

e-dristi  
ई-दृष्टि

# Current Affairs

Day to Day

edristi.in

Vol.-2



STATE VISIT OF PRESIDENT OF NEPAL TO INDIA



STATE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA TO INDIA



STATE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF BANGLADESH TO INDIA



STATE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA TO INDIA

Release of  
**INDIA RANKINGS 2017**  
Ranking of Higher Educational Institutions on performance  
By **Prakash Javadekar**  
Union Minister of Human Resource Development

**Narendra Modi**  
Prime Minister

**Prakash Javadekar**  
Minister for Human Resource Development

at  
PIB 118-A, Conference Hall, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi  
On 3rd April, 2017

**Dadasaheb Phalke Award, 2016**

A circular portrait of a man with glasses, wearing a white shirt, likely the recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 2016.

## QUESTIONS AND RELATED FACTS

1st APRIL TO 30th APRIL, 2017

# Preface

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

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided related links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer to 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 December to 31st December) 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 yourselves.

## Contents

Preface .....	1
NATIONAL .....	8
State visit of Nepal's President to India .....	8
State Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India .....	9
State Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India .....	10
Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia to India .....	11
India Rankings-2017 .....	12
First meeting of 'India Indonesia Energy Forum' .....	13
World Bank approves loan for developing National Waterway-1 .....	14
Union Cabinet cleared the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 .....	15
Cabinet approves payment of leave to defense service personnel .....	16
Bhim: Aadhaar- Pay launched by the Prime Minister .....	17
Backward Class, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Reservation Bill, 2017 .....	18
New Taxi Policy Guidelines .....	18
Important decisions taken in the first cabinet meeting of UP .....	19
Plastic Bags banned in Madhya Pradesh .....	20
National Children Film Festival -2017 .....	21
INTERNATIONAL .....	21
Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of the Year 2017 .....	21
Changes in Australia's Citizenship Law .....	22
Turkey referendum .....	23
Amnesty International- 2016 global review of the death penalty .....	23
Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report-2017 .....	24
ECONOMICS .....	25
Finance Ministry approval for interest rate on EPF .....	25
Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) by RBI .....	26
9 FDI proposals approved by the government .....	27
Approval for procurement of potatoes from farmers in Uttar Pradesh .....	28
India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market .....	28
First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18 .....	29
Joint UK-India Fund - a Green Growth Equity Fund .....	30
Recognition of Bitcoin and Digital Currencies as Money .....	31
Cabinet allows unrestricted export of all certified organic agricultural products .....	31
SCIENTIFIC .....	32

DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES .....	32
Joint bilateral Naval exercise 'Varun' .....	32
BrahMos Land Attack Supersonic Cruise Missile.....	33
Coastal security excercise 'Sagar Kavach' .....	34
Nomadic Elephant-2017 .....	34
Discovery of plastic Eating Fungus .....	35
SPORTS.....	36
TENNIS .....	36
BNP Paribas Open, 2017 .....	36
CRICKET .....	36
Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2017 .....	36
HOCKEY .....	38
Women's Hockey World League .....	38
BADMINTON .....	38
Singapore Open Super Series-2017 .....	38
BWF India Open Superseries-2007 .....	39
Malaysia Open World Super Series 2017.....	40
P. V. Sindhu won the Yonex India Open .....	40
BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH .....	41
First Asian Snooker (Women) Championship 2017 .....	41
16th Asian Billiards (Men) Championship 2017 .....	41
FORMULA ONE.....	42
Bahrain Grand Prix, 2017 .....	42
Chinese Formula One Grand Prix Race 2017 .....	42
SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS .....	43
Bharat Kesari Dangal 2017 .....	43
NBA's first Basketball School.....	44
Approval to appointment of Foreign Coaches in Athletics.....	44
SPORTS PERSONALITY.....	45
Gayatri Pullela .....	45
Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World.....	46
SHORT NOTES.....	46
PERSONALITIES.....	46
U.P's New DGP .....	46

Vinay Shah .....	47
Justice Geeta Mittal .....	48
Emma Morano .....	48
Achim Steiner .....	49
Geeta Johari .....	49
New Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh.....	50
Akhilesh Das Gupta .....	50
Ramesh Chandra Agrawal .....	51
New members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes .....	52
United Nations new Messenger of Peace.....	52
Subir Dutta .....	53
Raman Roy .....	53
Mukta Dutta Tomar .....	53
Justice Indira Banerjee.....	54
New Executive Director of RBI .....	54
Anuja Ravindra Dhir.....	55
Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member , IBBI.....	55
Kishori Amonkar passed away.....	56
Mahesh Kumar Jain .....	57
Dr. Navrang Saini .....	57
India's first-ever transgender police officer .....	58
New Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs .....	58
Dr. Navrang Saini took charge as Whole Time Member of IBBI.....	59
Anil Ambani figures in international advisory board of global think-tank "Atlantic Council" .....	59
India's New Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Offices in Geneva .....	60
New chairman of 'Research and Information System for Developing Countries' .....	60
Rana Kanwar Pal .....	61
Ahmed Kathrada.....	61
PLACES .....	62
Kansas .....	62
Alaska .....	62
Terrorist attack in Egypt.....	63
Hazira's first private sector township goes cashless .....	64
27th state to join Uday Yojna.....	64



Madhya Pradesh Government banned plastic/polythene bags.....	65
India's first beggar-free State.....	65
AWARDS & HONORS.....	66
48th Dadasaheb Phalke Award-2016 .....	66
Aniruddhan Vasudevan.....	67
Golf Industry Association Award-2013 .....	67
Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award-2017.....	68
Pulitzer Prize, 2017 .....	69
Hindi Seva Samman .....	70
Asian Business Women of the Year .....	72
64th National Film Awards, 2016.....	72
OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN .....	73
First mock exercise on forest fire by NDMA .....	73
Sagarmatha Friendship-2017 .....	74
COMMISSION & COMMITTEE .....	75
Meeting of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas .....	75
Committee for the investigation of virtual currency .....	75
High Level Committee to examine working of regulatory bodies for AYUSH.....	76
PLANNING & PROJECT .....	77
Reduction in the number of centrally sponsored schemes .....	77
E-sewa mobile app .....	77
Sauni Irrigation Scheme.....	78
Jakoo Ropeway Project.....	78
National Clean Ganga Mission Approves Sewage Treatment Projects .....	79
Maitree Express Train-II.....	80
Government e-Marketplace.....	80
Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project.....	81
North India's first DNA bank .....	82
Mobile app 'e-Nagarpalika .....	82
Implementation of Supreme Court's Judgment on Target plus Scheme.....	83
Web Portal 'Bharat Ke Veer' and Mobile App Launched.....	84
PM launched multiple development projects in Jharkhand .....	84
PowerTex India.....	85
Talaipalli Coal Mining Project.....	86

Free WiFi service in colleges and universities.....	86
TREATY & AGREEMENTS.....	87
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RBI and Bank of Guyana.....	87
Agreement between India and Portugal.....	88
Delayed Payment surcharge Amnesty Scheme.....	88
Collaboration Agreement to support the Belmont Forum Secretariat approved.....	89
Agreement between India and Georgia.....	90
MoU for BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection.....	91
Cabinet approves MoU on cooperation in the field of justice between India and Tunisia.....	91
Framework of Understanding between India and Bangladesh for hydrocarbon sector.....	92
Union Cabinet apprised of MoU between India, Russia in science.....	93
Agreement between Haryana Government and Punjab National Bank.....	94
MoU on Technical Cooperation between India and France approved by Cabinet.....	94
MoU between India and Australia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.....	95
Cabinet approves MoU on Mass Media Cooperation with Bangladesh.....	96
Cabinet approved Indo- Bangladesh agreement on Audio Visual Co-Production.....	96
Cabinet approval to MoUs for India-Bangladesh cooperation in multiple sectors.....	97
India, ADB sign \$175 million loan agreement.....	98
MoU for a Project on “Conservation, Development & Maintenance of Purana Qila”.....	98
Cabinet approves signing of new Air Services Agreement between India and Serbia.....	99
Agreement between Ministry of Rural Development and CIRDAP.....	100
CONFERENCE.....	101
Second BRICS Film Festival.....	101
First-ever World Ocean Festival.....	101
Meeting of G-7 Foreign Ministers.....	102
G20 Digital Minister’s first meeting on Digital Economy.....	102
National Conference on Empowering Deaf through Indian Sign Language.....	103
World Homeopathy day.....	103
First NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017.....	104
136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).....	104
75th Conference of Concurrent Depot Commanders.....	105
19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference.....	106
World Environment Conference.....	106
SASEC Finance Ministers Conference.....	107

