list of World's Most Powerful People released by Forbes on May 8th, 2018?

(a) Angela Merkel(b) Xi Jinping(c) Donald Trump(d) Vladimir Putin

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 8th, 2018, the famous American magazine 'Forbes' released the list of the World's Most Powerful People, 2018.
- A total of 75 persons have been included in this list.
- This is the tenth edition of this important list released for the first time in 2009.
- China's President Xi Jinping topped the in the list.
- Russian President Vladimir Putin has been ranked second in the list for the past four years.
- After this, US President Donald Trump was third, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel was fourth and Amazon's Chief Jeff Bezos ranked fifth.
- India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked ninth in the list of the world's most powerful people.
- Another Indian Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 32nd in the list.
- Satyam Nadella, CEO of Microsoft CEO Indian origin, has been ranked 40th in the list.
- Other prominent personalities included in the list include Pope Francis 6th, Bill Gates 7th, French President Emmanuel Macron 12th, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg 13th, British Prime Minister Theresa 14th, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang 15th and Apple CEO Tim Cook remained at 24th
- Forbes said about 7.5 billion people live in the world, but these 75 men and women have worked to change the world.
- Forbes identifies one person per 100 million people for the annual ranking of the world's most powerful people, whose work is the most important.
- Prince Mohammed bin Salman al-Saud, the youngest person in the list, remained at 8th



Reference:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidewalt/2018/05/08/the-worlds-most-powerful-people-2018/#580785bb6c47>

India-China Informal Summit

Question: Where was the Indo-China informal summit held during 27th-28th April, 2018?

(a) New Delhi(b) Shanghai(c) Peiching(d) Wuhan

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- During 27-28 April, 2018, the 'India-China Informal Summit' was organized in Wuhan, China.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India in this conference. While China was represented by President Xi Jinping.
- The two leaders discussed in detail the views on important issues of bilateral and international importance and their priorities and perspectives for the national development of their respective countries in the context of the current international scenario.
- They jointly believed that a peaceful, stable and balanced relationship between India and China would prove to be a positive factor among the current global uncertainty.
- They also agreed that proper management of bilateral relations would be conducive to regional development and stability and prepare favorable conditions for the construction of Asia's century.
- Both leaders stressed the importance of maintaining peace in all parts of the Indo-China border region in the wider interest of bilateral relations.
- To achieve this, they gave strategic guidance to their armies to develop beliefs and mutual understanding and to predict and manage the matters related to border affairs.
- They also discussed ways and means to encourage close cultural contacts among people.



Reference:

http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29853/IndiaChina_Informal_Summit_at_Wuhan

15th Asia Media Summit-2018

Question: Where was the 15th Asia Media Summit (AMS) organized during May 10th-12th, 2018?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 10th-12th, 2018, the 15th Asia Media Summit, 2018 was organized in New Delhi.
- It was organized under the joint participation by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting through Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) and Broadcast Engineering Consultants India Limited.
- This was a prestigious summit for the Asia-Pacific region of Asia-Pacific Institute of Broadcasting Development (AIBD) located in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).
- For the first time it was organized in India.
- The theme of the summit was "Telling our stories-Asia and More".
- In the summit Participants represented organizations like Ministries responsible for Information and Broadcasting in the Asian region, International Organizations UNESCO, FAO, UN; Regulators; Radio and Television broadcasting companies both national/ public and private broadcasters; Television channels and networks, Institutes/Academies of Communication, Media Research; Community Radio groups; Press and Media, and broadcast equipment manufacturers..
- 200 foreign representatives from 39 countries participated in the summit.
- Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, present the World Television Award in the conclusion of the conference.
- The next event of this Summit is proposed in the Philippines.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179167>

Climate summit-2019

Question- Where will the climate summit be organized in September, 2019?

(a) Cancun(b) London(c) New York(d) Paris

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On May 8th, 2018, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the Climate Summit to be held in New York (USA) in September 2019 to review the commitments of the 2015 Paris Agreement.
- He announced this at the 37th session of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.
- It is significant that in March 2018, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg as special envoy for climate action.
- From which he can support the United Nations in its climate strategy and to organize the 2019 summit.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/un-chief-announces-climate-summit-for-september-2019-118050900152_1.html

CHOGM- 2018

Question: Where was the meeting of Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM), 2018 concluded during April 19-20, 2018?

(a) Malta(b) London(c) Vanuatu(d) Rwanda

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During April 19-20, 2018, the meeting of the 25th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting 'CHOGM-2018' concluded in London, (UK).
- The theme of this conference was 'Towards a Common Future'.
- Discussions on topics like global climate change, terrorism and refugee problems were discussed at the summit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi represented India at this Commonwealth summit.
- The British Prime Minister Theresa May presided over the conference.
- It was the first Commonwealth summit after the United Kingdom was separated from the European Union.
- It is known that the foundation of 53-member Commonwealth was based on the colonial theory.
- In the 19th century, British colonies were spread over many continents.
- Since the early 19th century, the demands of Dominion States began to rise in these colonies.
- Canada (1867), Australia (1901), New Zealand (1907), South Africa (1910) and Ireland (1921) gradually gained Dominion Status status.
- In 1887 a conference of Prime Ministers of Britain and Dominion States was organized.
- After this, the Imperial Conference was organized in the year 1926, in which 'Balfour Report' was approved.
- These Dominion States were considered equivalent to Britain.
- But to respect the British Crown was the mandatory condition of this group.
- In the 1940s, many nations became independent from British rule, in which India was also one.



- Though India accepted to be a member of the Commonwealth but did not accept the allegiance of the British Empress.
- India declared itself a republic and refused to accept the queen as the head of state.
- In the conference of Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth countries in 1949, it was accepted that India could be a member of the Commonwealth, despite being a republic.
- The British Empress was now regarded as the symbol of the group of independent nations.
- With this change many nations became members of the Commonwealth and British Commonwealth became the Commonwealth of Independent Nations.
- 26th CHOGM is proposed in 2020 at Rwanda.

Reference:

<http://thecommonwealth.org/chogm>

Amnesty International Report on Death Penalty, 2017

Question: According to the report released on the death penalty by the London-based International Human Rights Organization “Amnesty International”, the highest death penalty was awarded in China in the year 2017. Which of the given countries is at the second place is-

(a) Iraq(b) Saudi Arabia(c) Iran(d) Pakistan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018, the report on death penalty The Death Penalty in 2017: Facts and Figures was released by Amnesty International, a London-based international human rights watchdog.
- According to the report, highest death penalty in the year 2017 has been awarded by the China.
- This was followed by hanging in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan respectively.
- Except China, 84 percent of the death penalty was given in these four countries i.e. Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan.
- According to this in 2017, 993 people were awarded death sentence in 23 countries.
- This shows a 4 percent decrease in the death sentence awarded in the year 2016.
- In year 2016, 1032 people were sentenced to death in 23 countries.
- While there has been a decrease of 39 percent on the global scale since 2015, (When the organization reported the highest conviction for hanging 1634 people since 1989)
- There is no figure of China in this, which keeps it confidential.
- Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait and United Arab Emirates (UAE) resumed the death penalty in 2017.
- In the year 2017, two countries – Guinea and Mongolia abolished the death penalty for all crimes in the law.
- At the end of the year 2017, 106 countries (most of the world’s states) had abolished the death penalty for all crimes and 142 countries (more than two-thirds) ended the death sentence in law or practice.



Reference:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/04/death-penalty-facts-and-figures-2017/>

World Robot Conference, 2018

Question: At which of the following places the ‘World Robot Conference’ will be organized between August 15th-19th, 2018?

(a) New York(b) Berlin(c) Beijing(d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During 15th-19th August, 2018, World Robot Conference Will be organized in Beijing, China.
- This conference will promote innovation and research and development in the robot industry.
- More than 12,000 teams and 50,000 participants from more than 10 countries and regions is expected to participate in the conference.
- During the conference, a robot competition will be organized.



Reference:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-05/08/c_137164343.htm

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index-2018

Question: What position has India got in the 'Foreign Direct Investment Trust Index, 2018' issued by Global Consulting firm AT Kearney in May 2018?

(a) 10th(b) 9th(c) 11th(d) 8th

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In May 2018, global consulting firm A.T. Kearney released the 'Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index', 2018.
- This index contains 25 countries / economies.
- This index has been assessed by the positive mean of high, middle and low reaction on the probability of foreign direct investment in the coming three years in the context of a particular country.
- United States of America (6th times) has gained the top spot in this index. Its score is 2.09.
- Canada after this (score -1.82) second, Germany (scores -1.81), United Kingdom (score -1.77), fourth and China (score 1.76) are in fifth position.
- While Japan, France, Australia, Switzerland, Italy remained sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth place respectively
- India has been ranked at 11th this Foreign Direct Investment Trust Index.
- Last year India was ranked 8th in this index with a score -1.56.
- Brazil ranked 25th in the list this year.



Reference:

<https://www.atkearney.com/foreign-direct-investment-confidence-index/full-report>

51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank

Question: At which of the following places 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) was organized from 3rd-6th May, 2018?

(a) Tokyo(b) Dhaka(c) Manila(d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

related Facts:

- From 3rd-6th May, 2018, 51st Annual Meeting of Asian Development Bank Annual Meeting was organized in Manila, Philippines.
- In this meeting, Indian delegation was headed by Shri Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- The Secretary, DEA today held Bilateral Meeting with the Premier of Niue, Sir Toke Talagi on the sidelines of the 51stAnnual Meeting of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila.
- The Premier of Niue sought India's support for its bid for membership of ADB.
- The Indian delegation also held bilateral meetings with the official delegations of NORDIC countries, OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID),



French, British, US and EIB delegations. A wide range of bilateral issues were discussed during these meetings.

- Various types of bilateral issues were discussed during these meetings.
- Independence that ADB was established on December 19, 1966 to facilitate the economic development of Asian countries.
- Its headquartered is in Manila (Philippines).

Reference:

<https://www.adb.org/news/delegates-gather-manila-philippines-adbs-51st-annual-meeting>
<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1531215>

Economics

Mangalore Strategic Petroleum Reserve

Question- Recently, from which country did India receive the first crude oil cargo to fill two strategic petroleum reserves (SPR)(Cavern) made by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited in Mangalore?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 21, 2018, India received the first cargo of crude oil from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to fill one of the two strategic petroleum reserves (Caverns) made in Mangalore by Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited (ISPRL).
- Prior to this, on May 12, 2018, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Minister (State) of United Arab Emirates and CEO of ADNOC Group of Abu Dhabi Dr. Sultan Al-Jaber, launched the process of filling of 2 million barrels of crude oil 'MT Inspiration' a cargo ship for crude oil.
- This crude oil carrier ship was of the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).
- During the UAE visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in February, 2018, the agreement was signed between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).
- Under this agreement, ADNOC will store roughly 5.86 million barrels of crude oil on its own expenditure in India's Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) unit located at Mangalore.
- Apart from 2 million barrels of crude oil, crude oil will be supplied by ADNOC for filling Mangalore Cavern in the second half of this year.
- This is for the first time when crude oil is being supplied by a private foreign company to the Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
- It is known that the Government of India has constructed crude oil storage with the total capacity of 5.33 million tonnes (approximately 39 million barrels) in three places viz. Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Pudur in the first phase of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) program.
- United Arab Emirates is the sixth largest source of crude oil for India and supplies about 6 percent of the total petroleum requirement.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179441>

World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Mid-term 2018

Question: According to the recent report released by the UN, the World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) Mid-term 2018, what percentage of India's GDP growth is expected to be in 2018-19?

(a) 7.6 percent(b) 7.0 percent(c) 7.2 percent(d) 8.2 percent

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 17th, 2018, the United Nations published the mid-term update report of 'World Economic Situation and Prospects' (WESP) -2018.
- According to this report, the estimated GDP of India is expected to remain 7.6 percent in 2018-19.
- While it is estimated to be 7.5 percent in 2017-18.
- It has been said in the report that due to the increase in private consumption and reforms made in the past, India's growth rate will continue to rise, but the challenge of recovery in private investment can continue.
- According to the report, the Indian economy confirms the best recovery.
- In the last financial year, India's growth rate was 6.7 percent.
- According to the report, India's growth rate among the major economies will be faster.
- China's growth rate is expected to be 6.9 percent in 2017 and 6.5 percent in 2018.
- In the report, the growth rate of the global economy in the year 2018-19 is 3.2 percent.
- In 2019 China's GDP growth is forecast to be 6.3 percent.



Reference:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/publications/world-economic-situation-and-prospects-as-of-mid-2018.html>

Global Report on remittances

Question On April 23, 2018 according to the World Bank, which country is the top in terms of global remittances in the year 2017?

(a) China (b) Philippines (c) India (d) Russia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- According to the figures released by the World Bank on April 23, 2018, India is on top of the world in terms of remittance in 2017.
- According to the World Bank, a total of \$ 69 billion was sent (remittance) to India in 2017 by the Indian community living abroad.
- It is 9.9 percent more than the previous year and less than the \$ 70.4 billion remittance received in 2014.
- India received \$ 68.91 billion in 2015, which fell to \$ 62.74 billion in 2016.
- Among the countries receiving the highest amount of remittance after India, China (\$ 64 billion), Philippines (\$ 33 billion), Mexico (\$ 31 billion), Nigeria (\$ 22 billion), Egypt (20 billion dollars)
- According to the World Bank, officially low and middle income countries received a \$ 466 billion remittance in 2017.
- It is 8.5 percent higher than the \$ 429 billion of the year 2016.
- At the global level, remittances rose 7 percent to \$ 613 billion in 2017, which was \$ 573 billion in 2016.
- According to the report, remittances of low and middle income countries are expected to reach 485 billion dollars with 4.1 percent increase in 2018.
- At the global level, it will rise to \$ 642 billion by increasing 4.6 percent.



Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/04/23/record-high-remittances-to-low-and-middle-income-countries-in-2017>

15th Finance Commission constituted an Advisory Council

Question- Recently, the 15th Finance Commission formed an Advisory Council under whose chairmanship to advise and assist the Commission?

(a) Surjit S. Bhalla (b) Arvind Virmani (c) Sanjeev Gupta (d) Sajjid Chinoy

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On May 9, 2018, the 15th Finance Commission has constituted an Advisory Council to advise and assist the Commission.
- The role and functions of the Advisory Council will be:
- To advise the Commission on any issue or subject related to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Commission, which may be of relevance;
- To assist in the preparation of any paper or research study which would enhance the Commission's understanding on the issues containing in its ToR; and
- To help in broadening the Commission's ambit and understanding to seek best national and international practices on matters pertaining to fiscal devolution and improving the quality and reach and enforcement of its recommendations.
- Advisory Council will have following members:
- Arvind Virmani, President, Forum for Strategic Initiatives
- Surjit S. Bhalla, Part-time Member of PMEAC and Sr. Indian Analyst for the Observatory Group and Chairman of Oxus Research and Investments
- Sanjeev Gupta, Ex-Deputy Director (Fiscal Affairs Department), IMF
- Pinaki Chakraborty, Professor (NIPFP)
- Shri Sajjid Chinoy, Chief India Economist, JP Morgan
- Shri Neelkanth Mishra, Managing Director and the Credit Suisse India Economist and Strategist



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179187>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

Nipah virus infection in India

Question- What is true in regard to the Nipah Virus Infection?

- (a) For the first time in India, this infection has been confirmed in Kerala in 2018.
(b) NiV was first identified in Bangladesh.
(c) Nipah Virus has also Human-to-human transmission.
(d) Pigs are the natural host of the virus.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In May, 2018, the official confirmation of the infection of Nipah Virus (NiV) in the southern state of India was confirmed in Kerala.
- This infection is hazardous; many people have been infected so far.
- This virus has been confirmed in Kozhikode district of Kerala.
- The Union Health Ministry has issued a consultation letter to stop and avoid infection in many states of the country, declaring a high alert.
- Nipah Virus or NiV is deadly for both animals and humans.



- This infection is mainly spread in mouths and other animals with false fruit eaten in infected bats.
- Nipah virus infection in humans causes a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection (subclinical) to acute respiratory infection and fatal encephalitis.
- The natural host of the virus is fruit bats of the Pteropodidae Family, Pteropus genus.
- When the fruit infected with Nipah Virus, when any fruit eats and the same fruit consumes any animal, that animal also falls under the disease.
- It is spread mainly in animals with pigs and dogs in animals.
- If an infected bat falls on any fruit and a person consumes it without washing it can also fall into the Nipah.
- **Nipah virus in India-**
- Nipah virus in India is not the first time in India.
- Earlier, many people were killed in this West Bengal infection twice by this virus.
- For the first time, in Siliguri in 2001 and for the second time in 2007, this virus was spread in Nadia district.
- **NiV infection-**
- Nipah virus (NiV) infection is a newly emerging zoonosis that causes severe disease in both animals and humans.
- NiV was first identified during an outbreak of disease that took place in Kampung Sungai Nipah, Malaysia in 1998.
- On this occasion, pigs were the intermediate hosts. However, in subsequent NiV outbreaks, there were no intermediate hosts.
- In Bangladesh in 2004, humans became infected with NiV as a result of consuming date palm sap that had been contaminated by infected fruit bats.
- Human-to-human transmission has also been documented, including in a hospital setting in India.
- NiV infection in humans has a range of clinical presentations, from asymptomatic infection to acute respiratory syndrome and fatal encephalitis.
- NiV is also capable of causing disease in pigs and other domestic animals.
- There is no treatment or vaccine available for either people or animals. The primary treatment for humans is supportive care.

Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-44193145>

Brahmos Cruise Missile Successfully Tested

Question- Brahmos Cruise Missile was successfully tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha coast on May 21, 2018. It was tested-

- (a) To extend its service period (b) To reduce its service period (c) To end its service period (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 21, 2018; the Brahmos cruise missile was successfully tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha.
- This test was done to increase its service period.
- With the test this missile moved on the determined path and its devices worked completely.
- The world's fastest supersonic cruise missile 'Brahmos' has fire power of 450 km.
- This missile is able to shoot at speeds of 2.5 to 3.0 Mac.
- It can be fired from all the places land, wind and warships.
- It was developed by the BrahMos Aerospace, joint venture of Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) of India and the NPO Mashinostro yeniya of Russia.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179444>

Digital Platform FIEO GlobalLinker

Question: Recently Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the FIEO GlobalLinker- a digital platform for-

- (a) For Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Exporters
- (b) For Importers of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (c) For large enterprise exporters(d) For large enterprise importers

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 17, 2018, the Minister of Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu launched the FIEO GlobalLinker- a digital platform for MSME exporters to digitise their businesses and join a global community of growing businesses in New Delhi.
- He congratulated Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) for coming out with the interesting idea.
- This initiative will help in expanding India's multi-focused export strategy and also aid in connecting art and artisans to the market.
- At least 300 Geographical Indications will be registered very soon, which will give a major boost to exports.
- FIEO GlobalLinker is setup with a view to make the business growth of SMEs simpler, more profitable and enjoyable.
- It is a growing global network currently comprising over 140,000 SME firms, who are seeking business collaboration and growth opportunities through the use of their electronic business card and digital profiles created on the platform.
- FIEO is available free of cost and it offers exporters a range of features and benefits like:
- Business Opportunities: Exporters will be able to find clients, suppliers and advisors using the search and review facilities. Creating a free e-commerce store for direct sales and improved chain management.
- Up-to-date Business Knowledge through business articles, industry news and common interest groups.
- Improved Efficiencies: Platform provides services like company intranet, integrating email, a business calendar.
- FIEO's Services: Application for new RCMC/endorsement/renewal/participation in FIEO's promotional programme and alerts.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178720>

Successful transplant of penis and scrotum

Question: Which country's doctors successfully transplanted the penis and scrotum for the first time in the world?

- (a) China(b) Germany(c) America(d) Russia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In the US, doctors successfully transplanted the penis and scrotum for the first time in the world.
- This transplant was done, at Johns Hopkins hospital in the US, for a soldier who was injured in Afghanistan.
- On March 26th, 2018, 11 surgeons team transplanted the scrotum and penis of the injured soldier in the 14-hour period.
- The soldier was wounded in an explosion in a device in Afghanistan.
- The team of doctors done the transplant of the entire penis of the soldier, which is the first transplant in the world so far.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/worlds-first-complete-penis-and-scrotum-transplant-done-in-the-us/article23669678.ece>

Fengyun-II 09 satellite

Question: According to China Aerospace Science and Technology in April-2018, China will launch the satellite Fengyun-II09 in the first half of this year. Which among the given is not true about this satellite?

- (a) This is a weather satellite. (b) This satellite is the fifth in the Fengyun-II series.
(c) It will be launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province, Southwest China.
(d) Fengyun Satellite is a series of remote sensing weather satellites developed by China.

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- According to information made available China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation on April 16th, 2018, China will launch a new Weather Satellite Fengyun-II09 satellite in the first half of this year.
- Fengyun-II09 satellite is the last in the Fengyun-II series.
- To help weather forecast in China and neighboring countries, it will collect meteorological and hydrological data.
- This satellite will be launched from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center located in Sichuan province of southwest China.
- Fengyun Satellite is a series of remote sensing weather satellites developed by China.
- Fengyun-I and Fengyun-III are the weather satellites established in the stationary orbit, whereas Fengyun-II and Fengyun-IV work in the geo-stationary orbit.



Reference:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/china-to-launch-new-weather-satellite-fengyun-ii-09/1134622/>

Joint Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) Surveillance of Maldives

Question: Recently, Indian Naval (IN) ship Sumedha, a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV), has been deployed to undertake joint EEZ surveillance of Maldives. Which of the given is not true in regards to this?

- (a) The vessel will be deployed from 9th-17th May, 2018
(b) This vessel has been deployed to monitor the Special Economic Zone (EEZ) of Maldives.
(c) This deployment has been done as a part of Navy's 'mission based deployment'.
(d) From 11th-17th May 2018, this vessel will monitor the Maldives's Special Economic Zone with the Maldives's National Defense Forces (MNDF).

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- From 09th to 17th May 2018, Indian Naval Ship Sumedha, a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (NOPV), has been deployed to undertake joint EEZ surveillance of Maldives.
- This deployment has been done as part of Indian Navy's 'Mission Based Deployments'.
- The ship would undertake an Operational Turnaround (OTR) at Male from 11 to 12 May 2018.
- During which the ship would interact and impart training to Maldives' National Defence Forces (MNDF) personnel.
- Sumedha would also embark MNDF personnel onboard and undertake joint EEZ surveillance of Maldives from 12 to 15 May 2018.



- The MNDF personnel would be disembarked at Male, on completion of the EEZ surveillance.
- Two officers and eight sailors of the Indian Navy's Marine Commando (MARCO) cadre are currently conducting the 2nd Asymmetric Warfare Training Exercise 'Ekatha 2018' at Maldives, from 28 Apr to 15 May 2018.
- The exercise is being held at Composite Training Centre, Maafilhafushi, which is about 145 km North of Male.
- During the exercise training on various diving related issues including use and maintenance of diving equipment, medical emergencies, etc, are being imparted to MNDF personnel.
- The Indian Ambassador to Maldives also witnessed the training exercise on 06 and 07 May 2018.
- IN ship Sumedha would de-induct the IN MARCOs Training Team from Male on 15 May 2018.
- The Joint EEZ surveillance of Maldives is an endeavor of the Government of India and the Indian Navy to ensure the safety and security of the vast EEZ of the island nation.

Reference:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/joint-exclusive-economic-zone-surveillance-maldives#>

Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI 2018

Question: From April 30 to May 13, 2018 between which of the given pair of countries, military Exercise HARIMAU SHAKTI-2018 will be conducted?

- (a) India-Sri Lanka (b) India-Malaysia (c) India-Bangladesh
(d) India-Japan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During April 30 to May 13, 2018; a joint training exercise 'HARIMAU SHAKTI- 2018 will be conducted as a part of India-Malaysia defense cooperation, in the dense forest of Sengai Perdik, located in Hulu Langat of Malaysia.
- The objective of this exercise is to increase mutual cooperation and coordination between the two countries' armies and to share expertise in the operation of chaos prevention proceedings in dense forests.
- Indian contingent is being represented by one of the oldest infantry battalions, 4 GRENADIERS having rich operational experience in conventional as well as counter insurgency warfare.
- The Malaysian contingent is being represented by soldiers from 1 Royal Ranjer Regiment and the Royal Malay Regiment, known for their experience in Jungle Warfare.
- This is the first instance wherein a joint training exercise of this magnitude involving Indian and Malaysian soldiers is being organized on Malaysian soil.
- The exercise will involve a cross training phase followed by a field training phase of seven days in the jungles of Hulu Langat wherein both armies will jointly train, plan and execute a series of training activities.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178921>

Sports

Tennis

Rome Masters Tennis Tournament-2018

Question: Who won the men's singles title of the recently concluded Rome Masters Tennis Tournament-2018?

(a) Roger Federer(b) Rafael Nadal(c) Alexander Zverev(d) Juan Sebastian

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Rome Masters Tennis Tournament-2018 concluded in Rome, Italy (May 13-20, 2018).
- This competition is also known as the Italian Open.
- **Competition Results:-**
- **Men's Singles:-**
- Winner-Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- Runner-up Alexander Zverev(Germany)
- **Women's Singles:-**
- Winner-Elina Svitolina (Ukraine)
- Runner-up Simona Halep (Romania)
- **Men's Doubles:-**
- Winner-Juan Sebastian and Robert Farah (both Columbia)
- Runner-up- *Pablo Carreno Busta*(Spain) and *Joao Sousa* (Portugal)
- **Women's Doubles:-**
- Winner- Ashleigh Barty (Australia) and Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)
- Runner-up- Andrea Sestini Hlavackova and Barbora Strycova (both Czech Republic)
- Nadal won the Rome Masters title for the 8th time.



Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/rome/416/2018/results?matchType=doublesb>
<http://www.internazionalibnlditalia.com/en/news-2/d/archive/>

Estoril Open, 2018

Question: Who amongst the following won the title of the recently concluded Estoril Open, 2018 Tennis Tournament?

(a) Rasmus Gamke(b) Mark Kaluzov(c) Joao Sausa(d) Alexander Zvereva

Answer :-(c)

Related Facts:

- ATP World Tour 250 Series Tennis Tournament Estoril Open, 2018 (Fourth Edition) concluded in Cascais, Portugal (30 April-6 May, 2018)
- Competition Results-
- Men's Singles:
winner-Joao Sousa (Portugal)
Runner Up: Frances Tiafoe (America)
- Men's Doubles:
Winner: Kyle Edmund and Cameron Norrie (both UK)
Runner Up: Wesley Koolhof (Netherlands) and Artem Sitak (New Zealand)



Reference:

<http://millenniumestorilopen.com/en/draws/>

Stuttgart Open, 2018

Question: Who won the women's singles title of the Stuttgart Open, 2018 Tennis Tournament, concluded in April 2018?

(a) Raquel Atawo (b) Nicole Melichar (c) Karolina Pliskova (d) Naomi Osaka

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The 41st edition of tennis competition Stuttgart Open, 2018 (Porsche Tennis Grand Prix) 2018) concluded in Germany, (April 22-29, 2018)
- **The competition results as follows-**
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
- Runner Up-Coco Vandeweghe (US)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner-Raquel Atawo (America) and Groenefeld Anna-Lena (Germany)
- Runner Up- Nicole Melichar (America) and Kveta Peschke (Czech Republic)



Reference:

<https://www.porsche-tennis.de/prod/pag/tennis.nsf/web/english-2018-single>

<https://www.porsche-tennis.de/prod/pag/tennis.nsf/web/english-2018-double>

Kunming Open, 2018

Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded Kunming Open, 2018 Tennis Contest men's singles title?

(a) Muhammad Safwan (b) Prajnesh Gunneswaran (c) Zhang Ze (d) Lloyd Harris

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- ATP Challenger Tour (7th edition) Tennis Competition "Kunming Open, 2018" concluded in Anning, China. (April 23-29, 2018)
- WTA Tour Competition Kunming Open, completed in 2018 Anning, China (April 30, 2018-5, May 2018)
- **The result of this competition was:**
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner- Prajnesh Gunneswaran (India)
- Runner-up- Muhammad Safwan (Egypt)
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Irina Khromacheva (Russia)
- Runner-up Zheng Saisai (China)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Aliaksandar Bury (Belarus) and Lloyd Harris (South Africa)
- Runner-up Mao-Xin Gong and Zhang Ze (both China)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner- Dalila Jakupovic and Irina Khromacheva (both Russia)
- Runner up- Guo Hanyu and Sun Xuliu (both China)
- This is the first title won by Prajnesh Gunneswaran in the ATP Challenger Circuit.



Reference:

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/anning/6572/2018/results?matchType=singles>

Ladies Open Lugano, 2018

Question: Who won the title of Ladies Open Lugano, the 2018 Women's Tennis Competition recently?

(a) Kristina Mladenovic(b) Vera Lapko(c) Elise Mertens(d) Kristen Flipkens

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- 2018 WTA Session's women's tennis competition, Ladies Open Lugano concluded in Switzerland. (9-15 April, 2018)
- **Competition Results:**
- Winner-Elise Mertens (Belgium)
- Runner up- Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner-Kristen Flipkens and Elise Mertens (both Belgian)
- Runner up- Vera Lapko and Aryna Sabalenka (both Belarus)



Reference;

<http://www.wtatennis.com/tournament/2018-lugano-switzerland-1101>

US Men's Clay Court Championship-2018

Question: Who amongst the given was the winner of recently Men's Tennis Competition US Men's Clay Court Championship's singles competition?

(a) Julio Peralta(b) Donald Young(c) Max Mirnyi(d) Steve Johnson

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Men's tennis tournament of 2018, Men's Clay Court Championship concluded in Houston, Texas (US) (9-15 April, 2018)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-Steve Johnson (America)
- Runner-up Tennys Sandgren (America)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Max Mirnyi (Belarus) and Philipp Oswald (Australia)
- Runner up – Andre Begemann (Germany) and Antonio Sancic (Croatia)



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/tennis/steve-johnson-beats-jack-sock-in-us-mens-clay-court-championship-semi-final-4615155/>

Madrid Open 2018

Question: Who won the men's title of the recently concluded Madrid Open, 2018 Tennis Tournament?

(a) Alexander Zverev(b) Dominic Thiem(c) *Andrey Rublev*(d) John Robert Isner

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- ATP and WTA Tour, 2018 Tennis Tournament Madrid Open, 2018, concluded in Madrid, Spain (5-13 May, 2018).
- **Competition Result**
- Men's Singles
- Winner-Alexander Zverev (Germany)
- **Runners-up** -Dominic Thiem (Austria)
- Women's singles
- Winner-Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic)
- **Runners-up** -Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)



- Men's doubles
- Winner- Nikola Pietrangeli (Croatia) and Alexander Peya (Austria)
- Runner up- Bob Bryan and Mike Bryan, (both US)
- Women's doubles
- Winners – Ekaterina Makarova (Russia) and Elena Vesnina (Russia)
- Runner-up -Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)
- Alexander Zverev and Petra Kvitová won the third title of the Madrid Open.
- This is his 24th career title.
- This is the fourth title of this year won by Kvitová.
- Earlier, US Serena Williams and Romania Halep won the title twice.

Reference:

<https://www.madrid-open.com/en/draw/>

<https://www.madrid-open.com/en/mmo18-en/results/>

<https://www.amarujala.com/sports/tennis/petra-kvitova-won-madrid-open-for-record-third-time>

Cricket

‘Vivo’ Indian Premier League -2018

Question: Which of the followings is not correct in relation to IPL T-20, 2018?

- (a) Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Kane Williamson was given a purple cap.
- (b) Rishabh Pant of Delhi Daredevils hit most sixes in the Tournament.
- (c) Sunil Narayan (Kolkata Knight Riders) as the most valuable player was selected.
- (d) This was the third title of Chennai Super Kings.

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- The 11th edition of the ‘Indian Premier League’ (IPL) T-20 Cricket League, administered by the Board of Control of Cricket in India, concludes in India. (April 7 -27, 2018)
- Sponsor-Vivo
- Final Match-Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai (27 May, 2018)
- In the final match, Chennai Super Kings won the title by defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad by 8 wickets (9 balls remaining).
- Playing on behalf of Chennai Super Kings, Shane Watson played a century in the final match and was elected ‘Man of the Match’.
- Chennai Super Kings captain was Mahendra Singh Dhoni and Sunrisers Hyderabad captain was Kane Williamson, who was chosen as captain in place of David Warner after being found guilty in the Ball Tempering controversy.
- Orange Cap (KKR) – Kane Williamson (735 runs from 17 matches), Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- Purple Cap – Andrew Tye (24 wickets in 14 matches), Kings XI Punjab
- Most Valuable Player – Sunil Narine (357 runs and 17 wickets in 16 matches), Kolkata Knight Riders.
- Fairplay award – Mumbai Indians (Captain-Rohit Sharma)
- Most Rising player: Pant (684 runs in 14 matches), Delhi Daredevils
- Perfect catch of the season – Trent Bolt, Delhi Daredevils (Captain of Royal Challenger Bangalore, to catch for Virat Kohli)
- Stylish Player of the Season – Rishabh Pant (Delhi Daredevils) to make the highest number of runs in the competition (68), maximum sixes (37) and unbeaten 128 runs (highest individual score of IPL 2018) against Sunrisers Hyderabad.
- This is the first time that all three exploits have been done by the same player in any IPL season.
- Super Striker of the Season – Sunil Narayan



- Pitch and Ground Award – (1) Cricket Association of Bengal (for hosting 7 or more matches)
(2) Punjab Cricket Association (to host less than 7 matches).
- **Other facts related to IPL -2018:**
- Rashid Khan of Sunrisers Hyderabad scored the highest dot ball (167).
- Fastest Fifties – Kings XI Punjab's K.L. Rahul (51 runs in 14 balls), against Delhi Daredevils.
- Shane Watson has scored two centuries in the tournament.
- These two centuries were completed in 51 balls, which was the fastest century in IPL-2011.
- This is the third title won by Chennai Super Kings.
- Mumbai Indians have won three IPL titles.
- Earlier, Chennai had achieved title of 2010 and 2011.
- Biggest six of IPL: Ab De Villiers (111 meters).
- Season's highest score made against Kolkata Knight Riders (245/6 in 20 overs) against Kings XI Punjab.

Reference:

<https://www.iplt20.com/stats/2018/>

India-England Women's ODI Series, 2018

Question: Who was chosen as the Player of the Series of the India-England Women's ODI Series- 2018, recently concluded in Nagpur?

(a) Sophie Ecclestone (b) Mithali Raj (c) Smriti Mandhana (d) Amy Jones

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The series of 3 ODIs between India and England Women's Cricket Team concluded in Nagpur, Maharashtra. (April 3, 2018)
- Venue- Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium, Nagpur.
- India won the ODI series by 2-1.
- Player of the series' Smriti Mandhana (India), highest 181 runs in the series
- 'Most wickets in the series' – Sophie Ecclestone (England), total 8 wickets.
- The first match of the series was 192nd match of Indian captain Mithali Raj, and with this, she became the cricketer playing the most women's ODI match.
- She broke the record of former England captain Charlotte Edwards (191 matches).
- In the third match of the series, Mithali Raj completed her 50th half century (unbeatable 74 runs).
- At the same time, Mithali created a new world record by scoring her 56th fifty plus (50 plus runs, in which 50 half centuries and 6 hundreds).
- In this case, she also broke the record of Charlotte Edwards (55 Fifty Plus).
In the first match of the series, Anya Shrubsole was the captain of England and in the remaining two matches Heather Knight was the regular captain Heather Knight, while Mithali Raj remained India's captain.



Reference:

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/ci/engine/series/1131229.html>

Hockey

5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2018

Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2018?

(a) South Korea(b) India(c) China(d) Malaysia

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- 5th Women's Asian Champions Trophy, 2018 concluded in DongHae City, South Korea (May 13-20, 2018)
- Participant teams – China, India, Japan, South Korea and Malaysia
- **Competition Results-**
- **Gold**-South Korea
- **Silver**-India
- **Bronze**-china
- In the final, the team of South Korea defeated the Indian team by 1-0.
- South Korea won the gold medal of this competition for the third time.
- Earlier South Korea had won the title in 2010 and 2011.
- The Indian women's hockey team won the gold medal in the competition for the first time in the year 2016 (fourth Women's Asian Champions Trophy).
- The Indian hockey team's forward player Vandana Kataria was declared the best player of the tournament.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/south-korea-beat-india-in-women-s-asian-champions-final-118052000310_1.html

Football

UEFA Champions League, 2017-18

Question- Who amongst the following was the winner of the recently concluded UEFA Champions League Football Championship, 2017-18?

(a) Real Madrid(b) Barcelona(c) Liverpool(d) Atletico Madrid

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- European Football Championship competition UEFA Champions League, 2017-18 final match of Ukraine Finished in the capital Kiev (May 26, 2018)
real Madrid won the title of the competition by defeating British Club Liverpool 3-1 in the final match.
- Real Madrid has won the title of UEFA Champions League for the third time in a row.
- Real Madrid won the champions league title for the 13th
- This is the fourth title won by Real Madrid in the past five years.
- Gareth Bale, the founder of Real Madrid, scored two goals in the Finals match, was selected as the Man of the Match.
- This is the fifth Champions League title won by Cristiano Ronaldo.
- Winner Team Real Madrid coach was Jinedin Zidane (France).



Reference:

<https://www.uefa.com/uefachampionsleague/news/newsid=2507003.html>

4-Nation U-16 Football Tournament

Question: Which of the following countries won the title of under-16 football competition held between four countries in Serbia recently?

(a) Tajikistan(b) India(c) Jordan(d) Serbia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Four countries under-16 football tournament concluded in Serbia. (May 13, 2018)
- Indian Under-16 football team won the title of the tournament by defeating Tajikistan 4-2 in the final.
- The Indian team remained unbeatable in this competition.
- The team collect 7 out of 9 points in this competition.



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/sport/football/2018/may/14/4-nation-football-tournament-india-u-16-crowned-champions-1814506.html>

Badminton

Victor Dutch International-2018

Question: Players of which of the following countries won the men's doubles title of BWF badminton tournament Victor Dutch International, 2018?

(a) Malaysia(b) Poland(c) England(d) India

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- BWF Session, 2018 Badminton Contest Victor Dutch International, 2018 completed in Wateringen, Netherlands. (April 12-15, 2018)
- **Competition Results:-**
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-June Wei Cheam (Malaysia)
- Runner-up – Adrian Dziolko (Poland)
- **Women's Singles:-**
- Winner-Julie Dawall Jacobsen (Denmark)
- Runner-up Muralitharan Thinaah (Malaysia)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Arun George and Sanyam Shukla (both India)
- Runners-up Nikita Khakimov and Andrey Parakhodin (both Russians)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner- Chang Ya Lan and Cheng Wen Hsing (both Chinese Taipei)
- Runners-up–Amalie Magelund and Freja Ravn (both Danish)
- **Mixed Double**
- Winner-Delphine Delrue and Thom Gicquel (both France)
- Runners-up- Elisa Melgaard and Mathias Thyri (both Denmark)



Reference:

<http://bwfbadminton.com/results/3185/19th-victor-dutch-international-2018/draw/ms>

Malaysia International Challenge, 2018

Question: Who won the women's singles title of the recently concluded Malaysia International Challenge, 2018 Badminton Competition?

(a) Ying Yingli(b) Sloane Stephens(c) Jelena Ostapenko(d) Zihyi Wang

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- Badminton Competition Malaysia International Challenge, 2018 concluded in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (April 17-22, 2018)
- **Competition Results**
- **Men's Singles:**
- Winner-Hsuan Yi Hsueh (Chinese Taipei)
- Runners-up- Jia Wei Tan (Malaysia)
- **Women's Singles:**
- Winner-Zhiyi Wang (China)
- Runners-up- Ying Ying Lee (Malaysia)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan (both Indonesia)
- Runners-up-Aaron Chia and Wooi Yik Soh (both Malaysia)
- **Women's Doubles:**
- Winner- Fie Cho Soong and Jing Yi Tee (both Malaysia)
- Runners-up- Chiew Sien Lim and Sueh jeou Tan (both Malaysia)
- **Mixed Double:**
- Winner-Tang Jie Chen and Yen Wei Peck (both Malaysia)
- Runners-up: Andika Ramadiansyah and Michelle Christine Bandaso (both Indonesia)



Reference:

<https://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=15241A4B-59CF-40AA-A932-4734F42B89B4>

Australian Open 2018

Question: Who won the title of Men's Singles in the recently concluded Australian Badminton Open, 2018?

(a) Lu Guangzu(b) Zhou Zeqi(c) Berry Amriyavan(d) **Hardianto**

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- BWF World Tour Super-300 level badminton competition 'Australian Badminton Open, 2018' concluded in Sydney, Australia (8th-13th May, 2018)
- **Competition Result**
- **Men's singles**
- Winner-Guangzhou Luge (China)
- Runner up-zhou jeky (China)
- Woman Singles Winner-Kai Yanyan (China)
- Runner up- Ayumi Mine (Japan)
- **Men's doubles**
- winner- Berry Amriyavan and **Hardianto** (Both Indonesia)
- Winner- Wahyu Nayaka Arya Pangkaryanira and Ade Yusuf Santoso (both Indonesia)
- **Women's doubles**
- Winner- Ayako Sakuramoto and Yukiko Takahata (both Japan)
- Winner- Baek **Hana** and **Lee Yu Rim** (both South Korea)
- **Mixed doubles**
- winner-Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yujung (both South Korea)
- Runner up-Chan Peng Soon and Goh Liu Ying (both Malaysia)



- In the men's doubles category, Indian pair Manuree and B. Sumit Reddy remains at third place.

Reference:

<http://bwfworldtour.com/tournament/3148/crown-group-australian-open-2018/results/podium/>

Formula One

Chinese Grand Prix, 2018

Question: Who amongst the following won the title of the recently concluded Formula One car race 'Chinese Grand Prix, 2018'?

(a) Louis Hamilton (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Daniel Ricciardo (d) Valtteri Bottas

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- 3rd car race of Formula One Session, 2018 "Chinese Grand Prix, 2018" concluded in Shanghai International Circuit, Jiading (Shanghai). (April 15th, 2018)
- **Competition Results:**
- Winner-Australian Driver Daniel Ricciardo Team-Red Bull Racing (Austria)
- After the end of the three races, the Italian team Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel is at the top in score table of the FIA Formula One World Championship, 2018 with a score of 54 points.
- In the standings of Team Championship, Mercedes (Germany) was at the top with 85 points.



Reference:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/live/2018/apr/15/formula-one-2018-chinese-grand-prix-live>

Grand Prix Hassan II

Question: Who won the title of recently concluded "Grand Prix Hassan II", Men's Tennis Championship?

(a) Pablo Andujar (b) Alexander Peya (c) Nikola Mektic (d) Edouardo Roger

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- The ATP tour, 2018 men's tennis tournament Grand Prix Hassan II concluded in Marrakech, Morocco. (9-15 April, 2018)
- **Competition Results:**
- **Men's Singles**
- Winner- Pablo Andujar (Spain)
- Runner up- Kyle Edmund (UK)
- **Men's Doubles:**
- Winner-Nikola Mektic (Croatia) and Alexander Peya (Austria)
- Runner up- Benoit Paire and Edouard Roger Vasselin (both France)



Reference:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-04/16/c_137114234.htm

Spanish Grand Prix-2018

Question: Who won the title of the recently concluded Formula 1 car race Spanish Grand Prix, 2018?

(a) Walteri Bottas (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Sebastien Vettel (d) Daniel Ricciardo

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- Fifth Race of Formula 1- 2018, Spanish Grand Prix, 2018 concluded in Barcelona, Spain. (May 11-13, 2018)
- This race was won by Mercedes-based driver Louis Hamilton (UK).
- Mercedes team driver Walteri Bottas (Finland) stayed in second place.
- Poll Position – Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) UK.
- Fastest Lap – Daniel Ricciardo (Red Bull Racing) Australia.



Reference:

<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2018/races/983/spain/race-result.html>

Sports Miscellaneous

First Para-National Games

Question:-National Para games will be organized in India in June-July, 2018. What is not true in this related option?

- (a) This game will be held for the second time in the country.
- (b) The age limit for players participating is 16-40 years.
- (c) The sports ministry will bear the expenses incurred on this sporting event.
- (d) In it, competitions will be organized in ten different descriptions.

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- For the first time in the country in June-July, 2018, the National Para Games will be organized under the Khelo India Scheme.
- According to the Technical Handbook issued by the Sports Ministry, these games will be held from June 28 to July 7.
- These games will be organized by the Indian Paralympic Committee.
- The sports ministry will bear the expenses incurred on this event.
- The players in the age group 16-40 years will be eligible for participation in these games.
- In this, competitions will be organized in ten descriptions' (para athletics, badminton, chess, blind judo, para power lifting, shooting para sports, para swimming, table tennis, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair fencing.
- These events will be organized at four places, Kanteerava Stadium, Sai Center, Bangalore, Karnataka Badminton Association Stadium and Kanteerava Indoor Stadium.
- The National Para Games will be held once in 2 years.
- The first National Para Games will be qualifiers for the Para Asian Games to be held in Jakarta during October 2018.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/others/first-para-national-games-this-year-under-khelo-india-scheme/articleshow/64204337.cms>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/first-para-national-games-this-year-under-khelo-india-scheme-1235121-2018-05-17>

Sports Personality

Agreement with IOS Sports by Manika and Mirabai

Question: Who is the first Indian female player to win gold medal in the World Weightlifting Championship in the past two decades?

(a) Karnam Malleshwari(b) Renu Bala Chanu(c) Meerabai Chanu(d) Sanjita Chanu

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 22nd, 2018, Commonwealth Games gold medalist table tennis star Manika Batra and weightlifter Meerabai Chanu signed a multi-year contract with the sports management firm IOS.
- Under this agreement, IOS will now manage their advertisements, brand profiles, patents, licensing and digital rights, photographs and presence on social media.
- Before that M.C. Mary Kom, Bijender Singh and Sina Nehwal have also signed an agreement with IOS.
- Manika Batra won four medals including women's singles gold in Commonwealth Games organized in Gold Coast.
- Meerabai Chanu is the first Indian female player to win a gold medal in the World Weightlifting Championship in the past two decades.
- It is known that Meerabai won the gold at the World Weightlifting Championship held in Anaheim, 2017



Reference:

<http://www.uniindia.com/~/-commonwealth-stars-manika-mirabai-sign-with-ios/Sports/news/1238337.html>

New President of Hockey India

Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new president of Hockey India?

(a) Rajinder Singh(b) Mariamma Koshy(c) Narinder Batra(d) Mushtaque Ahmed

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 19th, 2018, Hockey India announced the appointment of Rajinder Singh as the new president of Hockey India.
- On this day, he also took charge.
- In this post, he took the position of Mariamma Koshy.
- Mariamma Koshy resigned from her post on May 18, 2018.
- Rajinder Singh is currently the Senior Vice President of Hockey India.
- Earlier, he has been the Treasurer of Hockey India and currently is the Treasurer of Hockey Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is known that after the appointment of Narinder Batra as the International Hockey Federation's Chairman, the then Hockey India President, Mariamma Koshy was appointed as the President of Hockey India in November 2016.



Reference:

<http://hockeyindia.org/news/hockey-india-names-mr-rajinder-singh-as-president.html>

World record by climbing 3 highest mountains in single season

Question: Who recently made the world's highest mountain climbing world record in a single session?

(a) Arjun Vajpayee(b) Devesh Pathak(c) Nima Jangmu Sherpa(d) Shivangi Pathak

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 23rd May, 2018, Nepal's Nima Jangmu Sherpa in a single session made a world record by climbing the three highest mountains Peaks.
- She climbed Mount Kanchenjunga on May 23rd, 2018, the world's third highest peak.
- Earlier she had successfully scaled Mt Everest on May 14 and Mt Lhotse on April 29.
- 28 year old Nima Jangmu has become only woman in the world to climb three highest peaks in Nepal above 8,000 meters in one season within 25 days.