National Tribal and North East Conclave-2017 .....	107
9th World Environmental Education Congress .....	108
Second meeting of National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction .....	108
ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS.....	109
Approval for setting up of a National Commission for socially and Educationally Backward Classes (NSEBC) .....	109
LAW & JUSTICE.....	110
Cabinet Approves changes to Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016.....	110
Amendment in 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' approved by Cabinet.....	110
Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill 2017 .....	111
Gujarat Animal Protection (Amendment) Bill 2017 .....	111
YEAR, DAY & WEEK.....	112
World Malaria Day.....	112
National Panchayati Raj Day .....	113
World Book and Copyright Day-2017 .....	113
World Earth Day .....	114
Civil Service Day.....	114
World Hemophilia Day 2017 .....	115
World Heritage Day .....	115
International Day of Sport for Development and Peace .....	116
National Maritime Day.....	116
World Health Day .....	117
World Autism Awareness Day.....	117
MISCELLANEOUS .....	118
Air India reduces the age limit of senior citizen .....	118
The first freight train between the UK and China .....	118
TAL launches first indigenous robot .....	119
Free legal help to women suffering from triple talaq .....	120
Approval of establishment of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy.....	120
Book release by PM Modi .....	121
Launching of 'nakshe' portal.....	121
Minimum support price for Copra approved .....	122
Cabinet approves closure of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana .....	122
Increase in financial grant to pilgrims.....	123
New rules for GPF clearance .....	123



# NATIONAL

## State visit of Nepal's President to India

**Question: The incumbent President of Nepal, who visited India from 17-21 April, 2017, is...**

- (a) Ram Baran Yadav                      (b) Sita Devi Bhandari  
(c) Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat (d) Vidya Devi Bhandari

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On the invitation of the President of India Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, Nepal's first woman President, Vidya Devi Bhandari, was on a state visit to India from 17-21 April, 2017.
- This is the first state visit of the President of Nepal after assuming office in October 2015.
- On April 18, 2017, President of Nepal Vidya Devi Bhandari was welcomed with a guard of honor at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- She also went to Rajghat and paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.
- During her visit, she met President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- Apart from this, she also traveled to Gujarat and Odisha.
- It is notable that being the closest neighbor, there is a friendly relationship between India and Nepal.
- Its boundary of more than 1850 km meets the five provinces of India -Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- India continues to be Nepal's largest trading partner, the largest source of foreign investment and the largest source of tourist arrivals.
- About 600,000 Indian origin nationals are living in Nepal as Nepali citizen.
- It includes business people, doctors, engineers, and workers in the information technology sector, who have been living in Nepal for a long time.
- Nepal is a landlocked Himalayan nation of South Asian based in the Indian subcontinent.
- It is notable that Dr. Ram Baran Yadav was the first President of Nepal.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-info.htm?1/958/State+Visit+of+President+of+Nepal+to+India+April+1721+2017>  
<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28394/State+Visit+of+President+of+Nepal+to+India+April+1721+2017>  
[http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India+Nepal+Relations+11\\_04](http://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/India+Nepal+Relations+11_04)

## State Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India

**Question- What is the new Line of Credit of assigned to Bangladesh?**

- (a) \$3.5 billion (b) \$ 4.5 billion (c) \$2.5 billion  
(d) \$6.5 billion

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was on a state visit to India from 07-10 April, 2017.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was formally welcomed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 8, 2017.
- On April 08, 2017, there was a delegation-level bilateral dialogue between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
- The two sides signed 22 MoUs related to various important areas.
- Here are some key agreements:
  - (i) Agreement on peaceful use of outer space
  - (ii) Agreement on peaceful use of nuclear energy.
  - (iii) Agreement for cooperation in judicial sector.
  - (iv) Agreement in cyber security sector.
  - (v) Agreement for Research and Development in the field of Earth Science.
  - (vii) Agreement for cooperation in the field of mass media.
  - (viii) Agreement for audio-visual co-production.
  - (Iii) Agreement for the development of the route of the ship in the Ashuganj-Zakiganj section of the Kushiara River and the Sirajganj-Khova section of Yamuna River on the India-Bangladesh Protocol route.
  - (Ix) Agreement for the construction of 36 community clinics in Bangladesh.
- In addition to these agreements, India announced a loan of \$ 4.5 billion to Bangladesh.
- Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka bus service was also inaugurated by both the Prime Ministers through video conferencing.
- On this occasion, the two leaders released the Hindi translation of 'The Unfinished Memoirs' of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-info.htm?1/955/State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Bangladesh+to+India+April+0710+2017>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28360/List+of+AgreementsMoUs+exchanged+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Bangladesh+to+India+April+0710+2017>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28362/India++Bangladesh+Joint+Statement+during+the+State+Visit+of+Prime>

## State Visit of Prime Minister of Australia to India

**Question: – During 9-12 April, 2017; the Prime Minister of Australia was on the State visit to India. Australian Prime Minister is–**

- (a) Tony Abbott
- (b) Malcolm Turnbull
- (c) Lily Band
- (d) Kevin Rood

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**



- During 9-12 April, 2017, on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of Australia Malcolm Turnbull, was on a state visit to India.
- This was the first visit of Prime Minister Turnbull to India.
- Prior to this, Prime Minister Tony Abbott visited India in September 2014.
- Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull was formally welcomed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 10, 2017.
- On April 10, 2017, there was a delegation-level bilateral dialogue between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malcolm Turnbull at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
- After the talks, the following MoUs were signed in different important areas between the two countries.
  - (I) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in international terrorism and international organized crime.
  - (II) Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation and development in civil aviation security.
  - (III) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of environment, climate and wildlife.
  - (IV) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in sports.
  - (V) Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of health and medicine.
  - (VI) Memorandum of understanding between ISRO and Geology Australia on Earth Observation and Collaboration in Satellite Navigation.
- After the agreement, the Joint Statement was issued between the two countries.
- Malcolm Turnbull said in his statement that Australia will soon export uranium to India. Along with this, he said that Australia will help in India's flagship program 'Make in India', Smart City and for the availability of 24 hour electricity.
- On April 12, 2017, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Vijay Goyal launched a sports partnership in Mumbai to increase cooperation in the field of sports.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-info.htm?1/956/State+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Australia+to+India+April+0912+2017>

## Visit of Prime Minister of Malaysia to India

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

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

**Ans: (c)**



**Related facts:-**

- From March 30 to April 4, 2017, Malaysia's Prime Minister, Mohammad Najeeb Bin Tun Abdul Razak and his wife, Rosmah Mansor, were on state visit to India.
- This is his third visit to India as Prime Minister.
- This visit is in reference to the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Malaysia.
- Prime Minister Najib's delegation included 10 cabinet ministers in addition to senior officials.
- Prime Minister Najib was formally welcomed at Rashtrapati Bhavan on April 1, 2017.
- Later, he went to Rajghat and paid homage to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.
- During this visit, he met President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Hamid Ansari.
- Delegation level bilateral talks were held on April 1, 2017 at Hyderabad House, New Delhi, between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Najib.
- After the talks, the following seven MoU agreements were signed in different important areas between the two countries-
  1. Air Service Agreement between the two countries
  2. Agreement on cooperation in proposed development of urea and ammonia manufacturing plant in Malaysia and agreement on export of additional surplus urea from Malaysia to India
  3. Memorandum of cooperation in the field of sports.
  4. Memorandum of understanding between Malaysian Human Resource Fund (HRDF) Pembangunan Sambar Manusia Birhad (PSMB) and EDII for cooperation in training.
  5. Memorandum of Understanding between Association for Indian University (AIU) India and Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA) Malaysia for the Interpersonal Identity of Educational Qualifications.
  6. Memorandum of Understanding between Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB) and Chemical Technology Institute (ICT) India
  7. Memorandum of understanding between the MIGHT technology Malaysia and the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board on the implementation of fourth generation technology park in Andhra Pradesh.

- There is a close and friendly relationship between India and Malaysia and peak-level meetings are held at regular level.
- India established diplomatic relations with the Malayan Confederation (the predecessor state of Malaysia) in the year 1957.
- Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had officially visited Malaysia on November 23, 2015.
- About 2.9 million or more people in Malaysia are of Indian origin, it is the third largest Indian Diaspora in the world, most of which are Tamil.

**Related Links:-**

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

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?28245/Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Malaysia+to+India+30+March++04+April+2017>

## India Rankings-2017

**Question: Which of the institutions below is at the first rank in Overall Ranking of 'India Rankings-2017' under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)?**

- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
- Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
- Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur



**Ans: (a)**

- On April 03, 2017, Union Human Resource Development Minister, Prakash Javadekar released 'India Rankings -2017' prepared by the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) rankings for higher educational institutions in India.
- This is the second edition of India Rankings which is divided in five segments- Universities, Engineering, Management and Pharmacy.
- ❖ **Top Ten Institutes in overall Rankings:**

1. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
3. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
4. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
5. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
6. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
7. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
8. Indian Institute of Technology, Guauhati

9. Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
10. Banaras Hindu University

❖ **Top 10 universities in India**

1. Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
2. Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
3. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
4. Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Research, Bengaluru
5. Jadavpur University, Kolkata

❖ **Top 10 colleges in India**

1. Miranda House, Delhi
2. Loyola College, Madras
3. Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi
4. Bishop Heber College, Tiruchirapalli
5. Atma Ram Sanatan Dharma College, New Delhi

❖ **Top 5 engineering institutes**

1. Indian Institute of Technology, Madras
2. Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay
3. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur
4. Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi
5. Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur

❖ **Top 5 management institutes**

1. Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad
2. Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore
3. Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta
4. Indian Institutes of Management, Lucknow
5. Indian Institute of Management, Kazhikode

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.nirfindia.org/Ranking2017.html>

[https://nirfcdn.azureedge.net/rankingpdf2017/IR2017\\_Report.pdf](https://nirfcdn.azureedge.net/rankingpdf2017/IR2017_Report.pdf)

## First meeting of 'India Indonesia Energy Forum

**Question- Where was the first 'India Indonesia Energy Forum' meeting held recently?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Bali (c) Jakarta (d) Bangalore

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 20, 2017 the first meeting of 'India Indonesia Energy Forum' was held in Jakarta.
- Central Minister of state for Electricity, Energy, Mineral





Resources, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and mine, Piyush Goyal and Ignasius Jonan Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia, participated in this meeting.