Reference:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/people/nima-jangmu-sherpa-scales-3-highest-mountains-single-season-sets-world-record>

Steve Smith

Question: Former Australia captain Steve Smith will return back to cricket with the Global T20 event organized by which of the following countries?

(a) Bangladesh(b) Ireland(c) Canada(d) UAE

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Australia's former captain Steve Smith will make a return back to cricket through the Global T-20 Canada Program starting June 28, 2018.
- Global T20 event will be organized by Cricket Canada.
- 6 teams will participate in this competition.
- It is known that in March 2018, Steve Smith was suspended for 12 months.
- This suspension was due to hair tamping in South Africa (ball tampering).
- Besides, after being convicted in the investigation, ban was also imposed on playing cricket.
- Cricket Australia allowed them to play domestic tournaments outside of Australia.



Reference:

<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/sport/cricket/steve-smith-returns-to-cricket-in-global-t20-canada-league/news-story/afd211daee5e979c86c4021f8f1adda9>

Youngest first Indian player to win the medal in the Commonwealth Games of 2018

Question: Who became the youngest first Indian player to win the medal in the Commonwealth Games of 2018?

(a) Rounak Pundit(b) Om Prakash Mitharwal(c) Jitu Rai(d) Anish Bhanwal

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- 15-year-old Indian shooter Anish Bhanwal becomes the youngest Indian player to win a medal in the Commonwealth Games. (April 13th, 2018)
- Anish won gold medal in the 25 meter Rapid Fire Pistol event finals, scoring 30 points.
- He broke the record of Australia's David Chapman, who won gold medal in the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games winning 23 points in the same tournament.



- Also, Anish broke the record of Indian woman shooter Manu Bhaker.
- Manu won gold medal in the 10 meter air pistol event at the age of 16 in these games.
- In June 2017, Anish became world junior world champion with world record.
- Anish won gold medal with 580 shots in the championship.

Reference:

<https://results.gc2018.com/en/shooting/athlete-profile-n6055462-anish.htm>

Short Notes

Personalities

Nicolas Maduro

Question: Recently Nicholas Maduro was elected as the President of which of the following countries?

(a) Paraguay(b) Venezuela(c) Uruguay(d) Peru

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 20th, 2018, Nicolas Maduro was re-elected as the President of Venezuela.
- With this, he became the country's President for the next 6 years.
- He defeated his rival Henri Falcon in the presidential election.
- Although the opposition parties treated this election as invalid and rejected it.
- It is notable that Nicholas Maduro replaced Hugo Chavez in the year 2013.
- Venezuela's capital is Caracas.



Reference:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/05/20/world/americas/venezuela-election.html>

New director of the Institute of South Asian Studies

Question: Who has recently become the new Director of the think-tank of the National University of Singapore " Institute of South Asian Studies " ?

(a) T. S. Tirumurthi(b) Nirupama Rao(c) S. Jayashankar(d) C. Raja Mohan

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 21, 2018, famous Indian academic and foreign policy analyst C. Raja Mohan took over as the new director of the National University of Singapore think tank "Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS)".
- Prior to that, he has been working as Visiting Professor of the Institute since 2012.
- It is known that the Institute of South Asian Studies was established as an autonomous research institute of the National University of Singapore.



Reference:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/c-raja-mohan-top-indian-academic-joins-singapore-think-tank-institute-of-south-asian-studies/1172613/>

Chairman of the Press Council of India

Question: Who has been nominated as the Chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI) for the second consecutive term by the Central Government?

- (a) Justice Markanday Katju (b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi (c) Justice CK Prasad
(d) Justice Ashok Bhushan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 23, 2018, the Central Government nominated Justice Chandramouli Kumar Prasad as the Chairman of the Press Council of India (PCI) for the second consecutive term.
- Earlier, in November 2014, Justice Markanday Katju became the President of the Indian Press Council for the first time since his retirement.
- The three-member committee, chaired by Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu, approved the appointment of Justice Prasad as PCI chairman for the second term.
- His tenure will be 3 years.
- It is important that in the year 1966, the Press Council of India was established by the Parliament on the basis of the recommendation of the first Press Commission, with the aim of maintaining the standards of the press in India and for the protection of its independence.
- This council works under the Press Council Act, 1978.
- Justice J.R. Mudholkar was the first president of the Indian Press Council.



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2018/may/23/justice-ck-prasad-appointed-press-council-of-india-chief-for-second-term-1818500.html>

Vinod Bhatt

Question: Recently Vinod Bhatt died. He was-

- (a) Author (b) Journalist (c) Scientist (d) Environmentalist

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 23, 2018, senior Gujarati writer Vinod Bhatt passed away. He was 80 years old.
- He was born in 1938 in the village of Nadol in Gandhinagar.
- He wrote 45 books in various literary disciplines.
- He was also president of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad (between 1996 and 1997).



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/gujarat-in-vinod-bhatts-death-friends-see-end-of-an-age-of-humour-literature-5189048/>

Sushant Singh Rajput

Question- Recently famous film actor Sushant Singh Rajput will promote two major initiatives Bhim Aps and Women Entrepreneurship platform of which of the following institutions?

- (a) Ministry of Finance (b) NPCI (c) NITI Aayog (d) Ministry of Commerce

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 24, 2018, the NITI Aayog said that famous film actor Sushant Singh Rajput will promote two major steps, Bhim Aps and Women Entrepreneurship Platform of the Aayog.



- As part of the promotion of digital payments across the country, the NITI Aayog is successfully running digital payment campaign.
- In which the Aayog collaborates with young leaders and famous public sector individuals so that, cashless payment system across the country could be encouraged.
- The Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) launched by the NITI Aayog this year is encouraging the vibrant and efficient system for women entrepreneurs in the country, which is bringing a big change in the industrial sector.
- To encourage these efforts, Sushant Singh Rajput will compromise with NITI Aayog.

Reference:

<https://www.ndtv.com/business/sushant-singh-rajpoot-bollywood-star-to-promote-niti-aayog-initiatives-bhim-app-women-entrepreneursh-1856908>

Dick Quax

Question: Dick Quax passed away recently. He was-

(a) Runner(b) Tennis player(c) Football player(d) Cricketer

Answer- (a)

Related Facts:

- Winner of New Zealand’s famous runner and Olympic medal on 28th May, 2018 Dick Quax passed away.
- He was 70 years old.
- He won a gold medal in the 5000 meter event in the Montreal Olympics in 1976.
- He also won the silver medal in the 1500 meters in Commonwealth Games in 1970.
- On May 1st, 1977, he made a new world record in Stockholm with 5 minutes at 13 minutes and 12.9.



Reference:

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/news/article.cfm?c_id=4&objectid=11962735

New Governor of Odisha and Mizoram

Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new Governor of Odisha by President Ramnath Kovind?

(a) Kummanam Rajshekharan(b) Professor Ganesh Lal(c) Satyal Malik(d) Kiran Bedi

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 25th May, 2018 President Ramnath Kovind has appointed Professor Ganesh Lal to Odisha’s new governor.
- At this post he will replaced S C Jamir.
- Apart from this he president also appointed Kummanam Rajasekharan as the new governor of Mizoram.
- At this post will replace General (retired) Nirbhay Sharma.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/odisha-gets-a-new-governor-in-ganeshi-lal-5191305/>

Expansion of term as CBDT Chairman

Question: Recently, whose appointment has been extended for a period of one year as the CBDT chairman?

(a) Narendra Kumar(b) Sushil Chandra(c) Suresh Chandra(d) Dinesh Chandra

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 25th May, 2018, Central Government has extended the appointment of Sushil Chandra as the Central Direct Tax Board (CBDT) as the chairman.
- Now his tenure will last till May 2019.
- This is his second term expansion after becoming the CBDT chairman on November 1st, 2016.
- Earlier, he was given a one-year extension in the year 2017 till May 31st, 2018.
- He is the 1980 batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS).



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/cbdt-chairman-sushil-chandra-gets-one-year-extension/articleshow/64318762.cms>

Mario Abdo Benitez

Question: Recently, Mario Abdo Benitez was elected the new president of which of the countries?

(a) Uruguay(b) Paraguay(c) Norway(d) Sweden

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 22nd, 2018 Conservative former Senator Mario Abdo Benitez was elected the new President of Paraguay.
- He is from the ruling Colorado Party.
- He got 46.46 percent of the votes in the presidential election.
- While the Authentic Radical Liberal Party's Efraim Alegre received 42.73 percent of the vote.
- His five-year term will start from August 15, 2018.
- In this post, he will replace the current President Horacio Cartes. The capital of Paraguay is Asuncion.
- Its currency is Guarani.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-43861104>

Narinder Chauhan

Question: Recently, the senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, Narinder Chauhan, was appointed as the next ambassador of India in which of the following countries?

(a) Serbia(b) Czechoslovakia(c) Norway(d) Czech Republic

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 26th, 2018, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service, Narinder Chauhan, was appointed by the Central Government as India's next ambassador to the Czech Republic.
- Currently He is India's Ambassador to Serbia.
- Czech Republic is a country located in the continent of Europe.
- Its capital is Prague.
- Milos Zeman is currently President of Czech Republic.



Reference:

[http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29848/Narinder Chauhan appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Czech Republic](http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29848/Narinder%20Chauhan%20appointed%20as%20the%20next%20Ambassador%20of%20India%20to%20the%20Czech%20Republic)

New global corporate head of the Tata Group

Question: Who was recently appointed by the Tata Sons as the new global corporate head of the Tata Group?

(a) Deepak Agrawal(b) S. Jaishankar(c) Parag Agarwal(d) R.K. Singh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018, Tata Sons appointed former Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar as the Tata Group's new Global Corporate Affairs head.
- He will see issues related to Tata Group's global corporate affairs and international strategy.
- The office of Tata Sons will report to him and he will Report to the Chairman of Tata Sons N. Chandrashekharan
- It is worth mentioning that former Indian Foreign Service officer S. Jaishankar has had been a Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018.



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/company/corporate-trends/tata-sons-appoints-ex-foreign-secretary-jaishankar-a>

New judge of Supreme Court

Question: Who amongst the following took oath as Judge of the Supreme Court on April 27th, 2018?

(a) Indira Jaisingh(b) Indu Malhotra(c) Pragati Singh(d) Indrani Mukherjee

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 27th, 2018 senior advocate Indu Malhotra sworn in as the judge of the Supreme Court.
- Chief Justice Deepak Mishra administered her oath of office and secrecy.
- She is the first woman advocate of the country who became a judge of the Supreme Court elevated from the advocate.
- After the swearing in, the number of judges in the Supreme Court has now increased to 25.
- Whereas in the Supreme Court, the number of sanctioned posts of the judges, including the Chief Justice (CJ), is 31.



Reference:

<http://www.supremecourtfindia.nic.in/chief-justice-judges>

Rajiv Kumar Nagpal

Question: In which of the following countries did the Indian Foreign Service officer Rajiv Kumar Nagpal appointed as the next ambassador of India?

(a) Iceland(b) Turkmenistan(c) Venezuela(d) Czech Republic

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 26th, 2018, Indian Foreign Service officer Rajiv Kumar Nagpal appointed as the next ambassador of India to Venezuela by the Central Government.
- He is currently Indian Ambassador to Iceland.
- Venezuela is a country located in the continent of South



America.

- Its capital is Caracas.
- Nicolas Maduro is currently the President of Venezuela.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29850/Rajiv+Kumar+Nagpal+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+In>

Serzh Sargsyan

Question: Which country's Prime Minister resigned from his post recently?

(a) Romania(b) Serbia(c) Armenia(d) Somalia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 23, 2018, Prime Minister Serzh Sargsyan of Armenia resigned from his post.
- This resignation he gave due to the massive protest against the election.
- After being president for a decade, the Sargsyan became Prime Minister on April 17, 2018.
- Significantly, the Sargsyan remained the President of the country from 2008 to April 2018.



Reference:

<http://www.dw.com/en/armenia-prime-minister-serzh-sargsyan-resigns-after-anti-government-protests/a-43495492>

First Woman Director of the CIA

Question: Recently, whose name was approved as the first woman director of the CIA by the US Senate?

(a) Gina Tillerson(b) Gina Haspel(c) Hina Haspel(d) Ivanka Trump

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In May 2018, the US Senate approved the name of the Gina Haspel as the first woman director of the CIA.
- On March 2018, American President Donald Trump nominated her as Director of CIA.
- At this post, she will replace Mike Pompeo.
- Earlier, she was the Deputy Chief of the CIA.



Reference:

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/05/17/gina-haspel-confirmed-as-cias-first-female-director-5-things-to-know-about-career-spy-master.html>

New CMD of Coal India

Question: Recently who assumed charge as the new CMD of Coal India Ltd (CIL)?

(a) Dinesh Kumar Rawat(b) Anil Kumar Jha(c) Suresh Kumar(d) Rajesh Kumar

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 18th, 2018, Anil Kumar Jha assumed charge as the newly appointed CMD (Chairman cum Managing Director), Coal India Ltd (CIL).
- His tenure will last till 31 January, 2020.



- Presently, he is the CMD of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
- It is notable that CIL is the public sector Maharatna coal mining company, whose headquarters is located in Kolkata.

Reference:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/coal/mahanadi-coalfields-cmd-anil-kumar-jha-to-take-over-as-coal-india-chairman/64225420>

Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar

Question: Recently, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar sworn in as Chief Justice of which of the following High Court?

- (a) Chhattisgarh High Court (b) Patna High Court (c) Manipur High Court (d) Madras High Court

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 18th, 2018, Justice Ramalingam Sudhakar sworn in as the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
- Manipur’s caretaker governor Jagdish Mukhi administered him oath.
- Earlier he was the acting Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/justice-ramalingam-sudhakar-sworn-in-as-chief-justice-of-manipur-high-court/articleshow/64224500.cms>

New Head of Google Cloud

Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new head of Google Cloud India by Google’s major search engine company?

- (a) Rick Harshman (b) Dilip Rajawat (c) Nitin Bawankule (d) Manish Sharma

Answer: (c)

Related Facts

- On 8th May, 2018, the major search engine company, Google, Appointed Claude India’s new head (Country Head).
- He will Report to Google Cloud Management Director (Asia-Pacific) Rick Harshman.
- Nitin Bawankule has been part of Google’s India operations for more than 6 years.



Reference:

<https://tech.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/people/nitin-bawankule-appointed-as-india-country-head-for-google-cloud/64076296>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/google-appoints-new-business-head-for-google-cloud-in-india/articleshow/64076668.cms>

Krishna Kumar

Question: In which of the following countries the senior official of Indian Foreign Service, Krishna Kumar was appointed as the next ambassador of India?

- (a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) Czech Republic (d) Iceland

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 26th, 2018, Krishna Kumar, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Norway by the Central Government.



- He is currently the ambassador of India to the Czech Republic.
- Norway is a country located in Europe continent.
- Capital of Norway is Oslo.

Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29849/Krishan+Kumar+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Kingdom+of+Norway>

Carlos Alvarado Quesada

Question: Recently Carlos Alvarado Quesada took oath as the new President of which of the following countries?

(a) Ukraine (b) Costa Rica (c) Czech Republic (d) Venezuela

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 8th, 2018, Carlos Alvarado Quesada sworn in as the new president of Costa Rica.
- In the presidential election held in April, 2018, he defeated his rival singer Fabricio Alvarado Munoz.
- He replaced Luis Guillermo Solis.
- Carlos Alvarado is the country's youngest president in modern history.
- Costa Rica is a country located in Central America.
- Its capital is San Jose.



Reference:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-05/09/c_137165113.htm

Ashok Mitra

Question- Recently, Ashok Mitra passed away. He was-

(a) Scientist (b) Educationist (c) Historian (d) Economist

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 1st, 2018, the famous economist and former West Bengal finance minister Ashok Mitra passed away in Kolkata. He was 90 years old.
- He was finance minister from 1977 to 1987 in the Left Front government in West Bengal.
- Apart from this he was also Chief Economic Advisor of the Central Government from 1970 to 1972.
- He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award for his contribution to Bengali literature.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/eminant-economist-and-former-west-bengal-finance-minister-ashok-mitra-dead/article23737235.ece>
http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/eminant-economist-and-former-lf-minister-ashok-mitra-dead-118050100299_1.html

First Asian woman to be elected as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon

Question: Who amongst the given became the first Asian woman to be elected as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon?

(a) Pramila Jayapal(b) Asha Jayapal(c) Sushila Jayapal(d) Deepa Jayapal

Answer: (c)

Related Facts

- On 15th May, 2018, Susheela Jayapal of Indian Origin became the first Asian woman to be elected as a member of the Board of Commissioners of Multnomah County in Oregon.
- He won the District 2 seat on the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners with 57 per cent of the vote.
- She will represent the will represent North and Northeast Portland commissioner's seat. She is the sister of Indian American Congress MP Pramila Jayapal.



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/congresswoman-pramila-jayapals-sister-becomes-first-south-asian-to-be-elected-in-oregon/articleshow/64186532.cms>

Chief Minister, who remained on the post continuously for a long time in the country

Question: Recently, who amongst the following became the longest serving Chief Minister of Indian State?

(a) Shivraj Singh Chauhan(b) Gegong Apang(c) Dr. Raman Singh(d) Pawan Chamling

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 30th, 2018, Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling has become the longest serving Chief Minister of Indian State.
- He broke the record of Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of West Bengal. Basu was chief minister for a term of 23 years, 4 months and 17 days.
- It is worth mentioning that on April 30, 2018, Pawan Chamling completed 23 years, four months and 18 days in his post.
- He had taken the oath first time, on December 12th, 1994 as Chief Minister of the state.



Reference:

<http://www.sikkimexpress.com/NewsDetails?ContentID=10095>

Surendra Nihal Singh

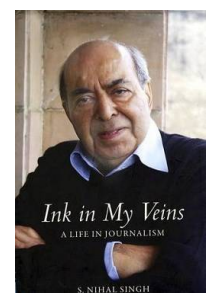
Question- Surendra Nihal Singh passed away recently. He was-

(a) Journalist(b) Historian(c) Painter(d) Litterateur

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 16th, 2018; senior journalist Surendra Nihal Singh passed away. He was 88 years old.
- He was the editor of 'The Statesman', 'The Indian Express' and 'Khaleej Times'.
- He was the founder editor of 'The Indian Post' in 1987.
- In 1975, he was also given the prestigious 'International Editor of the Year' award in New York for his role in opposing Indira Gandhi's Emergency.
- He also wrote a number of books including 'The Rocky Road to Indian Democracy: Nehru to Narasimha Rao', 'The Yogi and the Bear: Story of Indo-Soviet Relations', 'The



Modi Myth', 'Ink in My Veins: A Life in Journalism' and 'The Gang and 900 million: A China diary'.

Reference:

<https://www.firstpost.com/india/journalist-s-nihal-singh-dies-at-88-editor-was-known-for-opposing-emergency-coverage-of-1965-india-pakistan-war-4434313.html>

Shashank Manohar

Question: Shashank Manohar was elected independent Chairman of which organization recently?

- (a) International Cricket Council (b) Indian Olympic Association
(c) Indian Athletics Association (d) International Olympic Committee

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 15th May, 2018 Former BCCI Chairman Shashank Manohar was again elected the independent president of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- On this post, he was elected unanimously for the second term.
- He will be at this post for the next two years.
- It is remarkable that he was elected the independent Chairman of the ICC for the first time in 2016.



Reference:

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/champions-trophy/media-releases/690989>

Govind Lal Vora

Question: Govind Lal Vora passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Painter (b) Journalist (c) Historian (d) Literature

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On 14 May, 2018 senior journalist Govind Lal Vora passed away at 86.
- He was the younger brother of Treasurer Motilal Vora of All India Congress Committee.
- He is the Editor-in-chief of the Hindi daily Navbharat in Raipur and recently was the Editor-in-Chief of 'Amrit Message' being published for the past 34 years.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/veteran-chhattisgarh-journalist-govind-lal-vora-dies-118051401315_1.html

Ramesh Hassan

Question: Ramesh Hassan passed away recently. He was-

- (a) Composer (b) Historian (c) Journalist (d) Painters

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 12th May, 2018, popular musician and singer of Indian origin Ramesh Hassan passed away in South Africa.
- While playing in South Africa, he played an important role in Hindu-Muslim unity and harmony through music.
- For Hindu-Muslim unity, he changed his childhood name from Hassan Saib to Ramesh Hassan.



- He belted out cover versions of popular songs of singers like Elvis Presley and Cliff Richard among others in his own style.
- He later shifted his skills to singing in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Gujarati, Urdu and the indigenous languages.

Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/south-africa-mourns-death-of-musician-who-worked-for-hindu-muslim-unity/article23880279.ece>

Balkavi Bairagi

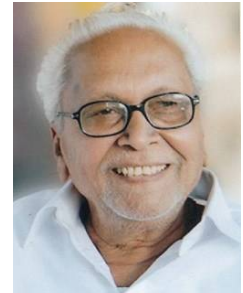
Question- Recently Balkavi Bairagi passed away. He was-

(b) Educationist(b) Educationist(c) Writer(d) Scientist

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 13th May, 2018, legendary poet and writer and former MP Balkavi Bairagi passed away. He was 87 years old.
- He was born on 10th February, 1931 in Rampura village of Manasa tehsil of Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- He served as a Lok Sabha member between 1984 and 1989 and also a former Rajya Sabha MP.
- Geet, Dard Civilian, Two Tooks, Prospective Protector Country etc. Their main compositions are.
- He wrote lyrics for more than two dozen Hindi films and some like “Tu Chanda Main Chandni” from the film “Reshma aur Shera” are considered classics.
- He wrote several Hindi poems, among which, “Jhar gaye paat, bisar gayi tehni” is considered a gem by many Hindi poets
- His childhood name was Nandram Das Bairagi.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/noted-lyricist-poet-balkavi-bairagi-dies/article23878966.ece>

Kalasala Babu

Question- Recently Kalsala Babu passed away. He was

(a) Painter(b) Literature(c) Actor(d) Historian

Answer: (c)

Related Facts

- On 14th May, 2018 Kalsala Babu, the famous Malayalam film and stage actor, passed away.
- He got his first opportunity in film in 1977, in Inayethedi, the first venture of John Paul, George Kitho, Kaloore Dennis and Antony Eastman. He was cast alongside Silk Smitha for this film, which became a flop.
- He worked in theater, film and TV serials in his career of more than 40 years.
- He played major and minor roles in more than 100 films.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/malayalam-actor-kalasala-babu-dead/article23879298.ece>

Munu Mahawar

Question: Recently Indian Foreign Service officer Munu Mahawar was appointed as the next ambassador of India to which of the following countries?

(a) Kuwait(b) Oman(c) Armenia(d) Malaysia

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 10th May 2018 Indian Foreign Service Officer Munu Mahawar has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Sultanate of Oman.
- Currently he is working as the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- The capital of Oman is Muscat and its currency is Omni Rial.



Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29885/Munu+Mahawar+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Sultanate+of+Oman>

P.P. Laxman

Question: Recently, P.P. Laxman passed away. He was

(a) Journalist (b) Game administrator (c) Historian (d) Actor

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 30th, 2018, Former honorary secretary of FIFA of All India Football Federation (AIFF), PP Laxman passed away. He was 83 years old.
- He served as the president of several football associations.
- He was the first Indian to become a FIFA appeals committee member.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/football/former-aiff-secretary-pp-lakshmanan-passes-away/article23731411.ece>

Ravinder Sharma

Question- Ravinder Sharma passed away recently. He was-

(a) Krishi Scientist (b) Artist and Philosopher (c) Historian (d) Journalist

Answer: (b)

Related Fact:

- On April 29th, 2018, the famous artist and philosopher Ravinder Sharma passed away. He was 65 years old.
- He was the founder of Art the founder of Adilabad's Kala Ashram.
- A trained artist, Guruji had been awarded with Kala Ratna by the Andhra Pradesh State government in 2014.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/guruji-ravinder-sharma-passes-away/article23724823.ece>

Full-time Member of 15th Finance Commission

Question: Who amongst the following has recently been appointed as the full time member of the 15th Finance Commission by the Central Government?

(a) Rajiv Kumar (b) Education Sharma (c) Dr. Ashok Lahiri (d) Chanda Kochhar

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 3rd May, 2018, the Central Government has appointed former Chief Economic Advisor Dr. Ashok Lahiri appointed a full time member of the 15th Finance Commission.
- Currently he is working as a temporary member in the commission itself. As a permanent member, he will be given the status of Minister of State.
- It is known that the Central Government on November 27th, 2017, the full time member of the Planning Commission, A.K. Singh the 15th Finance Commission was constituted under the chairmanship of Singh.
- Satikant Das and Dr. Anoop Singh is other members of the Commission.
- Ramesh Chand, member of the Policy Commission, is a part-time member of the Commission.
- It is notable that the Finance Commission is set up under Article 280 (1) of the Indian Constitution.
- The 15th Finance Commission will be applicable from 1st April, 2020.



Reference:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ashok-lahiri-appointed-full-time-member-of-15th-finance-commission/articleshow/64018336.cms>

Radhakrishnan Nair

Question- Recently, Radhakrishnan Nair was appointed the independent director of which of the given bank?

(a) ICICI Bank(b) HDFC Bank(c) Axis Bank(d) Punjab National Bank
North- (a)

Related Facts

- On 2nd May, 2018, the Board of Directors of ICICI Bank appointed Radhakrishnan Nair as additional (independent) director of the bank.
- He will hold the post for 5 years.
- This appointment is subject to shareholders' approval.
- Nair is also independent directors of the three units of Bank – ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company Ltd., ICICI Prudential Trust Ltd And ICICI Primary Dealers Ltd.



Reference:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/radhakrishnan-nair-appointed-icici-bank-independent-director/article23746601.ece>

Places

Jerusalem

Question- Which of the following countries has decided to move its embassy to Tel Aviv in Israel by the end of May?

(a) India(b) Sweden(c) Paraguay(d) Norway

North- (c)

Related Facts

- On 7th May 2018, According to Foreign Ministry spokesman Emmanuel Nahshon, Paraguay Israel at the end of May will transfer his embassy located in Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.
- Paraguay is the third country in the world to transfer its embassy to Jerusalem.
- Earlier, America and Guatemala have announced their move to relocate to Jerusalem.



- America moved its embassy to Jerusalem on May 14th, 2018, and two days later, Guatemala also moved to its embassy here.
- In 2002, Israel closed its embassy located in Ascension of Paraguay due to its budgetary views, which resulted in Paraguay's closure of its embassy located in Tel Aviv.
- Paraguay re-opened its embassy office in Israel in 2014, and Israel reopened its embassy in Paraguay in 2015.

Reference:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/czech-pm-says-country-will-open-honorary-consulate-not-embassy-in-jerusalem/>

Ban on the use of cryptocurrency

Question: The Central Bank of which of the following countries recently banned the use of cryptocurrency, including Bitcoin by country's banks?

(a) United Arab Emirates (b) Kuwait (c) Iran (d) Iraq

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018, Central Bank of Iran banned the use of cryptocurrencies, including Bitcoin by country's banks.
- This restriction has been imposed by the central bank, citing the reasons that the use of cryptocurrency money legalize black money and utilize it for terrorism financing.
- According to the central bank of Iran, this decision was taken by the Government Money Laundering Committee in December 2017, but it is now being implemented.



Reference:

<https://www.coinspeaker.com/2018/04/23/iran-central-bank-bans-domestic-banks-using-cryptocurrencies/>

India's first cashless island

Question: Which of the given is India's first cashless island?

(a) Diu (b) Lakshadweep (c) Karang (d) Puducherry

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 22nd, 2018 Prime Minister Narendra Modi honored officials of Manipur for making the country's first cashless island and implementing goods and services Tax (GST) and central and other primary initiatives.
- Karang Island was separated from Vishnupur district, which is a remote and backward region.
- In the island, there was encouragement for training towards digital payment and five POS (Point of Sale) machines were installed on the island.
- In this initiative self-help groups and youth clubs were included for community mobilization and parallel activities were organized for enrollment on the Aadhaar and opening bank accounts.
- Civil Servants honored by the Prime Minister for the smooth implementation of the four primary programs- Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban and Rural), Deendayal Upadhyaya Rural Skill Scheme and Digital Payment.
- In Bihar, Banka district administration was honored for re-presenting education using technology.
- Dhemaji of Assam and Karimnagar of Telangana were honored for the best implementation of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Rural Skill Scheme.



- Neemuch in Madhya Pradesh and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh were honored for the best implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural).

Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/pm-award-for-manipur-s-karang-india-s-1st-cashless-island-118042100741_1.html

Declaration of 2 percent reservation to players

Question: Which state government has announced in April-2018 to give a 2 percent reservation for players in government jobs?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Telangana (c) Haryana (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 21st, 2018, the Chief Minister of Telangana Chandrasekhar Rao announced to give 2 percent reservation to the players in the state government jobs.
- The Chief Minister made this announcement recently after meeting with 18 members who participated in Commonwealth Games organized in Gold Coast.
- At present, 2 percent of the seats in the educational institutions of the state are reserved for the players.



Reference:

<http://www.univarta.com/two-percent-reservation-for-players-in-government-jobs-in-telangana/sports/news/1206776.html>

Establishment of IIIT by Tripura Government

Question: Recently for the establishment of Indian Institute of Information Technology at which of the following places, Tripura Government has sanctioned the amount of Rs.50.67 crore?

(a) Barjala (b) Bodhjungnagar (c) Ishaanpur (d) Novagaon

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018; Tripura Cabinet has approved an amount of Rs.50.67 crores for setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology at Bodhjungnagar Nagar of Mohanpur Block.
- It is located at a distance of about 25 km from Agartala.
- In the year 2012, it was decided to set up this institute in Public Private Partnership mode.
- This work was pending for 6 years due to previous government had not sanctioned the funds.
- This institute will be set up on 52.08 acres of land.
- The Central Government will provide Rs 73.60 crore for this project, whereas the state government is likely to provide an amount of Rs 44.80 crore and Rs 9.60 crore by industrial partners.
- Companies like North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and ONGC have offered financial assistance for the project.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/tripura-govt-sanctions-rs-50-crore-for-iiit-at-bodhjungnagar-118041201428_1.html

Establishment 'namkeen' with snacks cluster in Madhya Pradesh

Question: Where will a 'namkeen' (salty snacks) cluster be installed in Madhya Pradesh?

(a) Jabalpur, Satna (b) Jabalpur, Ratlam (c) Ratlam, Indore (d) Indore, Satna

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018, the Madhya Pradesh government has sanctioned amount of Rs.22 crore 75 lakhs for establishment of namkeen cluster (group) in Ratlam city.
- This cluster is being developed under the central government's MSE-CDP scheme.
- In this scheme, the namkeen manufacturing units of the city are being systematically settled.
- Namkeen of Ratlam is famous all over the country.
- Under the scheme of the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Central Government, namkeen and snacks clusters are being set up in Jabalpur.
- For this, a plan of about Rs.15 crore has been prepared.
- It is known that the scheme of developing the Powerloom cluster in Jabalpur is also being implemented by Madhya Pradesh Industrial Development Corporation.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/mp-to-set-up-rs-22-cr-namkeen-snacks-cluster-in-ratlam-118041200791_1.html

Suketi Fossil Park

Question: Which is not true about the Suketi Fossil Park?

- (a) On April 12, 2018 Himachal Government announced the development of this park for tourism activities.
- (b) This park is located in Suketi village of Sirmour district.
- (c) The State Government will develop this park with the help of Central Government.
- (d) This is Asia's first fossil park.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018 Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur announced the development of Suketi Fossil Park (Shivalik Fossil Park) located in Suketi village of Sirmour district for tourism activities.
- The state government will develop this park with the help of Asian Development Bank.
- This park is established as a result of Dr. Y.S. Parmar's efforts first Chief Minister of the state.
- It is Asia's first fossil park.
- It is located in the Shivalik mountain range.
- This fossil park is famous as a museum of fossils of vertebrates.
- It is the third of its kind in the world and the first vertebrates' fossil park in Asia.
- This fossil park was created by the Indian Geological Survey and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- This park is situated on the banks of the Markandeya River.



Reference:

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=2&ID=11745>

<http://www.abhivyakti-hindi.org/prakriti/2006/suketi.htm>

Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial

Question: Which statement is not correct in the choice about Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial?

- (a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this memorial on April 13, 2018.
(b) This monument is in New Delhi.(c) At this site Dr. Ambedkar received Mahaparinirvana.
(d) Dr. Ambedkar was born on this site.

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 13th, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Dr. Ambedkar National Memorial at Mahaparinirvana site of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar located at 26 Alipur Road, New Delhi.
- This memorial is dedicated to the life and contribution of Dr. Ambedkar, the creator of the Constitution of India.
- The foundation stone of this memorial was laid by the Prime Minister on March 21st, 2016.
- Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar was born on April 14th, 1891 in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh.
- He attained Mahaparinirvana on December 6th, 1956 at Dr. Ambedkar, 26, Alipur Road, New Delhi (the house of King Sirohi).
- Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had dedicated this Mahaparinirvana site to the nation on December 2, 2003.
- The building has an exhibition site, a memorial with Buddha statue, meditation center and Dr. Ambedkar's 12-foot bronze statue installed in this building.
- At the entrance, the Asoka pillar (11 meters) and the meditation center has been built on the rear.
- It is known that Dr. Ambedkar was the first law minister of independent India.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1529092>

Odisha's Second Longest River Bridge

Question: On which river the second longest river bridge of Odisha has been built?

- (a) Mahanadi(b) Baitarani River(c) IB River(d) Brahmani River

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 15th, 2018, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik inaugurated the newly constructed bridge on the IB River in Sambalpur district.
- The length of this bridge is 2.5 km.
- Built by the cost of Rs 117.50 crore, it is Odisha's second longest river bridge.
- With the construction of this bridge, Sambalpur and Brajaraj Nagar have been connected directly by the road, due to which the distance between the two places has decreased by 50 km.
- Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Setu (Netaji Setu) of Odisha is the longest river bridge in the state (length 2.88 km).
- This bridge is built over the river Kathajodi the tributary of Mahanadi.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/odishas-second-longest-river-bridge-opened/article23552215.ece>

First High Court of South India initiating e-Courts fee payment facility

Question: Which is the first High Court of South India to start e-court fee payment facility recently?

(a) Karnataka High Court (b) Madras High Court (c) Telangana High Court (d) Kerala High Court

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 20th, 2018, the e-court fee payment facility was introduced in the Madras High Court.
- This facility in this court was started jointly by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *K. Palaniswami* and Chief Justice of Madras High Court Indira Banerjee
- The Madras High Court is the first in South India and the eighth court of the country where e-court fee payment facility has been started.
- This is an “advocate and litigant-centric initiative” that facilitates payment of court fee online by the lawyer and litigator.
- This facility has been started by the Tamil Nadu State Government through its Central Record Holding Agency ‘Stock Holding Corporation of India’.
- It will be initially introduced in the Court’s Main bench and the Madurai Bench.
- Currently, e-court fee payment facility is being provided in the High Courts in Delhi, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh and Supreme Court.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/hc-introduces-e-court-fee-payment/article23622069.ece>

Awards & Honors

S & P Platts Global Metal Award, 2018

Question- Which public sector undertaking recently received the S & P Platts Global Metal Award for the year 2018 in the Corporate Social Responsibility category?

(a) NTPC Ltd. (b) NMDC Ltd. (c) Coal India Ltd. (d) ONGC

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- NMDC Ltd, Public Sector Undertaking in a function held in London on May 17, 2018.
- NMDC received this award in the Corporate Social Responsibility category,
- NMDC received this award among the 12 major companies nominated for the award.
- It is remarkable that after the start of this award, for the first time in the category of corporate social responsibility, an Indian company was honored.
- This award is given to companies on the basis of their innovation and excellent performance.
- On behalf of NMDC, this award was given to the company’s Chairman and Managing Director N. Baijendra Kumar and Director (Personnel) Sandeep Bula received NMDC is India’s largest iron ore mining area.
- Its annual output is 35 million tonnes.
- It has a 25 percent of share in the domestic market.



Reference:

<https://gma.platts.com/Winners/Winners2018>

European Golden Shoe Award

Questioner: Which player won the European Golden Shoe Award in the session 2017-18?

(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Lionel Messi (c) Mohamed Salah (d) Louise Suarez

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In May 2018, Lionel Messi won the record for the fifth time the European Golden Shoe.
- Messi scored 34 goals in the European League in 2017-18.
- Last year, in the year 2016-17, it won the award by a maximum of 37 goals.
- Messi had earlier won this award in the 2009-10, 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2016-17.
- In the European league, Messi FC is associated with the Barcelona team.
- Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid) has won this award four times.
- This award is given to the player who scored the most goals in the last league of Europe in the last season.
- It is to be noted that Mohamed Salah (Liver Pool) scored 32 goals in the 2017-18 season in the European League.



Reference:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/football/lionel-messi-wins-european-golden-shoe-for-the-fifth-time/story-dh7j2CgpniDzPQNMHhdj4L.html>

Man Booker International Prize of 2018

Question: Who was recently awarded with the Man Booker International Prize of 2018?

(a) David Grossman (b) Olga Tokarczuk (c) Han Kang (d) Jonathan Cape

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 22, 2018, the Man Booker International Prize-2018 was awarded by the Man Booker Foundation in London (UK).
- For this year, this prize was awarded to the writer of 'Flights', Olga Tokarczuk (Polish).
- Olga is the first Polish writer to receive this award.
- The translator of this novel is Jennifer Croft.
- The author and the translator each received an amount of 25,000 pounds as prize money.
- It is known that this prize of 2017 was given to David Grossman (Israel), author of 'A Horse Walks into a Bar'.
- Other novels selected for the Man Booker International Prize 2018
 - (i) Vernon Subutex 1 Writer – Virginie Despentes (France).
 - (ii) The White Book Writer Han Kang (South Korea)
 - (iii) 'The World Goes On' Writer-Laszlo Krasznahorkai (Hungary).
 - (iv) 'Frankenstein in Baghdad' writer-Ahmed Saadvi (Iraq)
 - (v) "Like a Fading Shadow" Author – Antonio Muñoz Molina (Spain).
- This award was established in the year 2005.
- Until the year 2005-2015, this award was awarded to any living novelist for his overall achievement globally over every two years.
- From the year 2016, this award was started to be given annually to a novelist for the English translation of any novel, which was published in the UK.
- The Man Booker Foundation was established in the year 2002.



Reference:

<http://themanbookerprize.com/international/news/flights-wins-man-booker-international-prize-2018>

New Chief Minister of Karnataka

Question- May 23, 2018, leader of Janata Dal (S), HD Kumaraswamy sworn in as Chief Minister Who took oath as Deputy Chief Minister?

(a) Dr. G. Parmeshwaran(b) T. Raghavan(c) Dr. P. Parmeshwaran(d) T.K. Prasad

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 23rd, 2018, the leader of Janata Dal (S) HD Kumaraswamy took oath as the new Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- Karnataka Governor Vajubhai Vala gave him oath of office and secrecy.
- At the same time, state Congress President and Dalit leader Dr G. Parmeshwaran took oath as deputy chief minister.
- It is noteworthy that BJP leader BS Yeddyurappa had resigned from the post before the floor test on May 19, 2018.
- After which the Governor had invited the Congress-JD (S) alliance to form the government.
- It is known that voting was held for 222 out of 224 assembly seats in Karnataka.
- In which the BJP got 104 seats, the Indian National Congress had 78 seats, the Janata Dal (S) had 37 seats, the Bahujan Samaj Party one seat, the *KarnatakaPragnyavantha Janatha Party* (KPJP) 1 seat and the others got one seat.
- According to these election results, no party received clear majority.
- For the majority, any party should have 112 MLAs.
- By getting the highest seats in the state, the BJP met with the governor to claim the formation of a government led by BS Yeddyurappa.
- As a result, the Governor invited him to form the government and sworn in as the Chief Minister of the state on May 17, 2018.
- At the same time, the Congress and Janata Dal (S) had filed a petition in the Supreme Court, to challenge the letter given by the Governor for taking oath as Yeddyurappa Chief Minister and not calling the coalition by the Governor after the election results.
- The Supreme Court had ordered the governor to make a floor test on May 19, 2018 by reducing the 15 days given to Yeddyurappa to prove the majority in the assembly.
- On 19th May, 2018 BS Yeddyurappa alone resigned from his post before the floor test.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/elections/karnataka-2018/karnataka-govt-formation-live-updates-kumaraswamy-swearing-in-ceremony/article23966536.ece>

India Biodiversity Award, 2018

Question: Who has recently been awarded 'India Biodiversity Award, 2018' in the category of Conservation of Wild Species ?

(a) Singchung Bugun Village Community, Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Lemscheloklok Organization, Nagaland(c) (a) and (b) both(d) only (a)

Answer- (c)

Related Fact:

- On 22nd May, 2018, 'India Biodiversity Award, 2018' was provided by National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) on the occasion of 'International Biodiversity Day'.
- This award was given to institutions and individuals in different categories.



- Conservation of Wild Species
 - (i) Singchung Bugun Village Community, Arunachal Pradesh.
 - (ii) Lemscheloklok Organization, Nagaland
- Conservation of Domesticated Species
 - (i) Kutch Unth Uchherak Maldhari Organization, Gujarat.
 - (ii) Kalden Singhhi Bhutia.
- Sustainable Use of Biological Resources
 - (i) Sangham Women Farmers Group, Telangana.
 - (ii) Parvathi Nagarajan, Tamilnadu
- Replicable Mechanism for Access and Benefit Sharing for sharing access and profit
 - (i) Raipassa BMC, Tripura.
- Best Biodiversity Management Committee (BMC)
 - (i) Pithorabad BMC, Madhya Pradesh.
 - (ii) Eraviperoor BMC, Kerala.

Reference:

<http://nbaindia.org/blog/791/3/ListofWinnersand.html>

NSCI Safety Award, 2017

Question- NSCI Safety Awards, 2017, were delivered on April 27, 2018. This award is given by an autonomous society, National Security Council, set up by the-
 (a) Ministry of Railways(b) Ministry of Labor and Employment(c) Information and Broadcasting
 (d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 27th, 2018; NSCI Safety Awards 2017 were distributed at an event held in New Delhi.
- IOCL, Haldia Refinery Medinipur (West Bengal), Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd. (Bareilly, U.P.), Kaiga Generating Station 3 and 4 (Karnataka), Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. (Automotive Sector), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), and Vardhman Acrylics Ltd. Bharuch (Gujarat) won the Top Level Best Safety Award under Group A, Group B, Group C, Group D and Group E, in the manufacturing sector, respectively.
- The Sojitzs-L & T Consortium, Jaipur (Rajasthan) has been awarded the best security award in the construction sector.
- Parijat Industries India Pvt. Ltd. Ambala (Haryana) was awarded top level award in MSME area.
- In addition, 12 consumer organizations of the construction sector were also rewarded.
- These awards are assessed and announced annually by an autonomous society 'National Security Council' formed by the Ministry of Labor and Employment, Government of India.



Reference:

http://nsc.org.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=109:winnersofnscisafetyawards2017&catid=3:new-developments

Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award

Question- Recently to whom, the Maharashtra government has announced to give the Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award?

(a) Amitabh Bachchan(b) Anupam Kher(c) Dharmendra(d) Mithun Chakraborty

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 15th, the Maharashtra government announced to give the Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement Award to the famous Bollywood actor Dharmendra.
- Apart from this, famous film producer and director Rajkumar Hirani will be given Raj Kapoor special contribution award.
- Actor Vijay Chavan will be given 'Chhatrapati V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award'.
- At the same time actress and director Mrinal Kulkarni will get 'Chhatrapati V. Shantaram Special Contribution Award'.
- All these awards have been established by the Government of Maharashtra.
- These awards will be given in the 55th Maharashtra State Marathi Film Festival.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/dharmendra-to-get-maharashtra-government-raj-kapoor-lifetime-achievement-award-5138300/>

UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize

Question: On April 23, 2018, which year was announced the year 2018 UNESCO Guillermo Canoe World Press Freedom Award?

- (a) Mahmood Abu Zeid (b) Muhammad Arman (c) G. Shawn (d) Jiyen Vendre

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018, Egypt's photojournalist Mahmood Abu Zeid was announced the year 2018 UNESCO Guillermo Canoe World Press Freedom Award.
- He was arrested in August 2013 to cover a demonstration in Rabaa-al-Adawiya Square (Cairo).
- Mahmood Abu Zeid is famous as Shawkan.
- He has been given this award on May 2nd, 2018 on the occasion of 'World Press Freedom Day'.



Reference:

<https://en.unesco.org/news/egyptian-photojournalist-mahmoud-abu-zeid-aka-shawkan-receive-2018-unescoguillermo-c>

26th P.C. Chandra Award, 2018

Question: Recently who amongst the given has been awarded with the 26th P.C. Chandra Award, 2018?

- (a) Lata Mangeshkar (b) Sharmila Tagore (c) Asha Khemka (d) Asha Bhosle

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 30, 2018, the famous playback singer Asha Bhosle was named the 26th P.C. Chandra Award was awarded to 2018.
- She was given this honor for her special contribution in Indian music.
- Asha Bhosle has already been awarded Dadasaheb Phalke Award in 2000 and Padma Vibhushan in the year 2008.



Reference:

<https://epaper.timesgroup.com/Olive/ODN/TimesOfIndia/shared/ShowArticle.aspx?doc=TOIDEL%2F2018%2F05%2F04&entity=Ar03505&sk=EC5FD8ED&mode=text>

<https://www.jiyobangla.com/news/asha-bhosle-honoured-with-pc-chandra-puraskar>

27th Bihari Award-2017

Question: Who was announced to be awarded, the prestigious 27th Bihari award given by the K.K. Birla Foundation, on May 11, 2018?

(a) Vijay Verma (b) Dr. Satya Narayan (c) Om Thanvi (d) Bhagwati Lal Vyas

Ans: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 11 May 2018 famous folk musician and writer Vijay Verma of Rajasthan was announced to be given the prestigious '27th Bihari awards, 2017' provided by the K. Birla Foundation.
- The decision of awarding 'Bihari awards' to Vijay Verma was done by the jury chaired by famous literary figure Nand Bhardwaj.
- He will be given this award for his collection 'Lokavalok'.
- Under this award, he will be given a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs, insignia and citation.
- This award was started by the KK Birla Foundation in 1991.
- Which is provided every year for the excellent Hindi / Rajasthani work of any author of Rajasthan published in the last ten years.
- In the year 1991, the first Bihari award was given to famous poet Jaisingh Neeraj for his poetry collection ' Dhani Ka Aadmi '.
- It is known that the 26th Bihari Award of 2015 was awarded to the famous literary writer, Dr. Satyanarayan.

Related Links:-

http://www.bhasha.ptinews.com/news/1724107_bhasha

Dada Saheb Phalke Film Foundation Awards

Question- Dada Saheb Phalke Film Foundation Award, 2018, was distributed on April 29th, 2018. Who has won the Best Actor Award?

(a) Aamir Khan (b) Akshay Kumar (c) Salman Khan
(d) Shahrukh Khan

Answer:- (b)

related Facts:

- Dada Saheb Phalke Film Foundation Award, 2018 were distributed at a function held in Mumbai on April 29th, 2018.
- The main awards given were:
- Best Actor – Akshay Kumar (for the film 'Padman' and 'Toilet Ek Prem Katha')
- Best Actress – *Bhumi Pednekar* (for movie 'Toilet Ek Prem Katha')
- Best Actress for a Leading Role – Sonam Kapoor (for film 'Padman')
- Best versatile actress – Manisha Koirala
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Rakesh Roshan
- Saraswati Bai Dada Saheb Phalke Best Actress (Lifetime) Award – Farida Jalal
- Best Playback Singer – Armaan Malik
- Best Playback Singer – Policy Mohan.
- Best Debut Director – Konkona Sen Sharma.