- Before the Energy Forum meeting, meetings of the second Joint Working Group on Oil and Gas, the fourth Joint Working Group on Coal and the first Joint Working Group on New and Renewable Energy were held.
- During the Energy Forum meeting, reports of these three Joint Working Groups were presented before the counterparts of the two countries.
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources of the Republic of Indonesia on cooperation in the field of Oil and Gas was signed on this occasion.
- Under this agreement a co-operative framework will be established for mutual benefit.
- India is the third largest importer of coal from Indonesia. India imported \$ 3.5 billion worth of coal from Indonesia in 2016.
- The bilateral trade between the two countries during 2015-16 was US \$ 15.90 billion.
- In which Indonesia's export was US \$ 13.06 billion and India's exports was US \$ 2.84 billion.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161220>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60552>

<https://twitter.com/PiyushGoyal/status/855020746267144192>

## World Bank approves loan for developing National Waterway-1

**Question: What is the loan amount approved by the World Bank for the development of National Waterway-1?**

- (A) \$ 275 MN (B) \$ 300 MN (C) \$ 375 MN  
(D) \$ 425 MN

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 12, 2017 the World Bank approved a loan of \$ 375 million to develop National Waterway-1.
- It is notable that the central government is developing National Waterway-1 (Gangetic) at a cost of Rs 5369 crore to develop waterway project for 1390 kms from Haldia (West Bengal) to Varanasi (UP).
- Under the project, 3 multi-dimensional terminals will be set up in Varanasi (UP) Sahibganj (Jharkhand), and Haldia (West Bengal).
- Two inter-modal terminals at Kalughat and Ghazipur, five Being roll off and roll on terminal (RO-RO), and development of Varanasi Patna, Bhagalpur, Munger,



Kolkata and Haldia boat service and vessel repair and maintenance facilities will also be done.

- In addition to this, this project will enable Indian Inland Waterways Authority to establish Ganga information service system for NW-1 for the first time in India.
- National Waterway-1 is the waterway of national importance which passes through Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.
- This project will enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1500-2000 dwt.

#### Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60543>

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/04/12/world-bank-approves-usd375-million-help-india-develop-its-first-modern-waterway>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161196>

## Union Cabinet cleared the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017

**Question: Recently, the Union Cabinet provided approval for the introduction of the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 and the National Backward Classes Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2017 in the Parliament. The National Backward Classes Commission will be constituted under which Article of the Constitution?**

(a) Article 335 B (b) Article 338 B (c) Article 336 B (d) Article 337b

**Ans: (b)**

#### Related facts:-

- On April 19, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017 and National Backward Classes Commission (Repeal) Bill, 2017 to be presented in the Parliament.
- The following proposals were approved for constitutional amendment through the Constitution (123rd Amendment) Bill, 2017-
  - (I) to constitute a commission under the name of National Backward Classes Commission for socially and educationally backward classes, under Article 338 B of the Indian Constitution, and
  - (II) insertion of Clause 26C under Article 366 with modified definition viz. "socially and educationally backward classes" means such backward classes as are so deemed under Article 342A for the purpose.
- **Purpose of the Bill**
  - a. Repeal of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 along with Savings Clause for namely the National Commission for Backward Classes (Repeal) Bill, 2017; and
  - b. Dissolution of the National Commission for Backward Classes with effect from such date as the Central Government may appoint in this behalf and the National



Commission for Backward Classes constituted under sub-section (1) of Section 3 of the said Act shall stand dissolved.

- Apart from this, the Cabinet also approved the posts and office premises (New Delhi) for the proposed new National Backward Classes Commission.
- The above decision will lead to the overall welfare of socially and educationally backward sections.
- It is to be noted that provision of 'National Scheduled Castes Commission' is mentioned in Article 338 and 'National Scheduled Tribes Commission' under Article (338-A) of the Indian constitution.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60524>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161139>

## Cabinet approves payment of leave to defense service personnel

**Question: How many days of leave encashment has been approved by the Union Cabinet to Defence personnel who died or were invalidated out of service between 30.12.1991 to 29.11.1999 with less than 15 years of service.?**

(A) 160 (B) 175 (C) 180 (D) 210

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 19, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved leave encashment up to 180 days in respect of those Defence personnel who died or were invalidated out of service between 30.12.1991 to 29.11.1999 with less than 15 years of service.
- This clearance has been given in connection with defense services personnel who have served less than 15 years and who had died during the period from December 30, 1991 to November 29, 1999 or were invalidated out from the service.
- This decision will benefit families of 9777 officers and other employees of defense services.
- It is notable that during this period, a large number of defence personnel were killed in the Kargil conflict (Operation Vijay) and encounters with extremists in Jammu and Kashmir and the North East.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60522>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161143>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-approves-encashment-of-accumulated-leave-to-defence-services-personnel-with-less-than-15-years-of-service/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-encashment-of-accumulated-leave-to-defence-services-personnel-with-less-than-15-years-of-service/?comment=disable)

## Bhim: Aadhaar- Pay launched by the Prime Minister

**Question: – Consider the following facts related to ‘Aadhaar Pay’ –**

**(i) This is a biometric based payment system.**

**(ii) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched it on April 14, 2017.**

**(iii) It is not necessary for the consumer and the merchant’s account to be linked to Aadhaar for transaction through Aadhaar Pay.**

**(iv) Debit card, PIN, and password will not be required for transaction.**

**Which of the statements above are true?**

(a) Only (i), (ii) and (iv) (b) Only (ii) and (iv)

(c) Only (i) and (ii) (d) All of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 14, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ‘Bhim Aadhaar Pay’ in Nagpur (Maharashtra) on the occasion of the 126th birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar.
- This is a biometric based payment system which will not require a debit card, PIN, and password.
- BHIM-Aadhaar, the merchant interface of the BHIM App, will pave the way for making digital payments by using the Aadhaar platform.
- Any Indian citizen can pay digitally using their biometric data like their thumb imprint on a merchants’ biometric enabled device which could be smart phone having a biometric reader.
- For this, both the consumer and the merchant’s bank account should be linked to Aadhaar.
- No service charge will be charged on payment through Aadhaar pay.
- Already, 27 major banks are now on board with 3 lakh merchants so that they can start accepting payments using BHIM Aadhaar.
- Significantly, after the announcement of the demonetization on November 8, 2016, the use of digital transactions in the country has increased and the beginning of the ‘Bhim Aadhaar pay’ will prove to be a milestone in this direction.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161046>

<https://twitter.com/NITIAayog/status/852809110990999553>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pms-address-at-the-launch-of-various-government-projects-and-schemes-in-nagpur/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pms-address-at-the-launch-of-various-government-projects-and-schemes-in-nagpur/?comment=disable)



## Backward Class, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Reservation Bill, 2017

**Question- Telangana Legislative Assembly passed a Bill to hike the reservation quota for backward Muslims and the Scheduled Tribes to ... respectively.**

- (A) 4 percent and 6 percent      (B) 5 percent and 10 percent  
(C) 12 percent and 10 percent    (D) 11 percent and 8 percent

**Ans: (c)**



### Related facts

- On April 16, 2017, the Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Reservation Bill, 2017 was passed in the Legislative Assembly of the state of Telangana.
- Under this bill, the limit for reservation for backward (socially and economically backward) Muslims has been increased from 4 percent to 12 percent.
- Apart from this, reservation for Scheduled Tribes (in educational institutions and government jobs) has been increased from 6% to 10%.
- The Bill will be sent for the President's assent with a request to include it in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution.
- After the approval of the Bill, the total reservation in this state will increase from 50 percent to 62 percent.
- It is noteworthy that the state of Tamil Nadu has 69 percent reservation in place.
- The Supreme Court has however put a cap of 50% on all reservations both at the Centre and in the states.

### • Related Links:-

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/telangana-assembly-passes-bill-to-hike-muslim-quota-to-12/article18071406.ece>

## New Taxi Policy Guidelines

**Question: Which of the following is the hashtag started by the Ministry of Women and Child Development for women affected by harassment and violence?**

- (a) #WCDWCD (b) # Hello WCD (c) # HelpMeWCD  
(d) # Help Me you

**Ans : (c)**

### Related facts:-

- The safety measures, recommended by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, concerning safety of women commuters availing of cab services were included in the new Taxi Policy Guidelines on April 12, 2017.



- These measures were recommended by the WCD Minister, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping.
- The recommendations of the Ministry of Women and Child Development included in the guidelines of the new taxi policy are as follows:
- The taxis should be mandatorily fitted with GPS panic devices.
- For the safety of women and child passengers, the central locking system in the taxis should not be allowed.
- The driver's identification along with the photo and registration number of the vehicle should also be prominently displayed in the taxi.
- Violation of the stipulated rules by the taxi operators/drivers should be strictly dealt in accordance with law.
- Sharing of seat should be subject to willingness of passengers.
- The WCD Minister has also launched a hashtag, #HelpMeWCD, where any woman or child facing harassment/ violence can directly report their cases by tweeting.

**Related Links:-**

- <http://pib.gov.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60415>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160912>

## Important decisions taken in the first cabinet meeting of UP

**Question: Wheat procurement target as fixed by the UP cabinet in its first meeting is**

...

- (a) 50 lakh metric tones      (b) 60 lakh metric tonnes
- (c) 70 lakh metric tones      (d) 80 lakh metric tonnes

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 04, 2017, UP's newly formed Cabinet took following important decisions in its first meeting:
- It was decided to strictly implement the order given in connection with the closure of illegal animal slaughterhouses operating in the state and banning mechanical animal slaughterhouses.
- Minimum support price for wheat has been kept at Rs. 1625 per quintal.
- In the year 2017-18, the State Government had fixed a minimum target of 40 lakh metric tonnes of wheat procurement which has been increased to 80 lakh metric tonnes with aim to maximizing the benefits to the farmers.
- 5000 procurement centers have been set up in different districts to purchase wheat in the state.
- Approval on proposal for the formation and operation of Anti-Romeo Squad in each district.
- It will operate under the vigilance of the Squad zonal officer.
- Cabinet approved setting up of a sports stadium in Ghazipur with use of high specifications structural glazing and metallic false ceiling.





- Formation of ministerial groups to formulate new industry policy and formulate action plan for curbing illegal mineral trade has also been taken.
- Decision to set up a committee to consider measures to give relief to farmers producing potatoes.
- Decision to waive all the outstanding crop loans due to small and marginal farmers as on March 31, 2017 taken till March 31, 2016 up to a maximum limit of Rs 1 lakh per farmer

Related Links:

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/lucknow/yogi-govt-waives-off-rs-36359-crore-loan-of-farmers.html>

<http://upnews360.in/newsdetail/68908/hi>

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=55](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=55)

## Plastic Bags banned in Madhya Pradesh

**Question: Ban on plastic (Carry) bags in the State of Madhya Pradesh came into effect on...**

- (a) June 1, 2017 (b) April 15, 2017 (c) May 1, 2017  
(d) July 1, 2017

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 11, 2017, the Madhya Pradesh Council of Ministers decided to ban plastic bags (Carry bag) in the State from May 01, 2017.
- The Cabinet took this decision in compliance with the order of the National Green Tribunal.
- The Cabinet also gave its nod to Madhya Pradesh Bio Indestructible Waste (Control) Amendment Bill-2017 for complete ban on use of plastic carry bags in the State.



**Related Links:**

<http://mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20170411N9&LocID=1&PDt=4/11/2017>

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions//state-govt-bans-plastic-bags-from-may-1-in-mp.html>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/madhya-pradesh-bans-plastic-or-polythene-bags-from-may-1-4608800/>

<http://www.univarta.com/news/states/story/838970.html>

## National Children Film Festival -2017

**Question: Where was the third National Children Film Festival organised during April 7-9, 2017?**

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

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- The 'Third National Children Film Festival' was organized in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh from 7-9 April, 2017.
- This three-day festival was hosted by the Childrens Film Society of India (CFSI).
- Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the festival.
- The opening film was "Shanu? The Optimist", directed by KNT Sastry and produced by CFSI in 2016.
- 24 films were exhibited during the festival which was attended by about 40,000 children.
- It noteworthy that the first and second National Children Film Festivals were organized in New Delhi in year 2014 and in Jaipur in 2016 respectively.



**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/CFSINDIAORG/status/850302676243972097>

<https://twitter.com/MVenkaiahNaidu/status/850349215523852288>

## INTERNATIONAL

### Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of the Year 2017

**Question- How many Indians have been included in the 'Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People of the Year 2017' list?**

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

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 20, 2017, a list of the 100 most influential people in the world of the year 2017 was released by the prestigious Time magazine.
- The magazine divided the list into categories by Pioneers, Titans, Artists, Leaders and Icons.
- This year, the name of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is included in the Leaders category by Time Magazine.



- In this list, the founder of Paytm, Vijay Shekhar Sharma, has also been included in the Titans category.
- Apart from this, US President Donald Trump, British Prime Minister Theresa May, Julian Assange, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un, Russian President Vladimir Putin, President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, Turkish President Rajab Tayeb Erdogan, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Pope Francis and Melinda Gates are included in the list..
- This category includes the name of Janet Yellen, the first woman president of the Board of Governors of the US Federal Reserve system and the founder of Amazon.com, Jeff Bezos.
- The list includes Ivanka Trump, daughter of US President Donald Trump in the Pioneers category.

**Related Links:-**

<http://time.com/collection/2017-time-100/>

<http://time.com/collection/2017-time-100/4736335/narendra-modi/>

<http://time.com/collection/2017-time-100/4742761/vijay-shekhar-sharma/>

## Changes in Australia’s Citizenship Law

**Question- How many years of permanent residence in Australia is required to apply for Australian citizenship as per the proposed changes in Australian citizenship law?**

(a) 2 years (b) 4 years (c) 6 years (d) 8 years

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 20, 2017, proposal for changes in citizenship law was announced by issuing joint statements by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and immigration and border security minister Peter Dutton.
- According to the new rules, such a person can apply for Australian citizenship who-
  - (I) have permanent resident in Australia for at least 4 years.
  - (II) is able to speak, read and understand English.
- After the application, a test will be conducted to assess the applicant’s faith towards Australian values.
- Upon failing the test after three attempts the applicant will be eligible for re-application only after two years to obtain citizenship.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2017/apr/20/malcolm-turnbull-to-add-hurdles-for-privilege-of-australian-citizenship>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-04-20/migrants-to-face-tougher-tests-for-australian-citizenship/8456392>

## Turkey referendum

**Question- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has won the referendum held in turkey on the question assigning more power to the President by .... of votes?**

(a) 55.41% (b) 54.86% (c) 51.40% (d) 48.3%

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On August 16, 2016, the results of the referendum held to grant the Turkish presidential office new executive powers was declared.
- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has declared victory with less than 3 percent vote difference.
- 51.40 percent votes have been casted in his favor while 48.60 percent were against him.
- Voters were asked to endorse an 18-article reform package put forward by the ruling Justice and Development Party that would replace the current system of parliamentary democracy with a powerful executive presidency.
- The new arrangement will be effective after the presidential election of November, 2019.
- The President's tenure will be of five years and for maximum two terms.
- The President will have all executive powers.
- The President will have right to issue orders, to appoint Cabinet Ministers, government officials, judges and to remove them.
- In addition to this, he shall also have the right to interfere in judicial matters, to declare the state of emergency and dissolve Parliament.
- It is noteworthy that under present arrangement president has no executive powers.



**Related Links:**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/16/europe/turkey-referendum-results-erdogan/>  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/11/26/middleeast/recep-tayyip-erdogan-fast-facts/>  
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/04/turkey-referendum-ak-party-claims-victory-170416162645193.html>

## Amnesty International- 2016 global review of the death penalty

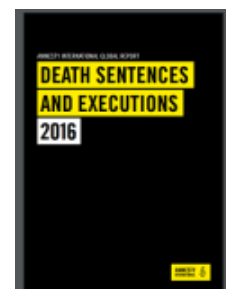
**Question: Which one of the following countries is the world's top executioner according to the Amnesty International report for year 2016 on death penalty?**

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

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 11, 2017, the International Human Rights Organization



Amnesty International released the Report on Death Penalty (Death Sentences and Executions 2016).

- According to the report, the most executions took place in China in year 2016 followed by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Pakistan.
- Excluding China, 87% of all executions took place in last four countries.
- At least 1,032 people were executed in 23 countries in 2016, while the figure in year 2015 was 1634 in 25 countries.
- A 37% reduction in death penalty seems at the global scale, while true extent of the use of the death penalty in China is unknown as this data is treated as a state secret.
- For the first time since 2006, the USA was not one of the five biggest executioners, falling to seventh behind Egypt.
- Belarus, Botswana, Nigeria and authorities within the State of Palestine resumed executions in 2016.
- In 2016, two countries Benin and Nauru abolished the death penalty in law for all crimes.
- In total, 104 countries in the world have abolished the death penalty.

**Related Link:**

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/04/death-penalty-2016-facts-and-figures/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/04/China-must-come-clean-about-capital-punishment/>

## Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report-2017

**Question: 'The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index-2017' released by the World Economic Forum, ranks India at .... place.**

(a) 52<sup>nd</sup> (b) 62<sup>nd</sup> (c) 40<sup>th</sup> (d) 32<sup>nd</sup>

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 6, 2017, The Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report-2017 was released by the World Economic Forum.
- 136 countries have been included in the 'Travel and Tourism Index -2017' included in the report.
- Countries ranked at the top five positions in this index are respectively -1. Spain (Score-5.43), 2. France (Score-5.22), 3. Germany (Score-5.22), 4. Japan (Score-5.26) and 5. United Kingdom (Score-5.22).
- Countries at the lowest five positions in the index are -Yemen (136<sup>th</sup>, Score-2.44), Chad (135<sup>th</sup>, Score-2.52), Burundi (134<sup>th</sup>, Score-2.57), Congo (133<sup>rd</sup>, Score -2.64) and Maritania (132<sup>nd</sup>, Score-2.64)
- India has been ranked at 40th place (Score-4.118) in the Travel and Tourism Competition Index -2017. India was at 52<sup>nd</sup> rank in the year 2015.