Reference:

<http://indianexpress.com/photos/entertainment-gallery/dadasaheb-phalke-film-foundation-awards-2018-manisha-koirala-konkona-sensharma-farida-jalal-5157006/>

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar International Award

Question: Who was recently announced to be awarded with the Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar International Award?

(a) Prof. Bhante Anand Kirti (b) Prof. Rajkumar (c) Prof. Ramji
(d) Prof. S.

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 13th, 2018, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar International Award was announced to be given to Professor Bhante Anand Kirti, Colombo (Sri Lanka).
- This award will be given at the 34th National Dalit Literary Conference to be held during 9-10 December, 2018.
- It is worth noting that this award was established in the year 1995.
- This award is given to any person / organization for the work done for social change.



Reference:

<http://www.navabharat.news/educational-news/anand-kirti-of-colombo-international-ambedkar-award/>

<http://ambedkarfoundation.nic.in/html/awards/ia16.pdf>

Operations & Campaign

Polythene Elimination Program

Question: In which state from May 27, 2018 to June 2, 2018, will the weekly polythene elimination campaign Polythene Hatao, Paryavaran Bachao Campaign, be conducted throughout the state with the help of public?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- From 27th May, 2018 to 2 June, 2018, the weekly polythene eradication program 'Polythene Hatao, Paryavaran Bachao Campaign' will be conducted throughout the state with the help of public in Himachal Pradesh.
- On May 18, 2018, According to director of the Department of Environment, Science and Technology, D.C. Rana, the decision to run this campaign by the state government has been taken under the theme of World Environment Day 'Beet Plastic Pollution' of this year.
- In the coordination and monitoring of the Deputy Commissioner, this campaign will be run in every district of the state.
- This program will be run by urban local bodies, Panchayati Raj institutions.
- All government offices, institutions and non-government institutions will also be assisted for the success of this program.
- During the program, plastic waste will be collected from the entire region.
- The collected plastic waste will be used by the Public Works Department to make roads and inadequate waste in road construction will be used as fuel in cement industries.
- During this, there will be special focus on the cleaning of rivers, streams, water sources, tourist sites.



Reference:

<http://himachalpr.gov.in/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=1&ID=12086>

<http://khabronwala.com/polothin/>

Ad campaign for Swachh Bharat

Question: Who recently launched an advertisement campaign for 'Clean India'?

(a) Priyanka Chopra (b) Land Pedanekar (c) Amitabh Bachchan (d) Akshay Kumar

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 27th, 2018, famous actor Akshay Kumar launched an advertisement campaign for 'Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural)'.
- The campaign was launched at a Collectors Convention for Toilet Technology organized in the capital.
- The campaign focuses on promoting the twin pit toilet technology in rural India, and also features actor, Ms Bhumi Pednekar along with Shri Kumar.
- The twin pit toilet technology was invented in India and is the most well-suited toilet technology for rural India, and is recommended by Government of India and the World Health Organization. It is scientifically proven that:
 - A pit in a standard twin-pit toilet model fills up in roughly 5 years for a 6-membered family
 - The waste may then be easily re-directed to the second pit
 - In 6 months to 1 year, the waste in the filled pit decomposes completely
 - This decomposed waste is safe to handle and rich in NPK (nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium) nutrients which makes it ideal for use in agriculture
 - The States are continuously encouraged by the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) to include awareness generation about the above facts as part of their grassroots information, education and communication (IEC) efforts.
 - The advertisement campaign launched today is an effort, supported by the World Bank, towards encouraging this technology using mass media.
 - The film can be found on the YouTube channel of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) (link: tinyurl.com/sbmgramin).
 - It will be translated in several regional languages, and the Hindi version will start airing on television channels with immediate effect.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179572>

Launch of Cleanliness Campaign at the State Level

Question: Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department started the Cleanliness Campaign at the state level. Which is not true in the following options in regard to this campaign?

- The campaign was started on May 6th, 2018.
- Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya inaugurated this campaign in Lucknow.
- The campaign started with all the 75 districts of the state along with the headquarters.
- The theme of this campaign is 'My Office, My Road, My Public Place'.

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 6th, 2018, the Uttar Pradesh Public Works Department started the state level Cleanliness Campaign.
- Deputy Chief Minister and Public Works Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya inaugurated the drive from district Ghaziabad, Western UP.
- Campaign has started with all the 75 districts of the state along with the headquarters.
- The theme of this Cleanliness Campaign is 'My Office, My Road, My Public Place'.
- This campaign will be run on the first Sunday of every month by Public Works Department officials.



Reference:

<https://twitter.com/kpmaurya1/status/989014136507060224>

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5ae88c-c428-44bc-9c32-14770af72573.pdf>

Commission & Committee

Tuticorin Violence

Question: Recently, under whose chairmanship the Tamil Nadu government constituted a one-member inquiry commission for Tuticorin Violence?

- (a) Justice Aruna Jagadishan (b) Justice T. Raghavan
(c) Justice S. Ramalingam (d) Justice P Ramalingam

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On May 23, 2018, the Tamil Nadu government constituted one member inquiry commission, under the chairmanship of Justice Aruna Jagadishan, a retired judge of Madras High Court, to investigate Tuticorin violence.
- It is worth mentioning that on May 22, 2018, 10 people were killed in a jolt to protest the issue of permanent closure of Vedanta Sterlite Copper Plant unit in Tuticorin for the alleged pollution related issue.



Reference:

<https://www.ndtv.com/tamil-nadu-news/anti-sterlite-protest-tamil-nadu-appoints-former-judge-to-head-inquiry-on-tuticorin-violence-1856352>

Parliamentary panel to look into black money recovery

Question: Recently, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan constituted a parliamentary committee under whose chairmanship to investigate the recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks among a host of subjects?

- (a) Mallikarjun Kharge (b) Ghulam Nabi Azad (c) Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi (d) K.V. Thomas

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 10, 2018 Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan constituted a 30-member parliamentary committee to examine the recovery of black money and performance of public sector banks among a host of subjects.
- Senior BJP leader Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi has been appointed the head of this committee.
- This parliamentary committee will focus on black money and illegal money which was valid during the period of the ban on account of the RBI report.
- Committee will study issues related to 2018-19 related to various ministries.
- As per the memorandum of the committee, the panel will look into the import of uranium for nuclear plants, mining activities and environment, upgrading of India Post offices and the drought situation in the country among other matters.
- Apart from this, the panel has also short listed preparedness of the armed forces, defence production and procurement as subjects to review and give suggestions to the government.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/par-panel-to-look-into-black-money-recovery-performance-of-public-sector-banks/articleshow/64114091.cms>

Committee to review the enforcement of CSR provisions

Question- Recently, the Central Government has constituted a 12-member committee under whose chairmanship to review the enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions?

- (a) NK Pray (b) Manmohan Juneja (c) Seema Rath (d) Chandra Mohan Ghosh

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018, the Central Government constituted a 12-member committee to review the enforcement of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) provisions under the Companies Act and recommend a similar approach for their enforcement.
- Regional Director (Western Region) Manmohan Juneja will preside over this committee.
- While Deputy Director (CSR) Seema Rath will be the convenor of the Committee.
- Other members of the committee include Joint Director (Law) Sanjay Shore and Joint Director (Policy) N.K. Dua.
- Representatives of top bodies of chartered accountants, cost accountants and company secretaries will also be part of this committee.
- Apart from this, there will be two sub-committees – legal and technical, which will examine various aspects of compliance with CSR provisions.
- It is known that under the Companies Act, 2013, the profit making institutions in specified categories will have to spend at least 2 percent of their 3 year annual average profit for CSR activities.
- This rule came into effect on April 1st, 2014.



Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-appointed-panel-to-review-csr-enforcement-under-companies-law/articleshow/63699792.cms>

Planning & Project

Increase in the amount of Shagun Yojana

Question: Recently, under the Social Harmony Inter-caste Marriage Shagun Yojana the Haryana Government has decided to give how much amount in the form of incentive to the couple who have done inter-caste marriage in the state.

(a) 1.50 lakhs (b) 2.00 lacs (c) 2.50 lakhs (d) 3.00 lacs

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 17th, 2018, the Haryana government decided to give with immediate effect an amount of 2.50 lakh in the form of incentive under the Chief Minister's Social Harmony Intercast Marriage Shagun Scheme to the couple doing Intercast marriage to the state.
- Previously, only 1.01 lakh rupees were made available.
- This scheme has been launched to eliminate the discrimination of caste and to increase mutual harmony in the society.
- To get the benefit of the scheme, one in the couple is required to belong to the Scheduled Castes and one from the non-Scheduled Castes.
- He must be a permanent resident of Haryana.
- This amount will be available after giving marriage registration certificate to the competent authority.
- The amount given to the couple will be given as joint fixed deposit (FD) in their name.
- This incentive amount can be withdrawn after 3 years of marriage.

Reference:

<http://prharyana.gov.in/hi/haraiyaanaa-sarakaara-nae-tauranta-parabhaava-sae-paradaesa-maen-antarajaataiya-vaivaaha-karanae>

Haryana Gramin Vikas Yojana

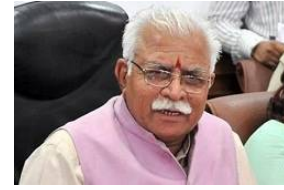
Question: How much amount has been provided for the 'Haryana Gramin Vikas Yojana' by the Haryana Government for the current financial year 2018-19?

(a) 450 crores (b) 475 crores (c) 500 crores (d) 550 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 17th, 2018, a spokesperson of the Development and Panchayat Department informed that Haryana Government has started a new scheme under the name of Haryana Gramin Vikas Yojana.
- Under this scheme development work will be carried out according to the needs and necessities of the village Panchayats.
- For the current financial year 2018-19, a provision of Rs 500 crores has been made for this scheme.
- In this new scheme, the Chief Minister's scheme for Scheduled Castes, Nirmal Basti and Footpath of Roads and Chowpal Subsidy has been merged.



Reference:

<http://prharyana.gov.in/hi/haraiyaanaa-sarakaara-nae-haraiyaanaa-garaamaina-vaikaasa-yaojanaa-kae-naama-sae-eka-nai-yaojanaa>

Mukhyamantri Krishak Vriksha Dhan Yojana

Question: Recently, the decision was taken by the Uttar Pradesh government to plant trees on the fence of the private farm under the ' Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Vriksha Dhan Yojana. In this context, which o the following is not true?

- (a) Plantation of good quality bamboo and shade, fruit and multi-year plant of medicinal species will be done under the scheme.
- (b) Selecting species for planting will be done by the respective officers.
- (c) Planting of more useful systems in water harvesting will be encouraged in the areas of Dark Groundwater.
- (d) The beneficiary will be responsible for the safety and maintenance of plants.

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 17th, 2018; the decision was taken by the Uttar Pradesh government to plant trees under the ' Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGA) under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Vriksha Dhan Yojana on the fence of the private farm.
- Plantation of good quality bamboo and shade, fruit and multi-year medicinal tree species which are approved in MNREGA scheme, will be done under the scheme.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Krishak Vriksha Dhan Yojana, mandate has been issued on April 3, 2018 for the plantation of species of trees mainly Sesham, Neem, Khair, Acacia, Aru, Malabari, Sahajan, Kadamb, Teak, Gumhar, Eucalyptus, Poplar, Kalmi / Deshi Mango, Jackfruit, Guava, Amla, Bale, Blackberry, Lime and Chiku etc.
- The beneficiary will select the species for planting.
- Planting of more useful species in water retention will be encouraged in areas with dark ground water level.
- Under this project, the families covered under the list of MNREGA, SC, ST, Ghumantu tribe, tribes excluded from notification, other families below poverty line, other family of women heads, other families of physically handicapped family heads, beneficiaries of land reforms, beneficiaries under Indira / Prime Minister's scheme, Scheduled Caste and other traditional forest dwellers and beneficiaries under Recognition of Forest Rights Act, 2006, 2007 will be included.



- 1-10 eligible beneficiary families will be benefited in a project.
- The beneficiary will be responsible for the safety and maintenance of plants under the project.

Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5ad5d1f3-8750-4c4c-9eb6-464f0af72573.pdf>

GOBAR-dhan scheme launched in Madhya Pradesh

Question- Recently GOBAR-dhan scheme was launched in Madhya Pradesh. In relation to this scheme, what is not true among the given below?

- The scheme was launched from Bhopal on May 12th, 2018.
- In the first phase, this scheme has been started in one selected village in two districts of Madhya Pradesh.
- The first among such projects in Madhya Pradesh will be implemented in Kodsia village in Narsingpur District and Chiruli village in Gwalior District.
- In order to establish a Bio Gas Plant for the purpose, the Government will provide 75% subsidy to the individual.

Answer: (d)

Related Facts

- On May 12, 2018, Union Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharati and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan launched the GOBAR-dhan scheme from Bhopal Madhya Pradesh.
- GOBAR-dhan scheme of Indian Government for Waste Management in Rural Areas has been started in the first phase in one village each selected in two districts of Gwalior and Narsingpur in the state.
- The first among such projects in Madhya Pradesh will be implemented in Kodsia village in Narsingpur District and Chiruli village in Gwalior District.
- This scheme was started under the Odif Plus in the districts declared as ODF in the Sanitation Campaign.
- The waste generated from the village under the information will be used for fuel production (biogas) in the village itself.
- Women self-help groups will be made self-supporting by connecting Bio-gas plants and activities etc.
- For establishment of a Bio Gas Plant under the scheme, the government will provide 100 percent subsidy to individual cases, 75 percent subsidy in case of self-help groups and 50 percent subsidy to the cows and dairy products such as cows and dairies.



Reference:

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20180514N5&LocID=1&PDt=5/14/2018%2012:00:00%20AM>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179250>

Chief Minister Yuva Swarojgar Yojana

Question: which is not true about the Chief Minister Yuva Swarojgar Yojana launched by Uttar Pradesh Government?

- 25 lakhs will be provided for the unemployed youth / women to set up a unit of industry sector.
- Loan amount up to Rs. 10 lakhs will be provided to open the services sector unit viz. computer center and tent house etc.
- Applicant's eligibility age for the plan should be between 18-55 years.
- Minimum educational qualification should be high school.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The 'Chief Minister Yuva Swarojgar Yojana' has been started by the Uttar Pradesh government to set up self employment for the unemployed educated youth.
- Under the scheme, the unemployed youth / women can get a loan of upto Rs. 25 lakhs for setting up a unit of industry sector and upto Rs. 10 lakhs for opening a service center unit, viz. computer center, tent house etc.
- On April 23rd, 2018, this information was provided by Sharveshwar Shukla, Deputy Commissioner, District Industry and Enterprise Promotion Center, Lucknow.
- Applicant's eligibility age for this scheme should be between 18-40 years.
- Minimum educational qualification is high school and candidate should not be defaulter of any national bank / financial institution / government body etc.
- Such candidates will be eligible for this scheme which has not previously received the benefit of margin money grant in any scheme run by the Government of India / State Government.
- Priority will be given to the units of low project cost in obtaining loans.



Reference:

- <http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5addbbdb-762c-4d7e-a75b-64e70af72573.pdf>
- <https://www.livehindustan.com/uttar-pradesh/lucknow/story-25-lakh-loan-can-be-available-1920273.html>

Narmada Control Board approved micro-lift irrigation projects

Question: In the meeting of the Narmada Control Board, chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan recently, how much amount of micro-lift irrigation projects was sanctioned?

- (a) 5,425 crore (b) 5,785 crores (c) 5,993 crores (d) 6,205 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018; in the meeting of the Narmada Control Board, chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, micro-irrigation irrigation projects of Rs. 5993 crores have been sanctioned.
- The sanctioned irrigation projects include Narmada-Parvati link of Rs 3019 crore and Narmada-Kali Sindh Link Project worth Rs 2974 crore.
- Under the Narmada-Parvati link project, farmers of 187 villages of Sehore district will be benefitted in first and second phase and irrigated one lakh hectare land of Tehsil Ashta, Shajapur and Ikshawar will be irrigated.
- In the Narmada-Kali Sindh link project, rural population from 13 villages of Sehore district, 10 in Shajapur district and 168 villages of Dewas district in total of 191 villages will be benefitted.
- In all micro-lift irrigation projects water supply will be done from pipes.
- Water will be available for irrigation to farmers on every two and a half chuk.



Reference:

- <http://www.univarta.com/story/States/news/1208470.html>
- <http://www.socialmediamp.com/?p=44243>

Noida International Green Field Airport

Question- Recently, the Steering Committee has formally given the clearance on the proposal of the State Government for the development of Noida International Green Field Airport near Jewar in Gautam Buddhanagar. In this regard, what is not true in the alternative?

- (a) This approval was given in the Steering Committee meeting held in Delhi on April 23, 2018.
- (b) Site clearance was given to this project by the Central Government's Steering Committee on May 6, 2017.
- (c) Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority has been nominated as the nodal agency for the project.
- (d) 2 runways will be constructed under the project.

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 23, 2018, in the meeting of the Steering Committee held in Delhi, the proposal made by the State Government for the development of Noida International Green Field Airport near Jewar in Gautam Buddha Nagar was formally given Approval in principle.
- On July 6th, 2017, this project was given 'Site Clearance' by the Central Government's Steering Committee.
- Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority has been nominated as the nodal agency for this project.
- DPR of the project and techno-economic feasibility study report (TEFR) has been prepared by the Price Waterhouse Coopers, a Consultant Company.
- About 15754 crores of investment is possible in PPP (public-private partnership mode) mode in four phases on the acquired land under the project.
- Two runways will be constructed in this project.
- Targeted passenger capacity of the Airport will be 70 million passengers per year and cargo capacity will be 3 million metric tonnes per annum.
- The airport is expected to start operation from the year 2022.
- This project was first conceptualized in the year 2000.



Reference:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/noida/noida-airport-project-may-get-in-principle-approval-on-april-23/story-V4FjJ4nfJu0RfLnibGdwRN.html>

'Bhu Seva' (land hub) project

Question- Recently, Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) of Andhra Pradesh K.E. Krishnamurthy launched the state government's 'Bhu Seva' (land hub). What is not true in the regards to this project?

- (a) The project was launched on April 28, 2018.
- (b) Its aim is to offer integrated services related to land.
- (c) Under the project each land segment will be given Bhudhara number.
- (d) Geography number is a unique number of 12 digits.

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On April 28, 2018, Deputy Chief Minister (Revenue) K E Krishnamurthy on Saturday initiated Andhra Pradesh government's new project called 'Bhu Seva' (land hub).
- This project aims at providing integrated services related with the land.
- Under this project, each land parcel will be given a Bhudhar Number, an 11 digit unique number.



- It will be useful for easy identification of the details of land parcel as a unique ID.
- A pilot project of the same was launched on April 11, 2018 in Jaggaiah Peta Mandal and Vuyyur Nagar Panchayat of Krishna district.
- The deputy CM explained the progress of the Andhra Pradesh revenue department for the last four years.
- He said that the revolutionary changes in the department have achieved many awards and rewards from the Central government.
- The minister further said that AP is the first state in India to complete geotagging of each land parcel in the state.
- According to Bhu Seva Mission director Ch Vijayamohan there are aadhar numbers for each individual along with a repository of land parcels in a single platform.
- The Consistency will be maintained among the department irrespective of the data. We are also planning to expand our initiative in different parts of Andhra Pradesh.”
- The department’s program ‘e-Panta’ (e-crop) is identified as one of the best innovations in the country and published in the book ‘New Beginning’ launched by Prime Minister.

Reference:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/lands-get-unique-number-in-andhras-new-project-bhu-seva201804290811270001/>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/lands-get-unique-number-in-andhra-s-new-project-bhu-seva-118042900066_1.html

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-lands-in-ap-to-get-unique-identification-number-bhudhar-2448654>

e-FRRO Scheme

Question- On February 13, 2018, the e-Foreign Regional Registration Office (e-FRRO) was initiated in FRRO (Foreign Regional Registration Office) located in four cities. Which is not included in the aforesaid?

(a) Cochin (b) Bangalore (c) Chennai (d) Mumbai

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 13th, 2018, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web-based application e-FRRO (e-Foreign Regional Registration Office).
- In the present system, foreigners staying in India on Visa duration of more than 180 days have to get themselves registered with their respective FROs/FRROs.
- Similarly, foreigners requiring different kind of visa related services such as Visa extension, Visa Conversion, Change of address, Change of Educational institutions, Exit permits etc are currently required to visit the FROs/FRROs office.
- Some of the salient features of the e-FRRO include online FRRO Service delivery mechanism without requirement of visiting FRRO/FRO Office barring exceptional cases.
- Using this application, foreigners are required to create their own User ID by registering themselves.
- Afterwards, they can apply online through registered User-ID for various Visa and Immigration related services in India viz. Registration, Visa Extension, Visa Conversion, Exit Permit etc.
- It is known that during 2017, more than one crore foreigners visited India and out of them approximately 3.6 lakhs had to visit FRRO offices spread across the country for various visa-related services.
- With the launch of the online e-FRRO scheme, their physical visit to the FRRO offices thus been obviated.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178663>

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-launches-e-frro-scheme-to-provide-hassle-free-travel-for-foreigners-118041301026_1.html

Gas Trading Hub

Question: From when Government is planning to start a gas trading hub / exchange (GTE) or natural gas business center?

(a) August, 2018 (b) October 2018 (c) November, 2018 (d) December 2018

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- The government is planning to start a Gas Trading Hub Exchange (GTE) or Natural Gas Business Center from October, 2018.
- The aim of this initiative is to create an Indian gas benchmark, which will increase the consumption of clean fuel faster.
- Oil Regulatory Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has demanded a bid to hire a consultant to assist in the development of a regulatory framework for the operation of gas trading / exchange hub.
- The gas business center will supply natural gas through market based mechanisms instead of many formula-driven prices.
- The goal of the government is to make India a gas based economy by increasing the share of natural gas in the country's primary energy mix by 20% from existing 6% by the year 2030.
- It is known that the price of domestic produced gas is currently fixed by the government.
- Trading hubs are working successfully in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia.
- The world's largest natural gas hub is the Henry Hub in America's Louisiana.



Reference:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-to-launch-natural-gas-trading-hub/63787583>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/india-to-launch-natural-gas-trading-hub-by-october/article23556778.ece>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/india-to-launch-gas-trading-hub-1213192-2018-04-16>

Vayoshri Yojana in Chhattisgarh

Question- Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Vayoshri Yojana in Chhattisgarh. Which of the given is not true in this regard?

- (a) This scheme was started in Jangla of Bijapur District.
- (b) This scheme has been started by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.
- (c) Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was launched on March 1st, 2018 in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh.
- (d) The aim of the scheme is to provide the necessary tools for physical assistance and living to senior citizens belonging to the poverty line.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 14th, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Vayoshri Yojana for providing Physical Aids



and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category at Jangla in Bijapur district.

- This scheme has been started in Chhattisgarh State.
- This scheme has been started by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India.
- Assistance will be provided to senior citizens as per their requirement under the scheme.
- For this, 520 senior citizens in Raipur district, 480 in Bastar district and 322 in Bijapur district have been identified.
- This scheme will also be started in Bilaspur, Raigad, Janjgir and Chepa.
- It is worth mentioning that “Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana”, a ‘Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category’ will be launched in District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh on 1st April, 2017..
- The objective of this scheme is to provide the necessary tools for the physical assistance and livelihood to the senior citizens belonging to the poverty line.

Reference:

<http://livechhattisgarh.in/vyushree-yojana-started-in-the-state/>

<https://www.newsdogapp.com/hi/article/5ad72a9712313a0f793e1e0b/?d=false>

Haryana Government’s new rehabilitation policy for slum dwellers

Question- Recently, Haryana has approved new rehabilitation policy for slum dwellers in the state under the Housing for all-2018. Under this policy, how much amount will be provided to developer for construction of houses for the slum dwellers?