- In neighboring countries of India, China is ranked 15th, Sri Lanka is 64th, Bhutan 78th, Nepal 103rd, Pakistan 124th and Bangladesh 125th.
- In this index, America has at 6th, Canada 9th, Switzerland 10th, Singapore 13th, Russia 43rd and Brazil at 27<sup>th</sup> place.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2017/04/the-new-travel-boom-why-your-next-holiday-won-t-be-where-you-expect>

[http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF\\_TTCR\\_2017\\_web\\_0401.pdf](http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TTCR_2017_web_0401.pdf)

## ECONOMICS

### Finance Ministry approval for interest rate on EPF

**Question: The percentage of interest rate recently approved by Finance Ministry for Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17 is ...**

- (a) 8.86 per cent (b) 8.75 per cent (c) 8.65 per cent  
(d) 8.55 per cent

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 20, 2017, Finance ministry approved 8.65 per cent interest rate on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for year 2016-17.
- More than four crore subscribers of EPF organization will be benefited by this decision.
- Prior to this approval "The Central Board of Trustees had decided to give 8.65 percent to their subscribers.
- Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act-1952, provides financial protection to employees in the form of insurance associated Provident Fund, Family Pension and Deposit Amount.
- It applies to all establishments where twenty or more persons are employed.
- The Central Board of Trustees is a tripartite body. Central labor and employment Minister is its Chairman.
- EPFO provides various services, such as the collection of funds provided by members of the establishment, supervision of accounts of the members and distribution of funds under various beneficial schemes to the members and to their nominees.



**Related Link:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finance-ministry-approves-8-65-interest-rate-on-epf-for-2016-17-117042000403\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/finance-ministry-approves-8-65-interest-rate-on-epf-for-2016-17-117042000403_1.html)

<http://zeenews.india.com/personal-finance/finance-ministry-approves-8-65-interest-rate-on-epf-for-2016-17-1997784.html>

<http://paisa.khabarindiatv.com/article/finance-ministry-ratifies-8-65-interest-rate-on-epf-says-labour-minister/>



## Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) by RBI

**Question – Reserve bank of India has issued a notification titled “Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks.” This PCA framework came into effect from-**

- (a) 31st March, 2017 (b) 1st April, 2017 (c) 21st April, 2017  
(d) 31st March, 2018

**Answer-(b)**

**Related Facts:**

- On April 13, 2017, Reserve Bank of India issued a notification regarding Revised Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework for banks.
- The provisions of the revised PCA framework became effective from April 1, 2017 based on the financials of the banks for the year ended March 31, 2017.
- The revised framework would apply to all banks operating in India including small and foreign banks.
- The PCA framework for banks would be reviewed after three years.
- The PCA framework does not preclude the Reserve Bank of India from taking any other action as it deems fit in addition to the corrective actions prescribed in the framework.
- The salient features of revised PCA Framework for Banks are as follows:
  - A. Capital, asset quality and profitability continue to be the key areas for monitoring in the revised framework.
  - B. Indicators to be tracked for Capital, asset quality and profitability would be CRAR/ Common Equity Tier I ratio, Net NPA ratio and Return on Assets respectively.
  - C. Leverage would be monitored additionally as part of the PCA framework.
  - D. Breach of any risk threshold (as detailed under) would result in invocation of PCA.
  - E. The PCA framework would apply without exception to all banks operating in India including small banks and foreign banks operating through branches or subsidiaries based on breach of risk thresholds of identified indicators.
  - F. A bank will be placed under PCA framework based on the audited Annual Financial Results and the Supervisory Assessment made by RBI.
- Common menu for selection of discretionary corrective actions are Special Supervisory interactions, Strategy related actions, Governance related actions Capital related actions, Credit risk related actions, HR related actions, Profitability related Actions and Operations related actions.

**Related Link:**

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10921&Mode=0>

<http://in.reuters.com/article/brief-india-cenbank-announces-revised-pr-idINFWN1HLOA6>



## 9 FDI proposals approved by the government

**Question: – In the 2017-18 budget speech, the Finance Minister announced the winding up of which of the following institution?**

- (a) Policy Commission
- (b) Foreign Investment Promotion Board
- (c) Bank Board Bureau
- (d) None of these

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 24, 2017, 9 FDI proposals of Rs 659 crore were approved by the Government of India.
- The recommendations were made in the 243<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) (21 February 2017).
- The FIPB offers single-window clearance for applications on FDI in India that are under the approval route. The sectors under the automatic route do not require any prior approval and are subject to only sectoral laws.
- India allows FDI in most sectors through the automatic channel, but in certain segments that are considered sensitive for the economy and security; the proposals have to be first cleared by the FIPB.
- With growth in FDI in important sectors like services and manufacturing, overall foreign inflows in the country rose by 30 per cent to USD 21.62 billion during the first half of 2016-17.
- FDI in the country rose 29 per cent to USD 40 billion in 2015-16 as against USD 30.94 billion in the previous financial year.
- There are two channels of foreign investment in India at present-
  1. Automatic 'route' approved by RBI.
  2. Approved by FIPB (Delhi-way)
- It is notable that the Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in his Budget 2017-18, announced the decision to abolish the FIPB, saying 90 per cent of foreign investment approvals are via the automatic route and only 10 per cent go to the board.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159859>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/fipb-approves-nine-fdi-proposals-worth-rs-659-crore/articleshow/57814898.cms>

<http://www.univarta.com/news/business/story/820809.html>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-abolishes-fipb-more-fdi-policy-easing-on-anvil/articleshow/56909680.cms>



## Approval for procurement of potatoes from farmers in Uttar Pradesh

**Question: The procurement rate of potato fixed by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Welfare in Uttar Pradesh is ...**

(a) Rs.4250 (b) Rs.4460 (c) Rs.4750 (d) Rs. 4870

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 11, 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare approved the procurement of potato under Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) in Uttar Pradesh for the crop season 2016-17.
- A maximum quantity of 1,00,000 metric tonne (MT) of potato may be procured under the scheme by the State Agency.
- The purchase will be made at Rs. 4,870/- per MT. An additional Rs. 1217.50/- per MT or actual whichever is less for overhead expenses, such as transportation charges, mandi tax, and godown charges will also be provided by government.
- The Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) will be implemented by the State Agency.
- Potato will be purchased from Cooperative Societies, farmer organizations or directly from the farmers to eliminate the possibility of middlemen taking advantage of the scheme and to maintain transparency.
- The procured stocks will be disposed of in the open market to ensure maximum realizable price.
- Payment to farmers as far as possible will be made through non-cash transaction and receipts for sales must be through banking channel only, preferably through Demand Draft.



**Related Link:**

<https://twitter.com/RadhamohanBJP/status/850668759790436352>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60392>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160877>

## India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market

**Question- Which of the following countries is the world's largest domestic aviation market?**

(a) America (b) China (c) India (d) Japan

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts**

- According to a report released by the Center for Asia-Pacific Aviation (Sydney) on March 26, 2017, India is the world's third largest domestic aviation market.



- India acquired the third spot globally by unseating Japan, which flew 97 million domestic passengers in 2016.
- India total air passenger traffic was 131 million in the previous year.
- The United States (719 million) and China (436 million) are the world's two largest domestic aviation markets.
- During the year 2015-2016, the number of domestic air passengers in India increased by 20-25%, which was maximum (25.13%) in January.

**Related links;-**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/india-becomes-third-largest-aviation-market-in-domestic-traffic/article9601648.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/us-sees-india-as-key-nation-in-asia-pacific-region-pentagon/articleshow/58161189.cms>

## First Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18

**Question: What is the reverse repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility according to the first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy statement, 2017-18?**

- (a) 6.25 percent (b) 6.0 percent (c) 5.75 percent  
(d) 5.50 percent

**Ans: (b)**



- Reserve Bank of India released its first Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement, 2017-18 on April 06, 2017.
- The RBI has kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.25 per cent.
- The reverse repo rate under the LAF is at 6.0 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate are at 6.50 per cent.
- The Bi-monthly Policy statement targets medium-term consumer price index (CPI) inflation of 4 per cent within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.
- The statement also quotes the Central Statistics Office (CSO) second advance estimates for 2016-17 released on February 28, placing India's real GVA growth at 6.7 per cent for the year, down from 7 per cent in the first advance estimates released on January 6.
- Foodgrains production has touched an all-time high of 272 million tonnes, with record production of rice, wheat and pulses.
- Industrial output, measured by the index of industrial production (IIP), recovered in January from a contraction in the previous month, helped by a broad-based turnaround in manufacturing as well as mining and quarrying.
- Activity in the services sector appears to be improving as the constraining effects of demonetisation wear off. After three consecutive months of contraction, the services PMI for February and March emerged into the expansion zone on improvement in new business.