(a) 1.52 lakhs (b) 1.65 lakhs (c) 1.67 lakhs (d) 2.25 lakhs

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In April, 2018, Haryana Government has approved the Slum-In-Situ Rehabilitation Policy under Housing for All-2018 so as to provide housing facility to the slum dwellers without relocating them to other areas.
- The policy was approved by the State Cabinet met under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Mr Manohar Lal.
- Under the Policy, a total of Rs 1.67 lakh per dwelling unit will be provided to developer for construction of houses for the slum dwellers.
- The Central Government will provide financial assistance of Rs one lakh per dwelling unit and the State Government will provide assistance of Rs 67,000 per dwelling unit.
- The carpet area prescription of 30 square metre will be substituted with 50 square metre.
- In case of Municipal Corporation Gurugram and Faridabad, the beneficiaries will have to pay Rs one lakh per dwelling unit or flat in 24 monthly instalments.
- This amount will be Rs 75,000 per dwelling unit in case of Municipal Corporation other than Gurugram and Faridabad. Similarly, Rs 50000 and Rs 25000 per dwelling unit will have to be paid by the beneficiaries in case of all the Municipal Council and Municipal Committee respectively.
- The lock-in period of allotted flat or dwelling unit under the scheme will be for 10 years.



Reference:

<http://prharyana.gov.in/en/haryana-government-has-approved-the-sluminsitu-rehabilitation-policy-under-housing-for-all2018-so>

Portal ‘Study in India’

Question: Recently, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched the HRD Ministry ‘Study in India Portal’. Students of How many countries will get the facility of application for enrollment in 160 different Indian institutions on this portal?

(a) 20 (b) 25 (c) 30 (d) 35

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 18th, 2018, Union External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj and Minister of State for HRD, Dr. Satya Pal Singh jointly launched the Study in India programme of HRD Ministry by launching the 'Study in India' portal (www.studyinindia.gov.in) at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi.
- 'Study in India' initiative will open the gates of prominent educational institution of India for foreign students.
- This initiative begin with the focus is on students of 30 Asian, African, Middle East and Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.
- This year 15, 000 seats have been offered by 160 Institutions under the programme, the secretary disclosed.
- These Indian institutions have got high positions in NAAC and NIRF indices.
- The aim of this portal is to develop India as the primary destination for the education of foreign students.
- During the ceremony, a film based on 'Study in India' was also performed.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178772>

<https://www.ibef.org/news/smt-sushma-swaraj-and-shri-prakash-javadekar-to-launch-study-in-india-portal-of-hrd-ministry-tomorrow>

<https://www.ndtv.com/education/hrd-ministry-study-in-india-portal-www-studyinindia-gov-in-launch-tomorrow-1838926>

Pravasi Pension Scheme

Question: Recently, the Pravasi Pension Scheme was started by the Government of Kerala. Which of the given option is not correct in relation to this scheme?

- (a) The scheme was launched on April 21st, 2018.
- (b) This scheme has been started by the Kerala Overseas Board.
- (c) People under 55 years of age will be beneficiary under the scheme.
- (d) A pension of Rs 2000 will be provided under the scheme.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 21st, 2018, Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan launched the Pravasi Pension Scheme for non-resident Keralites.
- This scheme has been started for migrants living outside the state or the country, originally from Kerala.
- Under the scheme, pension of Rs 2,000 per month will be provided.
- This scheme has been started by the Kerala's Pravasi Welfare Board.
- In this scheme people over 60 years of age will be eligible for benefits.
- One person will have to pay 100 rupees per month to take advantage of the scheme.
- The contribution period is 5 years.
- The benefits of the scheme will be to the people registered in the Kerala Pravasi welfare Board.
- This scheme is not applicable to the employees of the State and Central government.



Reference:

<http://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Telangana/2018-04-17/Kerala-CM-to-launch-pravasi->

DARPAN PLI App

Question-DARPAN PLI App is related to-

(a) Insurance policy (b) Electronic system (c) Digital communication (d) Banking system

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 17th, 2018, Union Communications Minister Manoj Sinha launched a DARPAN PLI app in New Delhi.
- This app will be helpful in collection of installment of PLI and RPLI insurance policies.
- Through this, installments can be deposited in any post office in India.
- This will make possible of online updates to the policy and money collection.
- Through this app, maturity claims of the said insurance policies will be settled only at the post office branch.
- The Digital Advancement of Rural Post Office for a New India project has been implemented for the digitization of country's postal services.
- The total Project cost is more than Rs.1300 crores.
- 61,941 Branch Post Offices have been rolled out under DARPAN Project.
- This aims to connect all 1.29 lakh Rural Branch Post Offices in the country, to enable them to do online Postal and Financial Transactions.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178732>

<http://ddnews.gov.in/business/manoj-sinha-launches-darpan-pli-app>

NDMA to conduct workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction database

Question: At which of the following places two days National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database is being organized?

(a) Visakhapatnam (b) Bhubaneswar (c) New Delhi (d) Kutch

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 2nd, 2018, a two-day National Workshop on Data Requirements for Disaster Risk Reduction Database begins.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is conducting this workshop in New Delhi.
- The workshop is being held in collaboration with United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).
- The workshop aims to develop consensus on disasters, thresholds and develop standardized templates for data collection, updation and validation to ensure accuracy and quality.
- Issues such as interoperability and security of the data will also be discussed.
- This database is crucial for assessing and tracking our risks and progress towards resilience without which India will not be able to meet its developmental goals.
- It will also be a step forwards towards implementing the Prime Minister's 10-point agenda to address disaster risks, outlined during the Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR (AMCDRR) in November, 2016.



- Two technical sessions – Disaster information and data management system on damage and loss and good practices, and Discussion to record an event as a disaster in DRR database – will be held on the first day of the workshop.
- Three technical sessions – Group Presentations and Discussions, Panel discussion on setting up baseline data for damage and loss estimation using 2005-2015 dataset and Discussion on Formation of a “Steering Group for DMIS” and Way forward – will be held on the second day of the workshop.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179029>

Treaty & Agreements

Agreement in Railway Ministry and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited

Question: According to the MoU signed recently between Railway Ministry and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, what is the target of earning revenue from operations for Rail Vikas Nigam Limited in the financial year 2018-19?

(a) 6600 crores (b) 7500 crores (c) 7600 crores (d) 7800 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) was signed on May 21, 2018.
- This MoU was done in the context of the company’s financial and non-financial goals.
- Secretary, Railway Board Ranjanesh Sahai and Chairman and Managing Director of Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, S.C. Agnihotri have signed on this MoU in Rail Bhawan.
- Under the Memorandum of Understanding, for the financial year 2018-19, a target of earning revenue from operations for Rail Vikas Nigam Limited has been set at Rs. 7600 crores.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179438>

India-France Agreement

Question: Recently, the union cabinet apprised of the agreement for the technical cooperation signed between the Indian Railways and which of the following French company?

(a) EASE Rail Company (b) SNCF Mobilities (c) NSDF Rail Company (d) SNDF Mobilities

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 16th, 2018, the Union Cabinet was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Indian Railways and the French government company SNCF Mobilities, for the technical assistance in the field of railways.
- This Memorandum of Understanding was signed on March 10, 2018.
- This MoU provides a platform for Indian Railways to share the latest information related to knowledge and development in the field of Railways.



- Through this Memorandum, it has been facilitated exchange of technical expertise, reports and technical documents and to organize training, symposia and workshops, and sharing information on a special type of technology.
- Under this MoU, the framework of cooperation has been set in the following major areas: high speed and medium high speed rail services, upgradation and operation of railway stations, modernization of existing rail operations and infrastructure and suburban railways.

Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1532295>

Agreement between India and Colombia

Question: Recently in which field, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between India and Colombia.

- (a) New and Renewable Energy (b) Mining and Geology (c) Cultural Cooperation
(d) Traditional Medicine System

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 16th, 2018, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation on India's traditional medicine systems between India and Colombia.
- This agreement will propagate the traditional medicine of India in Colombia.
- As a result of this Memorandum, exchange of specialists for training of physicians, cooperation in traditional medicine systems, full research will lead to new inventions in medicine and traditional medicine.



MoU signing ceremony with States for implementing PMRSSM

Question: Recently, the Memorandum of Understanding between how many the States and Union Territories of India was signed in Shimla for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan MantriRashtriyaSwasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM).

- (a) 3 States, 2 Union Territories (b) 4 States, 1 Union Territory
(c) 5 states, 1 Union Territory (d) 5 States, 2 Union Territories

Answer: (b)

Related Facts

- On 14th May, 2018, an Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between four States – and Union Territory for implementing Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan MantriRashtriyaSwasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM), at a regional workshop for northern States at Shimla.
- These include four states Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and one Union Territory of Chandigarh.
- Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan MantriRashtriyaSwasthya Suraksha Mission (PMRSSM) will protect around 50 crore people (from about 10 crore families).
- "It will be cashless and paperless access to services upto Rs. 5 lakhs per year will be available for the beneficiary families at the point of service in both public and private empanelled hospitals across India,"
- Beneficiaries under the scheme can avail of services anywhere in India and it is expected to bring a visible relief to the target families by mitigating the financial risk arising out of catastrophic health episodes.



- Nearly 15.31 lakh people of BPL category in Himachal Pradesh will get free treatment under this scheme.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister informed that the amount of Rs.1350 crores has been approved for the establishment of AIIMS in the state by the Central Government.
- Himachal Pradesh government has constituted the Chief Minister's Health Relief Fund in the state for which a provision of Rs. 10 crores has been made in the budget.
- Workshops will be organized in the country to implement the 'Ayushman Bharat Scheme'.
- The first regional workshop on Prime Minister's National Health Mission is being organized in Himachal Pradesh.
- 4, 83,643 families have been registered under the National Health Insurance Scheme in Himachal Pradesh.
- India is the Memorandum of Understanding that the Union Health Minister J.P. Signed in the presence of Nadda and Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jairam Thakur.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179271>

Agreement to give advance information of crop estimates to farmers

Question: Recently, a Statement of Intent (Sol) to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in Aspirational Districts was signed between the NITI Aayog and which of the following the Information Technology firm?

(a) TCS (b) Cisco (c) IBM (d) Tech Mahindra

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 4th May, 2018, NITI Aayog and IBM signed a Statement of Intent (Sol) today to develop a crop yield prediction model using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to provide real time advisory to farmers in Aspirational Districts.
- The Sol was signed in the presence of Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Shri Karan Bajwa, MD, IBM India.
- The partnership aims to work together towards use of technology to provide insights to farmers to improve crop productivity, soil yield, control agricultural inputs with the overarching goal of improving farmers' incomes.
- First phase of the project will focus on developing the model for 10 Aspirational Districts across the States of Assam, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.



नीति आयोग

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179131>

Agreement between the Punjab Government and United Kingdom (UK)

Question: Recently, the MoU was signed between the Punjab Government and the United Kingdom (UK). What is not true in relation to this MoU?

- (a) Under the MoU, the Bio-gas and Bio-CNG plants will be set up in the state.
- (b) Under the Memorandum of Understanding, Rica Biofuels Development Limited will establish more than 10 Bio-CNG plants in the state with an investment of 100-150 million US dollars.
- (c) The production capacity of each plant will be converted to Bio-CNG per day of 100 metric tonnes of paddy per day.
- (d) Partners of MOU included Punjab Energy Development Agency and Punjab Industrial Corporation.



Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 11th, 2018, Punjab government signed the MoU with the United Kingdom (U.K.) to establish Bio-gas and Bio-CNG plants in the state.
- The partner of this MoU includes Punjab Bureau of Industrial Promotion (PBIP), Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) and Rica Biofuels Development Limited, UK.
- Punjab Infrastructure Development Board will facilitate regulatory approval and encouragement.
- According to the terms of the MoU, Rica Biofuels Development Limited, U.K. More than 10 Bio-CNG plants will be built with a total investment of 100 to 150 million US dollars.
- Product Capacity of plant per plant will be 100 metric tons per day.
- The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to find a viable and sustainable solution to paddy straw burning.
- The problem of to paddy straw burning has emerged as a major environmental concern in the region of Punjab and adjoining areas.

Reference:

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

Agreement between Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) and IGNTU

Question: Where is the campus of the Indian Culinary Institute situated?

(a) New Delhi, Noida (b) Tirupati, Noida (c) Noida, New Delhi (d) Kochi, Hyderabad

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 24th, 2018, A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) an autonomous body under the Ministry of Tourism, and Indira Gandhi National Tribal University (IGNTU), Amarkantak in New Delhi.
- The MOU was signed for imparting collaborative degree programmes including research in the field of culinary arts.
- ICI has its campuses at Tirupati and Noida.
- ICI offers various courses ranging from Diploma, Under Graduate, and Post Graduate to research in Culinary Arts.
- The academic courses from Noida campus would commence from 2018-19 batch and further batches at Tirupati campus from 2018-19 academic session.
- The graduate and post graduate courses will start from July this academic year.
- The purpose of the establishment of Indian Culinary Institute was to create a mechanism to fulfill the efforts of preserving and disseminating Indian cuisines, which will meet the needs of experts in Indian cuisine, thereby encouraging the recipes as tourism production.
- This Institute will serve as a Center of Excellence, which will provide structured regular programs of special study for cooking (art of cooking) and culinary management.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178982>

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1530634>

Agreement in Uttarakhand Government and Bali (Indonesia)

Question: Recently Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat signed the Letter of Content in the Chief Minister's residence with how many number of points with the Governor of Bali (Indonesia) I Made Mangku Pastika?

(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 8

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018, Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat signed a Letter of Consent at the Chief Minister's residence with the Governor of Bali (Indonesia) I Made Mangku Pastika.
- This agreement is for "extend mutual cooperation" to give a boost to sectors such as health, tourism and culture, and e-governance besides ensuring environmental conservation.
- Bali province located in Indonesia has the highest (90%) population of Hindus.
- Here the number of those who followed the scriptures such as Ramayana and Mahabharata are excessive.
- Vedic period farming system is popular in Bali.
- Bali is a major tourist destination, where there on an average, some 4,000 tourists foreign tourists visiting every day.



Reference:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/travel-tourism/uttarakhand-bali-to-collaborate-in-tourism-culture-and-other-areas/11430>

Long-term agreement for supply of iron ore to Japan and South Korea approved

Question: Recently, Union Cabinet has approved the renewal of Long Term Agreements (LTAs) for supply of iron ore (lumps and fines) of grade +64% Fe content to Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea for another five years (i.e. 1.4.2018 upto 31.3.2023) through MMTC Limited. In this regard, which is not true among the given?

- (a) Cabinet has sanctioned supply of more than 64 percent of iron content type of iron ore for five years.
- (b) This long term renewal agreement will be valid from 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2023.
- (c) Exports of iron ore will be 3.50 million tonnes (minimum) per annum.
- (d) The quantitative limit of export of Bailadila shells (Lump) will be 1.81 million tonnes annually.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 25th, 2018, in the meeting Union Cabinet has approved the renewal of Long Term Agreements (LTAs) for supply of iron ore (lumps and fines) of grade +64% Fe content to Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea through MMTC Limited.
- This renewal will be for another five years (i.e. 1.4.2018 upto 31.3.2023).
- The present LTAs are valid until 31.3.2018. The renewed LTAs with steel mills of Japan and POSCO, South Korea shall be for a period of five years from 1.4.2018 to 31.3.2023.
- The range of quantity of iron ore to be exported under LTA per annum shall be 3.80 million tons (min.) per annum to 5.50 million tons per annum (max.).
- This will be for both NMDC and non-NMDC origin iron ore with quantitative ceilings for export of Bailadila Lumps at 1.81 million MTs per annum and Bailadila Fines at 2.71 million MTs per annum.
- The history of India's iron ore exports to Japan is almost six decades old and is a consistent component of India's bilateral relations with Japan.
- MMTC has been supplying iron ore to JSMs since 1963 and to South Korea since 1973.
- The current LTAs with Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea, for supply of iron ore for a period of three years will expire on 31st March, 2018.
- The Cabinet, in its meeting held on 24.06.2015 had authorized MMTC Limited to engage in Long Term Agreements (LTAs) with Japanese Steel Mills (JSMs) and POSCO, South Korea, for supply of iron ore for a period of three years (i.e. 2015 to 2018).



Reference:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1530152>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178900>

Agreement with PHDCCI and Indian Yoga Association

Question: In which state recently, the Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries (PHDCCI) and the Indian Yoga Association for joint promotion of Yoga, Health and Spiritual Tourism in the areas related to the Krishna Circuit?

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Gujarat (d) Haryana

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 29th, 2018, a MoU was signed between the PhD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) and the Indian Yoga Association to jointly promote Yoga, Health and Spiritual Tourism in the Krishna Circuit in Uttar Pradesh.
- Krishna Circuit is one of the 13 thematic circuits under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.
- In this circuit, 12 destinations related to Lord Krishna include Dwarka (Gujarat), Kurukshetra (Haryana), Nathdwara, Jaipur and Sikar (Rajasthan) Mathura, Vrindavan, Gokul, Barsana, Nandgaon, Govardhan (Uttar Pradesh) and Puri (Odisha).
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations has been signed to promote yoga in the above six destinations in Uttar Pradesh.
- According to the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, both the organizations will strive to provide a spiritual tourism experience to domestic and international travelers.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/mou-signed-between-phdcci-indian-yoga-association-to-promote-yoga-118042900600_1.html

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/mou-signed-between-phdcci-indian-yoga-association-to-promote-yoga201804292115480002/>

Agreement between Haryana Government and Indian Oil

Question: For establishment of Bio-Methenation Plant in which of the following cities a MoU was recently signed between Haryana Government and Indian Oil. (a)

Hisar (b) Panipat (c) Faridabad (d) Jind

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for setting up Biomethenation Plant in Faridabad.
- The plant will produce gas and compost from organic waste which will be used in cooking mid-day-meal and in parks.
- The MoU with IOC was signed by the officials of Municipal Corporation, Faridabad, Indian Oil Corporation, Haryana Shahri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP), Ecogreen and Iskcon in the presence of Industries and Commerce Minister, Mr Vipul Goel.
- It is a unique initiative of the State government and IOC towards making Faridabad a clean and smart city.
- The project, which will be set up by IOC at a cost of Rs three crore through Corporate Social Responsibility fund, would be completed by March 2019.
- Land for this project has been made available by HSVP.



- The Biomethanation Plant would be handed over to Municipal Corporation, Faridabad after three years.
- The plant will produce 18 cyclinder gas every day which will be supplied to Iskcon, the agency engaged in cooking mid-day-meal for 60,000 school children in Faridabad, free of cost.
- In addition, the plant will also produce about 4 tonnes of compost per day from 5 tonnes organic waste. This compost will be supplied to HSVP for parks.

Reference:

<http://prharyana.gov.in/en/haryana-government-has-signed-a-memorandum-of-understanding-mou-with-the-indian-oil-corporation-0>

ADB approves the assistance amount to Uttarakhand

Question: Recently, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give an aid of how many rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas?

(a) 1200 crores (b) 1500 crores (c) 1700 crores (d) 1800 crores

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 23rd, 2018, the meeting was concluded between the Chief Secretary, Utpal Kumar Singh and the representatives of Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the Uttarakhand state secretariat.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed in principle to give an aid of 1,700 crore rupees to Uttarakhand for infrastructure development and creation of sewerage treatment facilities in urban areas.
- This amount will be spent on improvement of drinking water supply, sewage system, solid waste management, road and transportation system in major cities of the state.



Reference:

<https://thedispatch.co.in/uttarakhand-to-get-1700-crore-rupees-aid-from-adb-for-infrastructure-development/>

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/news+bharati-epaper-newsbhar/uttarakhand+gets+1700+cr+fund+for+development-newsid-86388044>

Agreement in Indian Overseas Bank and E-Governance Services Limited

Question: The first information utility unit registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 is-

- (a) National e-Governance Services Limited
 (b) Central Information Commission
 (c) Ahmedabad Library Network (d) NITI Aayog

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 20th, 2018, Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) entered into an agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) to use information utility services under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- National e-Governance Services Limited is the first information utility unit registered with the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.



**इण्डियन ओवरसीज़ बैंक
Indian Overseas Bank**

- Information utility is an information network that purchases and stores the financial data of different institutions, such as the borrowing, non-receipts and security interests.
- This enables borrowers to make decisions on credit transactions.
- With this agreement, the branches of Indian Overseas Bank will now be able to provide certified information regarding debt and defaults, thereby helping transparency in maintaining the list of borrowers, debtors, creditors and debt collectors and growth will take place.

Reference:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/business/iob-inks-information-utility-pact-with-nel201804210240440001/>

Agreement in GIFAS (France) and SIDM (India)

Question: Who amongst the following is currently the President of Society of India Defense Manufacturers (SIDM)?

(a) Subir Raha (b) Birender Singh Dhanoa (c) Subrata Saha (d) Surendra Pal Singh Cheema

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 17th, 2018, a Memorandum of understanding was signed between the SIDM-Society of India Defense Manufacturers and GIFAS (Groupment des Industris Francaises Aeronautiques at Spatiales).
- This MoU was signed to promote a permanent framework for present and future partnerships and cooperative work between the French aerospace industry and the Indian defense industry.
- The MoU was signed during a major industrial mission of India in the aerospace and defense sector, which was organized by GIFS during 16-19 April, 2018 with the support of SIDM.
- Through this, work will be done to expand trade through better economic and industrial cooperation between India and France and export customers.
- It will enable the implementation of various measures to promote mutually beneficial cooperation in aerospace and defense manufacturing, research and technology, human capital, engineering services and system integration.
- This cooperation will focus on the five areas of common interest, which are the following – development of trade opportunities, training and human capital development, research and technology, aerospace industry policy and business environment and international business issues among members of GIFAS and SIDM.
- Presently, Lt Gen Subrata Saha, Director General of Indian Defense Producer Society (SIDM).



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/gifas-sidm-sign-mou-to-promote-future-partnerships-118041601248_1.html

Agreement between Mahindra Defense Systems and Japanese ShinMaywa Industries

Question: Recently, for manufacturing and assembling of which of the following amphibious plane, contract was signed between the Mahindra Defense System and ShinMaywa Industries Limited, Japan?

(a) ShinMaywa US-1 (b) ShinMaywa US-2 (c) ShinMaywa US-3 (d) ShinMaywa US-5

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 11th, 2018, the agreement was signed between Mahindra Defense Systems (a part of Mahindra Group) and ShinMaywa Industries of Japan for manufacturing and assembling of Amphibious Aircraft ShinMaywa US-2.
- During the Defense Expo 2018 at Thiruvadanthai near Chennai, Documents were formally exchanged between SP Shukla, President of Mahindra (Aerospace and Defense) and ShinMaywa Industries Director Yasuo Kawanishi.
- Mahindra Defense System is committed to assimilating technology for large amphibious planes in India.
- Under this MoU, the two companies will develop strategic partnership.
- This is a versatile plane which is suitable for Indian conditions.
- It has been developed by the Japanese Marine Defense Forces for the rescue operations in remote islands, search and protection of other economic zones.



Reference:

<http://www.mahindra.com/news-room/press-release/mahindra-defence-and-shinmaywa-industries-limited-join-hands-for-us-2-amphibious-aircraft>

Agreement for the installation of Indian Pavilion at the exhibition of World expo 2020

Question: Where will the world expo 2020 be organized?

(a) Montreal (b) Bali (c) Dubai (d) Sharjah

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 10th, 2018, India signed a partnership agreement for the installation of Indian Pavilion at the exhibition of World Expo 2020 to be held in Dubai.
- Manoj K. Dwivedi Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce on behalf of India and on behalf of Expo 2020, Najeeb Mohammad Al-Ali, Executive Director of Dubai Expo 2020 Bureau signed on this contract at the Expo site.
- The contract provides for the setting up of India pavilion at Expo 2020 on an extra large plot (about one acre) in the 'Opportunity' segment.
- This is tune with the great opportunity for economic activity that India provides today on the way to becoming a \$5 trillion economy by 2025.
- Focus will be given to India's advances in Space, Pharma, IT, Renewable Energy, Telecom sectors.
- The pavilion will be developed in public-private partnership mode.
- Leading industries and businesses will work with Central government and State governments to participate in India's pavilion.
- A number of state governments, various ministries of central government and major industry associations and businesses have shown interest in partnering and participating in World Expo 2020 which will take place for six months beginning October 2020.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178566>

Oil pipeline agreement between India and Bangladesh

Question: Recently, the Oil Pipeline agreement was signed between India and Bangladesh. In relation to this agreement, which statement is not correct?

- (a) The agreement was signed on April 10th, 2018.
 (b) Oil pipeline will be constructed between Siliguri of India, Parbatipur of Bangladesh.
 (c) The total length of this pipeline is 129.5 km is.
 (d) Through this, India will send one million tonnes of diesel every year to Bangladesh.

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 9th, 2018, the oil pipeline agreement was signed between India and Bangladesh.
- The agreement was signed by Indian Foreign Secretary Vijay Keshav Gokhale and his Bangladeshi counterpart Mohammad Shahidul Haque.
- Under this agreement, construction of oil pipeline between Siliguri West Bengal and Parbatipur of Bangladesh is proposed.
- The total length of this oil pipeline is 129.5 km is.
- Through this pipeline, India will send one million tonnes of diesel every year to Bangladesh.
- The estimated cost of construction of this pipeline will be Rs. 321 crores.



Reference:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/2018/apr/09/india-bangladesh-sign-agreement-on-oil-pipeline-discuss-teesta-water-issue-1799161.html>

Agreement between SIDBI and CSC

Question- In how many aspirational districts across the country Small Industrial Development Bank (SIDBI) has made an agreement with Common Service Center (CSC) for partnership to conduct Micro Enterprises Promotion Program (MEPP) in April 2018?

- (a) 110 (b) 112 (c) 115 (d) 120

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In April, 2018, Small Industrial Development Bank (SIDBI) has made an agreement with Common Service Center (CSC) for partnership to operate Micro Enterprises Promotion Program (MEPP) in 115 aspirational districts across the country.
- In January 2018, aspiring district program was started by Prime Minister Modi.
- In aspirational districts 115 backward districts those are lagging behind on specific development parameters, has been selected.
- Under this program, a major policy initiative has been taken by the Central Government for the rapid change of these districts and senior officials have been given the responsibility to coordinate the efforts of the Center and the States in such districts and facilitate development.
- Micro Enterprises Promotion Program (MEPP) is an initiative taken for promoting potential rural entrepreneurs and to facilitate finance for such enterprises in the formal banking sector.
- So far 41,500 enterprises have been benefited under this program.
- Employment opportunities for approximately 1.07 lakh people mainly created for the people deprived of the society.



Reference:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/in-other-news/100418/sidbi-to-focus-on-115-aspirational-districts-promote-micro-enterprise.html>

Conference

19th Animation Masters Summit, 2018

Question: Where did the 19th Animation Masters Summit, 2018 concluded on May 4-5 2018?

(a) New Delhi (b) Trivandrum (c) Kochi (d) Bangalore

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During May 4th-5th, 2018, the '19th Annual Animation Masters Summit', 2018 was held at Technopark Campus Trivandrum, in Kerala.
- This Summit was organized by TOONZ Media Group.
- It involved 400 people associated with animation and media industry in India and abroad.
- During the summit, V.G. Samant, the leading producer of Indian animation, was awarded the 'Legend of Animation' award for his contributions to the animation industry.



Reference:

<http://animationsummit.in/>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/animation-masters-summit-on-may-4-5/article23745985.ece>

'Samarth' - Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector

Question- Recently, the Meeting of Stakeholders on 'Samarth'- Scheme was held on May 14th, 2018 in New Delhi. The scheme is for Capacity Building in which of the following areas?

(a) Agriculture Area (b) Manufacturing Area (c) Energy Area
(d) Clothing Area

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 14th May, 2018, a meeting of stakeholders on Samarth – Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector under the Skill India Mission was held in New Delhi.
- The scheme is to familiarize the stakeholders about the scheme and its guidelines.
- The meeting was chaired by Union Minister of Textiles, Smt Smriti Zubin Irani.
- The broad objective of the new scheme is to skill the youth for gainful and sustainable employment in the textile sector covering the entire value chain of textiles, excluding spinning and weaving.
- The scheme, approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 20th of December last year, is intended to provide demand driven, placement oriented National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) compliant skilling programmes to incentivize and supplement the efforts of the industry in creating jobs in the textiles sectors.
- The scheme targets to train 10 lakh persons (9 lakh in organised and 1 lakh in traditional sector) over a period of 3 years (2017-20), with an outlay of Rs. 1300 crore.
- The guidelines of the scheme were released on 23rd of April 2018.
- The meeting was attended by the senior officials of the Textiles Ministry, institutions and organizations under it, representatives of textile industry, State Governments, training institutions among others.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179269>

Meeting of World's Women Foreign Ministers for the first time

Question- Where will the World Women's Foreign Ministers meeting be held for the first time in September, 2018?

(a) Canada (b) UK (c) Belgian (d) Switzerland

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 22nd, 2018, Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland announced that Canada and the EU will host the meeting of Women Foreign Ministers of the world for the first time in September, 2018.
- This announcement was made during the meeting of Foreign Ministers of the G-7 countries held in Toronto.
- This meeting will be held in Canada during 21-22 September, 2018.
- According to the Canadian Government, women foreign ministers from 30 countries will be invited to participate in this meeting.
- The purpose of this meeting is to strengthen the discussion in relation to the empowerment of women.



Reference:

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2018/04/23/world/politics-diplomacy-world/canada-host-worlds-female-foreign-minister>

First major conference of CEO of Smart Cities

Question: During 8-9 May, 2018 where did the first major conference of CEO of Smart Cities held?

(a) Indore (b) Bhopal (c) Kolkata (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 8-9 May, 2018, the first major conference of 'Smart Cities' CEO was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- Union Minister of State for Home Affairs and Urban Affairs (Independent Charge) Hardeep Puri inaugurated the conference.
- The objective of this conference is to share the achievements, experiences and information acquired in the past two and a half years.
- It is known that the Smart Cities Mission (SCM), launched on June 25th, 2015, is the most transformative mission in urban campaigns.



Reference:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/pti-feed/story/puri-to-inaugurate-first-conference-of-smart-cities-ceos-tomorrow-1228638-2018-05-07>

Shirui Lily Festival

Question- Recently in which state Shirui Lily Festival, 2018 was organized?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- During April 24-28, 2018; Shirui Lily Festival, 2018 was organized in Ukhrul district of Manipur.
- During this celebration, the importance of Manipur's



State Flower Shirui Lily is celebrated.

- Liliium Macliniya Selie (locally known as Shirui Lily or Kangongvan) was discovered in 1946 by Frank Kingdom Ward, the botanist of the United Kingdom.
- This flower is found only in Shirui Kashong Peak of Manipur.
- Shirui Lili Festival, 2018 is the second edition of this festival.
- This festival was sponsored by the Tourism Department of Manipur state to spread awareness about the conservation of extinct Shirui Lily and for promoting Ukhrul district, Manipur as a tourist destination.

Reference:

<http://www.manipur-tourism.gov.in/shirui-lily-festival/>

<http://www.kumhei.com/kumhei/kumhei/791-shirui-lily-festival-2018>

<https://www.ifp.co.in/page/items/48426/shirui-lily-festival-begins-on-april-24/>

Fourth Global Exhibition on Services

Question: Where was the 'Fourth Global Exhibition on Services' organized During 15th-18th 2018?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- During 15th-18th 2018, Fourth Global Exhibition on Services was organized in Mumbai (Maharashtra) on 'Services'.
- It was jointly organized by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, Maharashtra Government, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Service Export Promotion Council (SEPC).
- On 15 May, 2018, President Ramnath Kovind inaugurated this exhibition.
- On this occasion, he launched a portal on 12 champions areas of service sector.
- He said that the launch of 12 champions areas is a bold new step which will make significant contributions to India as well as in the global economy and create jobs.
- About 500 representatives from around 100 countries participated in this global exhibition.



Reference:

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

India-South Africa Business Summit

Question: At which of the following places the Indo-South Africa Business Summit conclude on April 29-30, 2018?

(a) New Delhi (b) Cape Town (c) Johannesburg (d) Mumbai

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 29-30, 2018, the India-South Africa Business Summit was concluded in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- India was represented by Union Commerce and Industry and Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu at this summit.
- He met with the Minister of Trade and Industry of South Africa Dr. Rob Davies and ministers of Swaziland, Botswana and Lesotho.
- On this occasion Suresh Prabhu said that this conference will prove beneficial and India and South Africa will be on the path of fast growth in the next few years.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintHindiRelease.aspx?relid=72031>

Defense corridor related meeting in Jhansi

Question- Recently, a meeting regarding the Defense Corridor was held in Jhansi. In this regard, which is not true in this regard?

- (a) U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Defense Secretary attended this meeting.
(b) This corridor comprises 7 districts.
(c) In the Jhansi Defense Corridor, the Aircraft Manufacturing Industry and the Drone Manufacturing Industry will be developed.
(d) I.I.T. Kanpur will provide technical support in the Defense Corridor.

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- A meeting of the proposed defense corridor (defense corridor) worth Rs 20,000 crore was completed in Jhansi on April 16, 2018.
- In this meeting, Uttar Pradesh's Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Union Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharti attended.
- This corridor comprises 7 districts
- Currently, more than 3 hectares of land has been identified.
- Aircraft manufacturing industry and drone manufacturing industry will be developed in the Jhansi Defense Corridor.
- IIT Kanpur will provide technical support in the Defense Corridor.
- Skill Infrastructure will also be linked to the Defense Corridor.
- The center point of the Defense Corridor will be Bundelkhand.
- Along with this, Defense Park will be built in 6 districts Jhansi, Chitrakoot, Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra and Aligarh.
- Skill Infrastructure will also be linked to the Defense Corridor.
- Pradhan Mantri, Narendra Modi had announced the formation of a defense corridor in Bundelkhand with the cost amount of 20,000 crores in Uttar Pradesh Investment Conference held in February 2018.



Reference:

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/lucknow/yogi-attacks-state-governments-of-congress.html>

Exhibition Organized on Ambedkar Jayanti

Question: Recently at which of the given places a 'Buddhist' art exhibition was organized on the birth anniversary of Dr Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh Culture Department (b) Uttar Pradesh State Museum, Lucknow
(c) Lok Art Museum, Lucknow (d) State Buddhist Museum, Gorakhpur

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 14th, 2018, on the occasion of 127th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar, a 'Buddhist' art exhibition was organized by artifacts in the collection of archaeological section in the temporary canopy of Uttar Pradesh State Museum, Lucknow.
- The exhibition was inaugurated by Director, State Museum, Lucknow.
- In this exhibition, major events of Buddha's life were displayed in view of the audience through stone statues, mirages and photographs.
- It is known that the Buddha's statues (in the form of archaeological evidence) are built in abundance in Mathura and Gandhara style during the Kushan period.

Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/files/5ad2107c-4684-43f7-a3fa-742b0af72573.pdf>

Humanitarian and Disaster Relief Seminar

Question: On 14-15 May, 2018 a seminar on Humanitarian and Disaster relief (HADR) was organized by the Head Quarter Western Air Command, situated at which of the following places?

(a) Jaipur (b) Ambala (c) New Delhi (d) Jodhpur

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 14-15 May, 2018, a seminar on Humanitarian and Disaster relief (HADR) was organized by the Head Quarter Western Air Command, situated in Subroto Park, Delhi.
- The seminar was conducted to focus onto effective measures to deal with HADR situations in Northern region of India.
- Apart from the IAF participation, secretary level delegations from the states of Himanchal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttrakhand, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are participating in the seminar.
- Major respondents to disaster situations like NDMA, NDRF and ITBP are also attending the seminar.
- In disaster situations, more often than not, the IAF is the first responder and kick starts the process of help to the affected population.
- To its credit, the IAF has not only national disaster relief operations like Op Madad – Chennai Cyclone, Op Rahat– Uttrakhand Flash Floods, Op MeghRahat– Flood relief in J&K and relief operations at Andhra Pradesh during cyclone HUD HUD.
- It also has been carrying out relief actions in the international disaster situations like Evac of Indian Diaspora from Yemen, Op Maitri – earthquake relief at Nepal, cyclone relief at FIJI and flood relief in Sri Lanka.
- In most cases aircraft and personnel of Western Air Command have been the mainstay of these operations.
- On the agenda are also discussions on National Perspective on Disaster Management & Capability Building and Enhancement of disaster relief for the attending states.
- Discussions on the response procedure using the IAF platforms would also be held at the seminar.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179259>

Second India-Ethiopia Joint Commission Meeting

Question: Where was the second meeting of India-Ethiopian Joint Commission held recently?

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

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 09th, 2018, the Second Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) between the Republic of India and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was held in New Delhi.
- The Indian delegation was led by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India and the Ethiopian delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia, H.E. Workneh Gebeyehu.
- During the JCM, both sides discussed various bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.
- The discussions focused on building closer cooperation in areas of defence cooperation, Lines of Credit, human resource development, capacity building, trade and investment, cultural exchanges and enhancing people to people contact. India reiterated its commitments towards development partnership with Ethiopia.



- The two sides also exchanged views on issues of mutual interest at regional and multilateral levels including cooperation at the United Nations and other international organizations.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute of India and the Foreign Service Training Institute of Ethiopia was signed between the two countries after the conclusion of JCM. JCM was preceded by a meeting of Senior Officials' Meeting (SOM) on 8th May, 2018.
- Both sides expressed satisfaction on enhanced engagement at all levels between the two countries.
- Both sides underlined that India-Ethiopia partnership is underpinned by our shared values and strong economic and commercial partnership.
- The JCM held has an added significance as we embark on the celebration of 70 years of diplomatic relationship with Ethiopia.

Reference:

http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/29881/Second_IndiaEthiopia_Joint_Commission_Meeting

US-North Korea summit

Question- Where is the US-North Korea Summit proposed on June 12th, 2018?

(a) Paris (b) Hong Kong (c) Singapore (d) Pyongyang

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On June 12th, 2018, historic meeting of Donald Trump with Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, is scheduled in Singapore.
- This will be the first meeting between these two leader.
- During the meeting, the two leaders will be discussing the other key issues of North Korea's nuclear weapons program.



Reference:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-usa/first-u-s-north-korea-summit-set-for-june-12-in-singapore-idUSKBN1IB240>

National Conference of 244 selected Districts under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP)

Question- Where did the National Conference of 244 new districts was organized recently under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme?

(a) Jaipur (b) Chandigarh (c) Jhunjhunu (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 4th May, 2018, National Conference of 244 new districts under the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme was organized in New Delhi by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- Maneka Sanjay Gandhi, the Union Minister for Women and Child Development inaugurated the event



- Significantly, on completion of its three years, the Prime Minister, Sh Narendra Modi announced the All India expansion of BBBP scheme in 640 districts across country (as per Census 2011) on 8th March, 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- The new 244 Districts from across the country will be covered under Multi-Sectoral Intervention.
- This is over and above the ongoing 161 Districts and remaining 235 Districts will be covered through Media campaign and advocacy outreach.
- It is known that the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22nd January 2015 and has been well received by different stakeholders across the country.

Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179132>

Uttarakhand Progressive Farmers Convention

Question: Where was the Uttarakhand Progressive Farmers Convention organized recently?

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

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 9th, 2018, the Uttarakhand Progressive Farmers Convention was organized at ONGC Auditorium, Dehradun.
- This conference was organized by the Indian Agriculture and Food Council and All India Farmers Association.
- On this occasion, Prof. B. S. Bisht was nominated the Chairman of the State Agriculture Council by the Chief Minister and the brochure and website of the Council was released for the public.
- The Chief Minister gave Sonalika AIFA Progressive Award-2018 to 18 progressive farmers in the conference.

Reference:

<http://uttarainformation.gov.in/news.php?id=25145>

Law & Justice

Solitary confinement declared unconstitutional

Question: Which High Court has recently declared solitary confinement in one of its decisions as unconstitutional?

(a) Allahabad High Court (b) Madras High Court (c) Uttarakhand High Court (d) Delhi High Court

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 28th, 2018, the Uttarakhand High Court declared solitary confinement in one of its decisions as unconstitutional.
- This decision was delivered by Justice Rajiv Sharma and Alok Singh.
- According to both the judges according to the United Nations Minimum Standards, the prisoner can be kept alone in the dungeon as a last resort in the case of mere exception. In general it should not be used for punishment.
- According to the bench, the solitary confinement is not an extra punishment but becomes the cause of torture which is a violation of human rights.

Reference:

<http://ashokanews.com/hi-in/blog/2018/04/27/1524847419793356/>

Year, Day & Week

World No Tobacco Day

Question- 'World No Tobacco Day' was celebrated all over the world on May 31, 2018. What was the focus of this day in 2018?

- (a) Tobacco-A threat for development (b) Tobacco- A threat to health
(c) Tobacco and heart disease (d) Tobacco and the environment

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 31st, 2018 'World No Tobacco Day' was celebrated all over the world.
- The focus of this day in 2018 is- "Tobacco and heart disease".
- The aim of celebrating this day is to create awareness among the public about the harmful effects of tobacco related products.
- It is known that this day is celebrated on 31st May of every year by the member countries of World Health Organisation.
- The number of people consuming tobacco in India is the second highest after China.
- According to WHO, more than 7 million people die every year due to tobacco consumption worldwide.
- More than 6 million of these deaths are directly the result of the use of tobacco, while about 90000 are the result of exposure to smoking.
- 80 percent of the world's 1 billion smokers live in low and middle income countries.



Reference:

<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2018/world-no-tobacco-day/en/>

International Day for Biological Diversity 22 May

Question- When is 'International Day for Biological Diversity' celebrated?

- (a) May 20 (b) May 22 (c) May 18 (d) May 24

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 22nd May, 2018 International Day for Biological Diversity was observed around the world.
- Theme – "Celebrating 25 Years of Action for Biodiversity".
- It is to be noted that on December 20 in the year 2000, the United Nations General Assembly announced May 22 as this day.
- Significantly, India has only 2.4 percent of the world's land, of which 7 to 8 percent of the terrain the world's different species are found.
- Compared to 11 percent of the world's land, about 44 percent of the land is cultivated in India.
- According to India Forest Status Report (IFSR) -2017, total forestry and plantation in the country is 24.40 percent.
- There are 4 hotspots of biodiversity in India- (i) Himalaya (ii) India-Myanmar borders (iii) Sundalands and (iv) Western Ghats.
- Biodiversity hotspot is a biological geographic region that is threatened by humans.



- Biodiversity Act, 2002 is a federal law for conservation of biodiversity in India.
- This provides distribution mechanisms similar to the benefits derived from the use of traditional biological resources and knowledge.
- National Biodiversity Authority (NBA) was established in the year 2003 as a statutory and autonomous institution to implement this Act.
- This organization plays the role of adviser and regulator for the Government of India on issues such as the fairness and equal sharing of the benefits of biological resources as well as their continuous use.
- Desert National Park is a unique biosphere reserve for the protection and development of biodiversity in India.
- It is located in Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan state.
- This park is an excellent example of the desert ecosystem in the Thar

Reference:

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

Anti-Terrorism Day

Question: 'Anti-Terrorism Day' is celebrated on-

(a) May 22 (b) May 21 (c) May 19 (d) May 20

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On 21st May 2018, Anti Terrorism was celebrated across the country.
- This day is celebrated to alert all sections of the country about the threat of terrorism and violence and its impact on people, society and the country.
- It is significant that the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated on May 21, 1991 in a bomb blast.



Reference:

https://www.indiaonline.com/article/international-news/anti-terrorism-day-to-be-observed-on-21st-may-113103106060_1.html

World Bee Day

Question- When is 'World bee day' celebrated?

(a) May 15 (b) May 22 (c) May (d) May

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On 20th May, 2018, the world's first 'World Bee Day' (World Bee Day) was celebrated.
- It is remarkable that this day is celebrated for our survival to increase the awareness of the importance of bees and pollinators, their contribution in sustainable development and their conservation.
- Significantly, the life of honey bee and other pollinators like butterflies, bats and humming birds is endangered by human activities.
- Pollination helps in the reproduction of many plants, including many food crops. This day is celebrated in the 18th century on the birth anniversary of Antone Jansa (May 20), which led the technique of modern beekeeping.
- It is significant that under the leadership of the Bequipers Association of Slovenia, there was a proposal to celebrate 'World Bee Day' every year on May 20 in front of the United Nations.
- Day was approved in the 40th session of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, organized in Italy on July 7th, 2017.



Reference:

<https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/celebrate-bee-day.html>

World Hypertension Day

Question: When is 'World Hypertension Day' celebrated?

(a) May 18 (b) May 20 (c) May 15 (d) May 17

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 17th May, 2018 'World Hypertension Day' was observed.
 - The main theme of this day in the year 2018 was 'Know Your Numbers'.
 - Its aim was to make all the people around the world more and more aware of high blood pressure.
 - It is celebrated for promoting public awareness about hypertension and promoting its prevention and control.
 - This is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL).
- This day was first celebrated in May 2005.



Reference:

<http://www.whleague.org/index.php/features/world-hypertension-day>

World Thyroid Day

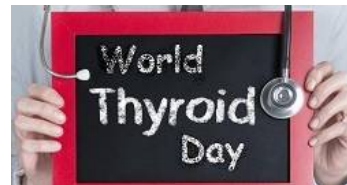
Question: When 'World Thyroid Day' is celebrated?

(a) May 26 (b) May 27 (c) May 25 (d) May 20

Answer: (c)

Related Fact:

- On May 25th, 2018 'World Thyroid Day' was celebrated across the world.
- This day is celebrated to create awareness of Thyroid's regular and cautious precautionary action.
- It is remarkable that in the year 2008, due to efforts of the European Thyroid Association (ETA) and American Thyroid Association (ATA) announced on May 25 this year as the anniversary.
- This day was celebrated for the first time in year 2009.
- In addition to this, 'International Thyroid Awareness Week' was observed around the world during 21st-27th May, 2018.



Reference:

<https://theinvisiblehypothyroidism.com/2018/05/21/may-21st-27th-is-international-thyroid-awareness-week-2018/>

<https://www.eurothyroid.com/events/world-thyroid-day-2018.html>

World Lupus Day

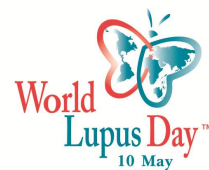
Question: When is 'World Lupus Day' celebrated?

(a) May 11 (b) May 9 (c) May 6 (d) May 10

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 10th, 2018; World Lupus Day was celebrated all over the world.
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware about Lupus



disease.

- This disease is a form of rheumatology which is prevalent in women.
- Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body.
- The effect of this disease is from head to feet.
- Feeling of fever, blisters in the mouth, skin rashes, stomach aches, swelling of joints, hair fall etc. are the main symptoms of this disease.
- Treating this disease in early stages can prevent it from increasing, but it never happens.

Reference:

<http://www.worldlupusday.org/index.html>

International Thalassemia Day

Question: 'International Thalassemia Day' is celebrated on-

(a) May 6 (b) May 7 (c) May 8 (d) May 9

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On May 8th, 2018, 'International Thalassaemia Day' was celebrated across the world.
- The theme of this day in year 2018 – "Thalassaemia past, present and future: Documenting progress and patients' needs worldwide".
- This day is celebrated to avoid the transmission of thalassemia and to focus on its prevention and to spread awareness about the disease among the people.
- Thalassemia is a genetic disease.
- It is a disease caused by the loss of RBCs.
- As a result, blood loss takes place and hemoglobin is not formed.
- Hemoglobin is a protein, which transmits oxygen to red blood cells.
- Due to thalassemia, the amount of iron increases out of limit in the blood of the person, bone deformity, heart problems, various infections and the size of the spleen increases.



Reference:

<http://thalassaemia.org.cy/news/international-thalassaemia-day-2018/>

World Red Cross Day

Question: When 'World Red Cross Day' is celebrated?

(a) May 6 (b) May 5 (c) May 9 (d) May 8

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On May 8th, 2018; World Red Cross Day was celebrated across the world.
- This day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of founder of Red Cross and the first Nobel Prize winner Henry Dunant (May 8, 1828).
- Red Cross (ICRC) is a non-governmental organization established in the year 1863.
- Its object is to monitor patients, wounded and prisoner of war.
- Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.
- The Indian Red Cross Society was formed in the year 1920.