- After moderating continuously over the last six months to a historic low, retail inflation measured by year-on-year changes in the consumer price index (CPI) turned up in February to 3.7 per cent.
- Excluding food and fuel, inflation moderated in February by 20 basis points to 4.8 per cent, essentially on transient and item-specific factors.
- With progressive remonetisation, the surplus liquidity in the banking system declined from a peak of Rs.7,956 billion on January 4, 2017 to an average of Rs.6,014 billion in February and further down to Rs.4,806 billion in March.
- Merchandise exports rose strongly in February 2017 from a subdued profile in the preceding months. Growth impulses were broad-based, with major contributors being engineering goods, petroleum products, iron ore, rice and chemicals.
- Balance of payments data for Q3 indicate that the current account deficit for the first three quarters of the financial year narrowed to 0.7 per cent of GDP, half of its level a year ago.
- The level of foreign exchange reserves was US\$ 369.9 billion on March 31, 2017.
- GVA growth is projected to strengthen to 7.4 per cent in 2017-18 from 6.7 per cent in 2016-17

**Related Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=40069](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=40069)

## Joint UK-India Fund - a Green Growth Equity Fund

**Question: Green Growth Equity Fund, which is a joint- UK-India fund, aims to leverage private sector investment from the City of London to invest in Green Infrastructure Projects in India, What amount of money is being allocated for it by each country?**

- (a) £100 Million (b) £120 Million (c) £300 Million  
(d) £450 Million

**Ans: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On April 04, 2017; India and the UK announced the launch of an Early Market Engagement for the joint UK-India Fund.
- This is namely a Green Growth Equity Fund which aims to leverage private sector investment from the City of London to invest in green infrastructure projects in India.
- This was announced at the bilateral meeting between Arun Jaitley, the Minister of Finance, Defence and Corporate Affairs, Government of India, and Rt Hon Philip Hammond MP, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Government of UK in Delhi.
- Both governments agreed to invest up to £120 million each (i.e. totally £ 240 million) in the joint fund which will be established under the NIIF framework.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160487>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-business/uk-india-unveil-joint-green-fund/article17835536.ece>



## Recognition of Bitcoin and Digital Currencies as Money

**Question: Which of the following countries has recently recognized the Bitcoin and Digital Currencies as Money?**

(a) Tibet (b) Japan (c) Myanmar (d) China

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Recently Japan has officially recognized Bitcoin and digital currencies as legal tender (money) with effect from April 01, 2017.
- Recognition is the result of approval of a set of Bills by Japan cabinet that will help the integration of digital currency into the legacy banking system through regulation.
- Japan is the one of the first countries to treat the Bitcoin as fiat money.
- Under the new law, Bitcoin exchanges will also come under additional regulatory scrutiny and will comply with strict anti-money laundering (AML) and Know Your Customer (KYC) requirements.
- It is mentionable that Bitcoin is a form of digital currency or crypto currency, created and held electronically.



**Related Link:**

<https://cointelegraph.com/news/japan-officially-recognizes-bitcoin-and-digital-currencies-as-money>

<http://www.newsbtc.com/2017/04/02/japan-officially-recognises-bitcoin-currency-starting-april-2017/>

## Cabinet allows unrestricted export of all certified organic agricultural products

**Question: Organic agricultural products are ...**

- (a) grown without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.  
(b) grown with use of modern technology, chemicals and pesticides.  
(c) only edibles.  
(d) prepared in factories.

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 31, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for removal of all quantitative ceilings on individual organic products and allowed unrestricted exports of all organic agricultural and organic processed products.
- However, in respect of organic pulses and lentils, the quantitative ceiling on exports will be enhanced from the existing 10,000 MT per annum to 50,000 MT per annum.





- The decision to remove quantitative ceiling on wheat, sugar, non-basmati rice, organic sugar and increase the limit on export of organic pulses is expected to contribute to the Government's objective of doubling the farmers' income.
- It is notable that all organic products exports are certified by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the National Programme for Organic Production.
- Organic products are grown under a system of agriculture without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with an environmentally and socially responsible approach.
- This is a method of farming that works at grass root level preserving the reproductive and regenerative capacity of the soil, good plant nutrition, and sound soil management, produces nutritious food rich in vitality which has resistance to diseases.
- The production is not limited to the edible sector but also produces organic cotton fiber, functional food products etc.
- India produced around 1.35 million MT (2015-16) of certified organic products which includes all varieties of food products namely Sugarcane, Oil Seeds, Cereals & Millets, Cotton, Pulses, Medicinal Plants, Tea, Fruits, Spices, Dry Fruits, Vegetables, Coffee etc. . The production is not limited to the edible sector but also produces organic cotton fiber, functional food products etc.
- Organic products are exported to European Union, US, Canada, Switzerland, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, South East Asian countries, Middle East, South Africa etc.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160381>

[http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/organic/Organic\\_Products.htm](http://apeda.gov.in/apedawebsite/organic/Organic_Products.htm)

## SCIENTIFIC

### DEFENSE/SCIENCE SHORT NOTES

#### Joint bilateral Naval exercise 'Varun'

**Question:** India recently conducted bilateral naval exercise 'Varun' with which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia (b) America  
(c) France (d) Britain

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 24, 2017, the joint bilateral naval exercise, between India and France's navies, 'Varun' commenced at the Toulon port on the Mediterranean coast of France.



- This naval exercise lasted till April 30, 2017.
- In this naval exercise, Guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai, stealth frigate INS Trishul and fleet tanker INS Aditya took part.
- These ships are part of the Indian Navy's ships deployed in Mediterranean Sea and Africa's west coast.
- The 'Varun' series of exercises began in 2000 and has grown into an institutionalized form of interaction between the two navies.
- Last year (2016) this exercise was organized on the Indian coast.

**Related Links:**

<http://www.indiandefensenews.in/2017/04/india-france-carry-out-joint-naval.html>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-france-carry-out-joint-naval-exercise-1685527>

<http://www.india.com/news/agencies/joint-indian-french-naval-exercise-varuna-begins-2063730/>

## BrahMos Land Attack Supersonic Cruise Missile

**Question- Brahmos land attack supersonic cruise missile was successfully tested by...**

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

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 21, 2017, the BrahMos Land Attack Supersonic Cruise Missile was successfully tested by the Indian Navy in the Bay of Bengal.
- The surface-to-surface missile was tested by the Indian Navy's ship, 'Teg' a guided missile frigate.
- Simultaneously, the Indian Navy has joined the specific navies of the world, who have the ability to hit the targets on the ground from the sea.
- Prior to this, only America, Russia, China and Britain had the ability to hit the ground from the sea.
- The BrahMos missile was developed by joint venture 'Brahmos Aerospace' of India's Defense Research and Development Organization and NPO Mashinostroyeniya of Russia.
- It's Antiship version has already been included in the Indian Navy.
- It is to be noted that on March 11, 2017, the successful testing of the new trial version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Defense Research and Development Organization (IRI) Chandipur was done at Integrated Test Range (ITR).
- The firepower of this new version is 450 km.
- The missile will be able to shoot at 2.5 to 3.0 MAC speed and Capable of carrying with 300 kg Warhead.
- It is worth mentioning that this missile is one of the fastest cruise missiles in the world.



- It can be launched from the ground and warships.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/maiden-firing-brahmos-land-attack-supersonic-cruise-missile>

## Coastal security exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’

**Question- On April, 20-21, 2017, at the coast line of which state, a comprehensive coastal security exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’ was conducted?**

(a) Kerala (b) Goa (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Tamilnadu

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 20-21 April, 2017, extensive coastal security exercise ‘Sagar Kavach’ was organized to take stock of preparations of various security agencies on the coastline of Goa.
- This exercise was conducted and coordinated by the Indian Coast Guard, Goa.
- The objective of this exercise was to provide uninterrupted security cover on the coast of Goa jointly by all the security agencies.
- Several agencies, including Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Goa Police, Goa Coastal Security Intelligence Agency Mormugao Port Trust, Port Administration Department, CISF and customs will participate in this exercise.
- Since 2009, this joint exercise of all the related agencies was organized under the auspices of the Goa government.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8603927\\_Coastal-Security-exercise-to-be-held-in-Goa-next-week.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8603927_Coastal-Security-exercise-to-be-held-in-Goa-next-week.html)

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/coastal-security-exercise-to-be-held-in-go-next-week-117041300336\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/coastal-security-exercise-to-be-held-in-go-next-week-117041300336_1.html)

## Nomadic Elephant-2017

**Question- During 5-18 April, 2017, joint military training exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant-2017’ was organized to increase military cooperation between India and which other country?**

(a) Australia (b) Srilanka (c) Mongolia (d) Vietnam

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- During the April 5-18, 2017, joint military training exercise ‘12th Nomadic Elephant-2017’ was organized in India to enhance military cooperation



between India and Mongolia.

- It is being organized in Eastern Command of the Indian Army, in Vairengte, Mizoram.
- The purpose of this exercise is to develop synergy and inter-operability between the forces of both the countries.
- In this exercise, 3 officers, 4 JCOs and 39 soldiers from Jammu and Kashmir Rifles of Indian Army participated while 9 officers and 36 soldiers of the '084 Special Forces Task Battalion' participated from Mongolian Army.
- It is notable that the joint military training exercise is organized annually in both the countries alternatively.
- The 11th Nomadic Elephant 2016 was organized from 25 April to 8 May 2016 in Mongolia.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-mongolia-cross-swords/article17895241.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/indo-mongolian-drill-to-boost-joint-ops-muscle/articleshow/58037936.cms>

## Discovery of plastic Eating Fungus

**Question:-Polyurethane (PU) is a form of-**

- (a) Medicine for Urinary Infections (b) A fertilizer (c) Plastics  
(d) Cancer drug

**Ans:(c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- Scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) have found the solution to the growing plastic problem in the form of soil fungus *Aspergillus tubingensis*.
- These researchers found the plastic-eating fungus living in a rubbish heap in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- *Aspergillus tubingensis* is a fungus which ordinarily lives in the soil. However, during laboratory trials, the researchers found that it also grows on the surface of plastics
- The fungus secretes enzymes onto the surface of the plastic, which break the chemical bonds between the plastic molecules or polymers
- This discovery may become boon for pollution problem created by huge plastic wastes.
- Plastic waste is difficult to decompose, pollutes soil and water and poses risks to human health.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/plastic-eating-fungus/1/921074.html>

[http://english.cas.cn/newsroom/research\\_news/201703/t20170330\\_175543.shtml](http://english.cas.cn/newsroom/research_news/201703/t20170330_175543.shtml)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/fungus-that-eats-plastic-may-help-clean-environment/article17763461.ece>

# SPORTS

## TENNIS

### BNP Paribas Open, 2017

**Question: Who is the winner of the men (singles) category of BNP Paribas Open, 2017?**

- (a) Roger Federer (b) Stanilos Wawrinka (c) Lukas Kubot  
(d) Rajiv Ram

**Ans : (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 19, 2017, Switzerland's player Roger Federer won the men's singles competition for the fifth time in the BNP Paribas Open.
- He defeated his compatriot Stanilos Wawrinka.
- BNP Paribas Open is also known as Indian Wells Masters.
- From 06-19 March 2017; this event was organized in California (America).
- The winners and runners-up of various sections are as follows:
- Women (Singles): Winner-Elena Vesnina (Russia)
- Runner-up Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)
- Men (doubles): Winner-Raven Klaussen (South Africa), Rajiv Ram (America)
- Runner-up-Lucas Kubot (Poland), Marcelo Melo (Brazil)
- Woman (Doubles): Winner-Chan Yung Jan (China), Martina Hingis (Switzerland)
- Runner-up Lusi Haradeka (Czech Republic), Katrina Sanyakova (Czech Republic)
- Federer is the oldest player to win this title.
- 18 Grand Slam winners Federer's 90th career and 25th Masters Title.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/indian-wells/404/2017/results?matchType=singles>

<http://www.atpworldtour.com/en/scores/archive/indian-wells/404/2017/results?matchType=doubles>

<http://www.bnpparibasopen.com/en/draws/womens-singles>

## CRICKET

### Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2017

**Question: Who amongst the following was selected for the Man of the Series in the recently concluded Border-Gavaskar Test series between India and Australia?**

- (a) Steve Smith (b) Ravichandran Ashwin  
(c) Ravindra Jadeja (d) Cheteshwar Pujara



## Answer- (c)

### Related facts:

- On March 28, 2017, India won the Border Gavaskar Trophy by 2-1, defeating Australia by 8 wickets in the fourth and final Test match.
- All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has been chosen for Man of the Series on scoring 127 runs and 25 wickets in this series.
- Jadeja also became Man of the Match in the fourth match.
- The first match of this series was played in Pune from 23-25 February, 2017. It was won by Australia by 333 runs.
- O'Keefe, Australian bowler who took 12 wickets in the (1st) match was awarded with Man of the Match title.
- The second match of the series was played in Bangalore from March 4-7, 2017, won by India by 75 runs and K.L. Rahul became Man of the Match.
- The third match of the series was played in Ranchi from March 16-20, which was a draw and Cheteshwar Pujara, who scored a double century, was selected for the Man of the match.
- Highest run scorers in the series: 1. Steve Smith – 499 runs, 2. Cheteshwar Pujara – 405 runs 3. KL Rahul-393 runs  
Most wicket takers: 1. Ravindra Jadeja – 25 wickets, 2. R. Ashwin – 21 wickets, 3. Nathan Lyon – 19 wickets.
- Records during this series:
- It is the 7th consecutive test series victory of team India under Virat Kohli's leadership.
- Team India has defeated all the nine Test teams in the previous domestic series. India after Australia and South Africa is the third team to do so.
- In the absence of Virat Kohli, the 33<sup>rd</sup> Test captain Ajinkya Rahane, who held the captaincy in the fourth Test, became the ninth Indian captain to win his first match.
- Cheteshwar Pujara scored 202 runs off 525 balls in second innings of third test and became the first Indian cricketer to face 500 balls in a single Test innings.
- India has won four out of the four Test series in 2016-2017 Season.
- Ravindra Jadeja is the third player who scored more than 500 runs and took more than 50 wickets, in a Season.
- Ravichandran Ashwin broke Dale Steyn's (78) record of taking the most wickets in a season. He has taken 79 wickets in the season 2016-17.
- Total thirteen (13) series of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy have been played since 1996-97, out of which seven (7) series were won by India, five (5) series by Australia while the series in the 2003-04 was a draw.

### Related links:

<http://www.bcci.tv/india-v-australia-2017/results>

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/india-v-australia-2016-17/content/story/1088751.html>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/r-ashwin-india-vs-australia-test-cricket/1/912629.html>



# HOCKEY

## Women's Hockey World League

**Question: Indian women's team defeated which of the following teams in the Hockey World League Round 2?**

(a) Pakistan (b) Chile (c) Canada (d) Belarus

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 09, 2017, the Indian women's team India defeated Chile to win the Women's Hockey World League Round 2 held in West Vancouver and qualify for the World League Semi-final.
- The Indian women's team stormed into the final of Hockey World League Round 2 after a 4-0 thrashing of Belarus in the semi-finals.
- The final of Women's Hockey World League 2016-17 will be played in Auckland, New Zealand from November 17 to 26, 2017, while semi-finals will be played in June-July 2017 in Brussels (Belgium) and Johannesburg (South Africa).

**Related Link:**

<http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-world-league/2017-women-hockey-world-league-round-2-west-vancouver-can/teams/>

<http://www.fih.ch/events/hockey-world-league/2017-women-hockey-world-league-round-2-west-vancouver-can/news/india-crowned-champs-chile-to-also-contest-hwl-semi-finals/>



# BADMINTON

## Singapore Open Super Series-2017

**Question: Who amongst the followings has won the Men's single title in Singapore Open Super Series, 2017?**

(a) Sai Praneeth Bhamidipati (b) H.K. Vittinghus  
(c) Kidambi Srikanth (d) Lee Hyun-il

**Answer-(a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Singapore Open Super Series, 2017 (April 11-16, 2017) concluded in Singapore.
- Result of the tournament:
- **Men's singles**  
Winner: Sai Praneeth (India)  
Runner-up: Kidambi Srikanth (India)
- **Women's singles**  
Winner: TAI Tzu Ying (Taiwan)  
Runner-up: Carolina Marin (Spain)



- **Men's doubles**  
Winner: Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (both Denmark)  
Runner-up: Li Junhui and Li Yuchen (both China)
- **Women's doubles**  
Winner: Kamilla Ryt Juhl and Christinna Pedersen (both Denmark)  
Runner-up: Misaki Mustsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi (both Japan)
- **Mixed couple**  
Winner: Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong (both China)  
Runner-up: Dechapol Puavaranukr Roh and Sapsiree Taerattanac Hai (both Thailand )

**Related Link:**

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/2655/oue-singapore-open/podium>  
<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/sai-praneeth-rallies-to-down-srikanth-wins-maiden-super-series-title/article18071466.ece>

## BWF India Open Superseries-2007

**Question: Who won the BWF India Open Superseries 2017 Women's Singles title?**

- (a) P.V. Sindhu (b) Carolina Marin (c) Saina Nehwal  
(d) Sung Ji Yun

**Ans : (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- Between March 28 and April 2, 2017, the BWF India Open Superseries 2017 was organized in New Delhi.
- PV Sindhu won women's singles title defeating world champion Spanish player Carolina Marin.
- Sindhu had reached the final of the competition for the first time and she was successful in winning it in her first attempt.
- Men's singles title was won by Victor Axelsen of Denmark, defeating Chou Tien Chen of Taiwan.
- In the men's doubles final, the pair of Marcus Fem Gideon and Kevin Sanja Sukamuljo defeated Ricky Karandasuwa and Angga Pratama pair.
- These four players are from Indonesia.
- In the women's doubles final, the pair of Shiho Tanaka and Koharu Yonemoto defeated the pair of Naoko Fukuman and Kurumi Yonao.
- These four women players are from Japan.
- In mixed doubles final, the combination of Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong defeated Zheng Siwei and Chen Qingchen.