Reference:

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/history-icrc>

International Museum Day

Question: When 'International Museum Day' is celebrated?

(a) May 17 (b) May 15 (c) May 14 (d) May 18

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 18th May, 2018, 'International Museum Day' was celebrated.
- The main theme of this day for year 2018 was- Hyperconnected Museum: New Approaches, New Publics.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to spread awareness about the museums among people and motivate them to go to museums to know their history.
- It is known that this day is being celebrated every year since 1977.



Reference:

<http://network.icom.museum/international-museum-day>

International Day of Light

Question: When is 'International Lighting Day' observed?

(a) May 15 (b) May 12 (c) May 16 (d) May 10

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 16th May, 2018 the first 'International Light Day' was observed.
- This day is observed in the celebration of the role of light in various fields of science, culture, education, education and sustainable development, and medicine, communication and energy.
- It is worth mentioning that in the year 1960, this day is celebrated on May 16th in honor of the first successful operation of laser by physicist and engineer Theodore Maiman.
- Significantly, the proclamation of 16 May as the International Day of Light was supported by UNESCO's Executive Board following a proposal by Ghana, Mexico, New Zealand and the Russian Federation, and approved by the UNESCO General Conference in November 2017.



Reference:

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

<https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-celebrates-1st-international-day-light>

National Dengue Day

Question: 'National Dengue Day' is celebrated when?

(a) May 13 (b) May 9 (c) May 16 (d) May 18

Answer- (c)

Related Facts:

- On 16 May, 2018 'National Dengue' Day) was celebrated. The aim of celebrating this day is to spread awareness about dengue, preventive action initiatives and control of dengue until the disease is transmitted to the weather.
- Dengue is a common viral disease transmitted by mosquito bites.
- Aedes aegypti, the yellow fever mosquito, is a mosquito that can spread dengue fever.
- **This occurs in two forms-**
 - (i) one of the forms is a classic dengue fever which is known as bone breakdown fever.
 - (ii) Another form of this is dengue hemorrhagic fever i.e. hemorrhagic dengue fever.
- Africa, South-East Asia and Western Pacific region are highly affected by this disease.
- This is a common disease in India, especially during the rainy days.
- Dengue affected person may have high fever, body aches, eye pain and skin rashes.



Reference:

<https://www.ndtv.com/food/national-dengue-day-2018-papaya-leaf-juice-could-be-an-effective-remedy-for-dengue-fever-1852887>

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

Question: 'World Telecommunication and Information Society Day' is celebrated on which date?

(a) May 16 (b) May 14 (c) May 19 (d) May 17

Answer: (d)

Related Facts

- On 17th May, 2018, World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (World Telecommunication and Information Society Day) was celebrated.
- In the year 2018, the theme of this day is 'Enabling the Positive Use of Artificial Intelligence for everyone'.
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to create awareness among people about the benefits of information and telecommunication technology and to provide information and telecommunication technology to people living in remote areas.
- It is notable that World Telecommunication Day has been celebrated annually on 17 May since 1969, marking the founding of ITU and the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in 1865.
- It was instituted by the Plenipotentiary Conference in Malaga-Torremolinos in 1973.
- It regulates and standardizes international radio and telecommunications.
- It was established on May 17th, 1865.
- Its headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland.



Reference:

<https://www.itu.int/en/about/Pages/overview.aspx>

International Day of Living Together in Peace

Question: 'International Day of Living together with peace' is celebrated on which date?

(a) May 13 (b) May 14 (c) May 12 (d) May 16

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 16 May 2018, 'International Day of Living together with peace' was celebrated across the world.
- The UN General-Assembly, in its resolution adopted on 8 December 2017, declared 16th May the International Day of Living Together in Peace, as a means of regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
- The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.



Reference:

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

World Migratory Bird Day

Question: When the 'World Migratory Bird Day' was celebrated recently?

(a) May 9 (b) May 12 (c) May 10 (d) May 8

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- On May 12th, 2018, 'World Migratory Bird's Day' (World Migratory Bird Day) was celebrated.
- It is remarkable that this day is celebrated twice a year on the second Saturday of May and October.
- The main theme of this day in the year 2018 – unifying the planet's major migratory bird corridors, or flyways: the African-Eurasian flyway, the East Asian-Australasian flyway, and the Americas flyways.
- The purpose of this day is to create awareness on the need for conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

Reference:

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

<https://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org/news/2017/towards-new-world-migratory-bird-day-2018>

International Family Day

Question: When 'International Family Day' is celebrated?

(a) May 13 (b) May 17 (c) May 15 (d) May 10

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 15th May, 2018 'International Family Day' was celebrated
- In the year 2018, the theme of this day is 'Family and inclusive Societies'.
- The aim of celebrating this day is to raise awareness of the role of family in promoting childhood education and lifelong learning opportunities for children and youth.
- This day also provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and to increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families. The International Day of Families is observed on the 15th of May every year.
- In 1993, the General Assembly decided in a resolution (A/RES/47/237) that 15 May of every year should be observed as The International Day of Families.



Reference:

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

International Nurse Day

Question: When 'International Nurse Day' is celebrated?

(a) May 10 (b) May 13 (c) May 9 (d) May 12

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- On 12th May 2018, 'International Nurse Day' was celebrated.
- The theme of this day in year 2018 – "Nurses A Voice to Lead – Health is a Human right".
- This day is celebrated to honor the contribution of nurses in health services and to discuss various issues related to them.
- This day is observed in the celebration of the birthday of Florence Nightingale, who started the nursing profession.



Reference:

<http://www.icn.ch/publications/2018-nurses-a-voice-to-lead-health-is-a-human-right/>

World Lupus Day

Question: When is 'World Lupus Day' celebrated?

(a) May 11 (b) May 9 (c) May 6 (d) May 10

Ans: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On May 10, 2018; World Lupus Day was celebrated all over the world.
- The purpose of this day is to make people aware about Lupus disease.
- This disease is a form of rheumatology which is prevalent in women.
- Lupus is an autoimmune disease that can damage any part of the body.
- The effect of this disease is upon whole body.
- Feeling of fever, blisters in the mouth, skin rashes, stomach aches, swelling of joints, hair fall etc. are the main symptoms of this disease.
- Treating this disease in early stages can prevent it from increasing, but it never happens.



Related links:-

<http://www.worldlupusday.org/index.html>

National Technology Day

Question – When is 'National Technology Day' celebrated?

(a) May 12 (b) May 13 (c) May 11 (d) May 9

Ans: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On May 11, 2018; National Technology Day was celebrated across the country.
- It is to be noted that the Ministry of Science and Technology organizes this day on May 11 every year from the year 1999 in honor of the achievements in the field of innovation and technology.
- This opportunity is celebrated for the success of science and technology in the service of the nation throughout the country.
- It is known that this day is celebrated on May 11 due to great achievement in the field of technology.
- On May 11, 1998, India conducted its second successful nuclear test in Pokhran (Rajasthan).
- The then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had declared India as a full-fledged nuclear country after operation 'Shakti'.
- It gave to India the status of the sixth country to join the Nuclear Club.
- Along with this, home-made aircraft 'Hansa-3' had a test flight on this day.
- Apart from this, India successfully tested Trishul missile this day.



Related Links:-

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1531826>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179214>

World Immunization Week 2018

Question: How long was the 'World Vaccination Week' celebrated all over the world recently?

(a) 25th April to 1st May, 2018 (b) 24th to 30th April, 2018

(c) 22th to 28th April, 2018 (d) 23rd to 29th April, 2018

Answer- (b)

Related Facts:

- Between April 24th-30th 2018, World Immunization Week was observed throughout the world.
- This year's theme is – 'Protecting Together from Immunization'.
- This week, the vaccine is celebrated to make people aware about the importance of vaccinating on time against preventable diseases.
- According to WHO, vaccination is a certified remedy to control diseases.
- Vaccination is a process through which the person is immunized, or immunization is usually developed by immunization resistant capacity for infectious diseases.
- Vaccination helps save the child from deadly diseases.
- It helps reduce the spread of disease among other people.
- It is notable that the World Vaccination Day is celebrated on 10th November every year.
- The Indian Government launched Mission Rainbow on December 25, 2014 with the aim of getting complete vaccination coverage for all children.
- The main objective of this program is to make sure that all children and pregnant women under 2 years of age are given full immunization through all available vaccines.



Reference:

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/immunization-week/2018/campaign-essentials/en/>
<https://bit.ly/2KAK0Wm>

World Intellectual Property Day

Question: When 'World Intellectual Property Day' is celebrated?

(a) April 27 (b) April 26 (c) April 24 (d) April 23

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 26th, 2018; World Intellectual Property Day has been celebrated all over the world.
- In the year 2018, the theme of this day -Powering Change: Women in innovation and Creativity).
- The purpose of celebrating this day is to make people aware about intellectual property rights (patent, trademark, industrial design, copyright etc.).
- World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) announced the celebration of this day on April 26, in the year 2000.
- Significantly, WIPO is one of the 15 specific agencies of the United Nations.
- It was established on July 14, 1967.
- Its headquarters is in Geneva, Switzerland.
- Currently Francis Gurry is Director General of the WIPO.



Reference:

<http://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/>
<http://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/>

Miscellaneous

Formation of Task Force for Fast Tracking Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Technology

Question: Recently, under whose chairmanship 13-member task force has been formed for the fast tracking unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology by the Central

Government?

(a) Rajiv Gauba (b) Jayant Sinha (c) B. S. Bhullar (d) Sanjay Mitra

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 12th, 2018, the Central Government constituted a 13-member task force for fast tracking Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) technology.
- It will be chaired by Union Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha.
- The Task Force will develop a roadmap with implementation recommendations for central and state governments, industry and research institutes.
- This task force will develop a roadmap with enforceable recommendations for research institutes.
- This task force will focus on research and development, acquisition and commercialization, use acceptance in particular areas, regulatory framework and priority of Make in India.
- Other members of the Task Force include Secretary, Civil Aviation Minister Rajiv Nayan Chaubey, Secretary, Home Ministry, Rajiv Gauba, Union Defense Secretary Sanjay Mitra, Secretary of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ramesh Abhishek, Chief of Integrated Defense Staff. Satish Dua, Director General of Police Research and Development Bureau, A.P. Maheshwari, Director General, Civil Aviation BS. Bhullar, Head of DRDO, Dr S. Christopher, Director General of CSIR Dr. Girish Sahani, Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI), Dr. Guruprasad Mohapatra, Director of Aerospace Engineering, IIT Kanpur, Chairman A.K. Ghosh and Joint Secretary of Civil Aviation Satyendra Kumar Mishra (Member Secretary).
- Apart from this, 20 industry experts were selected as special invitees for task force as per need.



Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=178647>

India is included in countries having sex offenders' database

Question: By which of the following countries out of 8 countries producing database related to sexual crimes, this database is made public?

(a) Australia (b) Canada (c) America (d) New Zealand

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 21st, 2018, according to the cabinet, the National Crime Records Bureau will prepare a national database of sexual offenses in India and profile of sex offenders.
- From this, India will also be included in the list of 8 countries having this type of sexual harassment data base.
- This data will be shared regularly with States and Union Territories for monitoring and investigation, including pre-verification by the police.
- Sex offenders' database is prepared only in eight countries of the world, the US, Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Trinidad, Tobago and the United Kingdom.
- In America, this database is made public, whereas in other countries this data is owned by law enforcement officials, which is not made public.



Reference:

https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/india-to-join-8-countries-having-sex-offenders-database/1140944/#tie_topcommentli

India's second most valuable lender bank

Question: Which bank recently became India's second most valuable lender?

(a) SBI (b) Kotak Mahindra (c) HDFC (d) ICICI

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- On April 16th, 2018, Kotak Mahindra Bank, led by Uday Kotak, became second most valuable lender in the context of market capitalization leaving behind SBI.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank is one of the top 10 most valuable companies on the India Stock Exchange (BSEF).
- The market capitalization of Kotak Mahindra Bank is Rs 2, 22,970.4 crore.
- HDFC Bank is the country's most valuable bank with market capitalization of 5.04 lakh crores.



Reference:

<https://www.livemint.com/Money/GTOdARRGNGY5kmoiD116NN/Kotak-Mahindra-Bank-pips-SBI-to-become-Indias-second-most-v.html>

'Run for Safety' race organized in the UP

Question- Recently, the Uttar Pradesh Transport Department organized the 'Run for Safety' race in the state. In this regard, what is not true among the given option?

- (a) The race was organized on April 28, 2018.
(b) This race was held from the Chief Minister's residence (05 Kalidas Marg) to 1090 intersections.
(c) This race was started by sports minister Chetan Chauhan.
(d) Participated in about 800 children of the city in the race.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 28th, 2018, the Uttar Pradesh Transport Department organized a 'Run for Safety' race program aimed to increase public awareness towards road safety.
- This race was launched by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath by flagging it off from his official residence (05 Kalidas Marg).
- This race took place from Chief Minister's residence 05 Kalidas Marg to 1090 intersection.
- Apart from participating in the race about 800 children of the city, about 100 people participated in the race to make people aware about the utility of wearing helmets and road safety for cyclists.
- Road Safety Week in Uttar Pradesh was celebrated by the Transport Department during 23-30 April, 2018.
- It is known that this year all the states were directed to celebrate 29th National Road Safety Week, 2018 by the Government of India.
- The main theme of this year is 'Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha'.



Reference:

<http://www.india.com/hindi-news/uttar-pradesh/run-for-safety-road-safety-week-to-run-till-april-30/>

AFSPA Removed from Meghalaya

Question: In addition to the withdrawn of Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in the state of Meghalaya, in which of the following states its area of operation has been restricted?

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

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- In April, 2018, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) has been withdrawn from Meghalaya by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- This decision has come into effect from April 1st, 2018 in all areas of Meghalaya.
- According to officials in Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), its area of operation in Arunachal Pradesh has been restricted to eight police stations bordering Assam and three districts adjoining Myanmar.
- Under the Armed Forces Special Powers Act security forces have special powers to arrest anyone without any warrant and to investigate their property during the operation.
- The Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) was passed by the Indian Parliament in September 1958.
- This law was prominently opposed by Manipur's activist Irom Sharmila, who fasted against this law for 16 years.



Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/afspa-removed-from-meghalaya-parts-of-arunachal/article23647009.ece>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/afspa-removed-from-meghalaya-eight-police-stations-in-arunachal-pradesh-5148386/>

Formation of 19 Teams to Undertake Cleaning of Beaches, River Fronts and Lakes in Coastal States

Question- Recently, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has formed 19 teams to take up cleaning of beaches, river fronts and lakes in the country. How many coastal states are in these states?

(a) 9 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 12

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On 17th May, 2018, in the build-up to the World Environment Day 2018, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has formed 19 teams to take up cleaning of beaches, river fronts and lakes in the country.
- Cleaning up of around 24 beaches in nine (9) coastal states (list attached) and cleaning of river fronts in 24 identified polluted stretches in 19 states (list attached) will be undertaken.
- Besides the listed rivers, a special cleanliness drives will be carried out at Yamuna riverfront in Delhi.
- Certain lakes and water bodies have also been identified for cleaning.
- The 19 teams will include senior officers of MoEF&CC, state nodal agencies in-charge of eco-clubs of schools, State Pollution Control Boards, district administration, college of fisheries located along the coastal stretches and other educational/research institutions.
- The teams will involve school children, college students and local communities in the cleaning exercise. The Ministry will be engaging Eco-club schools, which are being provided assistance from MoEF&CC under the National Green Corps programme.
- An amount of Rs. 10 lakh has been earmarked for each stretch of beach, river front and lake.
- Cleaning up around important archaeological sites will also be taken up.
- The clean-up activities have started from May 15 and will conclude on June 5.



- During this period, various cultural programmes, quiz competition, debate, awareness rallies will also be organized.

Reference:

<http://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1532504>

Car Digital Number Plate

Question: In which of the given cities of the Gulf country soon, digital number plates will be installed in cars, which has to be tested in the month of May?

(a) Abu Dhabi (b) Dubai (c) Doha (d) Sharjah

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- In Dubai (United Arab Emirates), digital number plates will be introduced in cars, soon.
- These Number plates will be tested from the month of May and will continue till November.
- Smart-plate with digital screens, GPS and transmitter will be installed in vehicles.
- If any driver makes an accident, then new plates are capable of reporting such emergency services.
- According to Sultan Abdullah Al Marzouqi, head of the Vehicle Licensing Department in Dubai's Road and Transport Authority, these plates will be helpful in protecting life of drivers in Dubai.
- Through this new technology, the car driver can inform his other partner about real-time traffic conditions and auto accident.
- Through this the driver can easily contact the police and ambulance services.
- If the vehicle or digital plate is stolen, the number plates can be changed to display the alert again.
- Through this, payment for fines/ penalties, parking fees or registration and renewal of plates will automatically be deducted from the users' account.



Reference:

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-43710817>

Durgashakti Vahini Special Force

Question: Which state Chief Minister recently announced the formation of 'Durgashakti Vahini Special Force' and the School Transportation Security Scheme for the protection of women in the state?

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Haryana (d) Himachal Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 16th, 2018, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced the formation of 'Durgashakti Vahini Special Force' in the state to protect women.
- The purpose of its formation is to impose quick curb on crimes committed against women.
- This announcement was made by the Chief Minister on the occasion of launching 'Jaagriti' project prepared to remove gender inequality in Jhajjar.
- On this occasion the Chief Minister also announced the Chatra Parivahan Suraksha Yojana.
- Under this scheme, girls will be provided free transport services to the educational institutions in the state.



- Nodal officers will be appointed in the educational institutions under the scheme, to whom girl students will place demands regarding transport related requirement.
- The main purpose of the Jaagriti Project is that daughters should feel safe in public places, workplaces and commuters.
- The Chief Minister also unveiled the Women Security Survey Report of Jaagriti Project.

Reference:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/haryana-cm-announces-setting-up-of-durgashakti-vahini-for-safety-of-women/articleshow/63788619.cms>

Reduction in pre-determined target of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Question: Recently the target of the first phase of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been reduced to which year?

(a) Year 2019 (b) Year 2020 (c) Year 2021 (d) Year 2022

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- On April 16th, 2018, the Government announced to reduce the target of the full-term period of the first phase under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.
- The goal of completing the first phase under this scheme has been made to the year 2019.
- Previously, this goal was set for the year 2022.
- To meet this target, in comparison to more than 1, 78,000 residential areas, 1, 66,000 residential areas have been sanctioned to connect with road.



Reference:

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-with-election-in-mind-target-year-of-completing-pmgsy-1-advanced-to-2019-from-2022-2605683>

Scientists Cloud Platform

Question: Recently Chinese Academy of Sciences has launched which of the given the for scientists?

(a) An Advanced Data Satellite (b) A professional forum
(c) An Advanced Scientific Cloud Platform (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 12, 2018, China's Chinese Academy of Sciences launched a significant advanced Scientific Cloud Platform for scientists.
- This platform will provide accessible, accurate and secure data services to scientists in order to promote research and innovation.
- The China Science and Technology Forum receives data from research institutes of academy, major scientific establishments, several top Chinese universities and private innovation centers.
- Chinese Science and Technology Cloud has been developed by the Computer Network Information Center of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
- Applications have been classified into 5 categories- Data processing, Artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing with supercomputer, Research software support, Research community network and access to foreign scientists and forums.



Reference:

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/china-launches-cloud-platform-for-its-scientists-118041300640_1.html

National Seminar on the 127th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar

Question: on the 127th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar which of the following universities has organized the National Seminar recently in Uttar Pradesh?

- (a) Siddhartha University (b) Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj University
(c) Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (d) Lucknow University

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 14th, 2018; a national seminar was organized on 127th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar at Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow.
- This seminar was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced that the eligibility income limit for scholarships of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe students will be increased to Rs 2.5 lakh from Rs 2 lakh.
- 25 new judicial courts will be set up to punish the culprits with prompt disposal of cases registered under Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act 1989.
- The Chief Minister also announced the creation of a women hostel in the name of Savitri Bai Phule, wife of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, in this university.
- During the program, the Chief Minister inaugurated the souvenir of National Seminar and also released books edited by Dr. R.C. Sobati Vice Chancellor of the University.



Reference:

<http://www.bbau.ac.in/Conference/ONEDAY.pdf>

Cancer Screening Mela

Question: Recently, Cancer Screening Mela was organized in Mizoram. In relation to this fair, which is not true in the given options?

- (a) This fair was held in Kolasib district.
(b) The fair was organized under the Swasth Uttar Purv scheme.
(c) This fair was funded by the Ministry of Tourism of the North Eastern Region.
(d) The theme of the fair was 'Let Mizoram beat the cancer together'.

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- Cancer screening fair was organized in Mizoram in April, 2018 in the Diakkawn YMA Hall located in Kolasib district.



- The fair was organized by the Health Department, Mizoram Government under the 'Swasth Uttar Purv Scheme' in collaboration with the Public Foundation of India and the National Health Mission.
- This fair was funded by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER).
- The theme of the event was "Come on Mizoram, together let's beat Cancer".
- More than 1000 participants participated in this screening fair.
- This fair was organized with an aim to raise awareness about cancer prevention, early diagnosis, early detection and management.

Reference:

<http://www.catchnews.com/india-news/mizoram-hosts-first-edition-of-cancer-screening-mela-109955.html>

India and China Dialogue on Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Question: Recently which round dialogue between India and China have been organized in Beijing on disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation?

(a) Third round (b) Fourth round (c) Fifth round (d) Sixth round

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 10th, 2018; the fifth edition of the India-China Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Dialogue was held today in Beijing.
- The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) in the Ministry of External Affairs while the Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Wang Qun, Director General of Department of Arms Control at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China.
- The delegations exchanged views on various topics of mutual interest, including, developments related to disarmament and non-proliferation at multilateral forums, nuclear issues, role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament as well as outer space.
- Both sides underlined the importance of the bilateral dialogue as an important mechanism between the two countries for consultations on important issues.
- Both sides agreed to hold the sixth round of consultations in New Delhi at a mutually convenient time.



Reference:

<http://indianembassybeijing.in/India-China-Dialogue-on-Disarmament.php>

Dudhwa Tiger Conservation Foundation

Question: In which of the following years Dudhwa National Park was declared a Tiger Reserve area?

(a) 1983-84 (b) 1985-86 (c) 1987-88 (d) 1989-90

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On 10th April, 2018; in the meeting of the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, it was decided to set up Dudhwa Tiger Conservation Foundation, Uttar Pradesh.
- Establishment of the fund for the foundation will be done from the entry fee of the tourists, from the national and international agencies to special projects, special funds from different sources like funds, grants or other assistance received from any person special or foreign government or external organization etc.
- A 12-member governing body will be constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of Forests and Wildlife, Uttar Pradesh, in charge of discharging the responsibility of managing this foundation.
- The establishment of this foundation will encourage eco tourism in this reserve area and create more employment opportunities.
- Founded in 1977, Dudhwa National Park is located in Lakhimpur Kheri district of Uttar Pradesh.
- In 1987-88, Kishanpur Wildlife Sanctuary was declared a Tiger Reserve area by merging it to the Dudhwa National Park.

Reference:

<http://information.up.nic.in/attachments/CabinetDecisionfile/b3e8ffdb10a215>

Launch of Satellite Yaogan-31

Question- Which of the following countries successfully launched in the space the first group of 'Yaogan-31' remote sensing satellites?

(a) Russia (b) America (c) China (d) France

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:

- On April 10th, 2018, the first group of 'Yaogan-31' remote sensing satellites was successfully launched by the China.
- It will be used for electromagnetic environment surveys and other related technology tests.
- This satellite was launched by the 'Long March-4C' Rocket.
- It is known that China launched the first satellite 'Yaogan-1' of the 'Yaogan' series in 2006.
- It was launched from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center located in North-Western China.
- This was the 271th mission of the Long March rocket family.
- Under this mission, the Micro Nano Technology Experiment satellite was also sent to the orbit.



Reference:

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-04/10/c_137100180_2.htm

<http://spaceflight101.com/china-long-march-4c-yaogan-31-01-launch/>