**Related Links:-**

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/tournaments/2940/yonex-sunrise-india-open>  
<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/2940/yonex-sunrise-india-open/podium/>  
<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/about/>

## Malaysia Open World Super Series 2017

**Q- Winner of the men's singles category of the Malaysia Open 2017 badminton championship is ...**

- (a) Lin Dan (b) Lee Chong Wei (c) Son Wan Ho  
(d) Wong Wing Ki Vin

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Malaysia Open World Super Series 2017 held in Kuching from From 4 to 9 April 2017.
- **Final Results:-**
- **Men's singles**  
Winner: Lin Dan (China)  
Runner-up: Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
- **Women's singles**  
Winner: Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan)  
Runner-up: Carolina Marin (Spain)
- **Men's doubles**  
Winner: Marcus Fern Gideon and Kevin Sanja Sukamuljo (both Indonesia)  
Runner-up: Fu Haifeng and Zheng Siwei (both China)
- **Women's doubles**  
Winner: Yuki Fukushima and Sayaka Hirota (both Japan)  
Runner-up: Huang Yaqiong and Tang Jinhua (both China)
- **Mixed couple**  
Winner: Zheng Siwei and Chen Qingchen (both China)  
Runner-up Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong (both China)



**Related links:-**

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/results/2654/celcom-axiata-malaysia-open/podium>

<http://bwfworldsuperseries.com/calendar/?ryear=2017>

<http://bwfbadminton.com/2017/04/09/lin-tai-reign-celcom-axiata-malaysia-open-2017-singles-finals/>

## P.V. Sindhu won the Yonex India Open

**Question: – Carolina Marin, who was defeated by P.V. Sindhu in the final of Yonex Sunrise India Open Super Series-2017, belongs to which of the following country?**

- (a) Spain (b) France (c) Germany (d) Italy

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On April 02, 2017, P.V. Sindhu won the final of Yonex Sunrise India Open Super Series by 21-19, 21-16 at the Siri Fort Complex in Delhi.



- She defeated Rio Olympic Gold medalist Carolina Marin of Spain in the final match.
- She received US \$ 325,000 prize money for this victory.
- It is notable that Sindhu is the first Indian Badminton player to enter the Olympic finals in Badminton. She won silver in this game at Rio Olympic last year.
- Other important achievements of Sindhu are Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna, highest sporting honour of India in 2016; Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian award of India in 2015 and Arjuna Award in 2013.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indianexpress.com/article/sports/badminton/india-open-super-series-2017-pv-sindhu-crowned-miss-india-2017-beats-carolina-marin-in-final-4596895/>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/education/story/pv-sindhu/1/743894.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/sindhu-lifts-indian-open-badminton-title/article17762728.ece>

## **BILLIARDS, SNOOKER & SQUASH**

### **First Asian Snooker (Women) Championship 2017**

**Question: Where was the first Asian Snooker (women) championship held?**

(a) Chandigarh (b) Lucknow (c) New Delhi (d) Bhopal

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- From 12 to 14 April, 2017, the first Asian Snooker (Women) Championship, 2017 was held in Chandigarh, India.
- In the final of this competition, Hong Kong's Ng On Yee won the first Asian Snooker (Women) Championship 2017 title defeating Thailand's Waratthanun Sukritthanes by the margin of 3-2.



**Related Links:-**

<http://cuesportsindia.com/global/2017/acbs/womensnooker.htm>

[http://www.lifeinchandigarh.com/news-views\\_champions-reign-supreme](http://www.lifeinchandigarh.com/news-views_champions-reign-supreme)

<https://twitter.com/cuesportsindia/status/852882719952445440>

### **16th Asian Billiards (Men) Championship 2017**

**Question:-Who was the winner of 16th Asian Billiards (Men) Championship 2017?**

(a) Alok Kumar (b) B. Bhaskar (c) Saurabh Kothari (d) Pankaj Advani

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- From 08 to 14 April 2017; the 16th Asian Billiards (men) championship was held in Chandigarh, India.
- Pankaj Advani (India) defeated Saurabh Kothari (India) by 6-3 to win



the 16th Asian Billiards (men) championship title in the final of the competition.

- This is the seventh Asian Title of the sixteen times world champion Pankaj Advani.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.cuesportsindia.com/global/2017/acbs/billiards.htm>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/more-sports/snooker/billiards/pankaj-advani-beats-sourav-kothari-to-win-asian-billiards-championship-title/articleshow/58182326.cms>

## FORMULA ONE

### Bahrain Grand Prix, 2017

**Question: Who was the winner of recently concluded Bahrain Grand Prix Formula One race?**

- (a) Nico Rosberg (b) Sergio Perez (c) Lewis Hamilton  
(d) Sebastien Vettel

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- From 14 to 16th April, 2017, the third race of the Formula One Session 2017 'Bahrain Grand Prix' was held in Sakhir, Bahrain.
- The German driver of Ferrari team, Sebastian Vettel won the race of 308.238 kilometers completing in the time 1: 33: 53: 374.
- The Mercedes team's British driver Lewis Hamilton finished second in this race.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2017/races/961/bahrain/race-result.html>

### Chinese Formula One Grand Prix Race 2017

**Question:-Where was the second Formula One race of 2017 held?**

- (a) Shanghai (b) Beijing (c) Kunming (d) Keqiang

**Ans :(a)**

**Related facts:-**

- During 07-09 April 2017 this year's second Formula One Race-Chinese Grand Prix was held in Shanghai.
- This competition was won by Mercedes-based driver Louis Hamilton (UK) defeating Team Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel (Germany).
- It is notable that in the first race of the year 2017, the Australian Grand Prix, Sebastian Vettel defeated Louis Hamilton.
- Indian team Force India drivers Sergio Perez (Mexico) and Esteban Ocon (France) have been ranked 9th and 10th respectively.





- It is worth mentioning that the third race of Formula One will be held this month in Bahrain.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.formula1.com/en/championship/races/2017/China.html>

<https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2017/races/960/china/race-result.html>

## **SPORTS MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Bharat Kesari Dangal 2017**

**Question: In which of the followings States of India Bharat Kesari Dangal 2017 was organized?**

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

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 21, 2017, the Department of Sports and Youth Affairs of the State Government of Haryana started the Bharat Kesari Dangal, 2017 in Ambala.
- Wrestling is organized on Martyrdom Day (23 March) to remember our Martyr Sahid Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev & Rajguru.
- This year total eight teams from Haryana, Railways, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan took part in the competition.
- Each team consists of 10 wrestlers (5 men and 5 women) of 10 weight category.
- Prize money for winner, first runner up and for second runner up is 1 crore, 50 lakh and 25 lakh respectively.
- Competition is played in free style.
- The winners and runners-up in finals of different categories are as follows:
- Female class:
- Ritu Phogat of Haryana defeated Nandini Solanki of Maharashtra in 48 kg category.
- Vinesh Phogat of Railways defeated Pinky of Haryana in 53 kg category.
- Pooja Dhanda of Haryana defeated Sarita More of Railways in 58 kg category.
- Ritu Malik of Railways defeated Sangeeta Fogat of Haryana in 63 kg category.
- Divya Kakran of Delhi defeated Pinky of Haryana in 69 kg weight category.
- Male class:
- Sandeep Tomar of UP defeated Amit Dahiya of Haryana in 57 kg category.
- Bajrang Poonia of Railways defeated Manoj Kumar of UP in 65 kg category
- Haryana's Jitendra defeated Pravin Rana of Railways in 74 kg category.
- Pawan of Railways defeated Delhi's Deepak in 86 kg category.
- Haryana's Khatri defeated Krishna of Railways in 97 kg category.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.sarkaridunia.in/bharat-kesari-dangal-2017-indias-biggest-malefemale-free-style-kushti-contest/>



## NBA's first Basketball School

**Question: The National Basketball Association (NBA) recently announced the setting up of its first basketball school in which of the following cities?**

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

**Ans: (b)**

- On April 07, 2017, the National Basketball Association (NBA) announced the setting up of its first basketball school, a network of tuition-based basketball development programmes, in Mumbai.
- The school is open to male and female players between ages 6-18. It is a part of a multi-year agreement with 'India On Track' (IOT).
- The curriculum has been developed by the NBA's elite basketball development team in consultation with current and former NBA coaches and former NBA players to help players, parents, coaches and organizations better understand the process of improvement.
- It covers on-court training, strength and conditioning, and basketball education for young players between 6-18 years of age and will be implemented by local coaches working directly with the NBA's international basketball operations staff around the world.
- The basketball school in Mumbai builds on the NBA's existing basketball and youth development initiatives in India.
- It is notable that 'India On Track' (IOT) is a sports management firm.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/nba-basketball-school-launched/article17884111.ece>

<http://india.nba.com/news/nba-launches-international-basketball-schools-network/>

## Approval to appointment of Foreign Coaches in Athletics

**Question: Who is the coach of Indian Hockey team?**

(a) Roelant Oltmans (b) Dhanraj Pillai (c) Balbir Singh  
(d) Vikas Dahiya

**Ans: (a)**

- Union Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel approved appointment of foreign coaches and support staff in discipline of athletics on 6th April, 2017.
- The decision was taken with a view to provide best possible help and support, sports infrastructure and equipments to athletes in their training for preparation and participation in international competitions.
- Appointments of foreign coaches and support staff have been made up to 2020 Olympics and they will be subject to performance review annually.



- These appointments have been recommended by the Foreign Coach Selection committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Sports.
- Following are the appointments approved:

S.No	Coach/ Masseur/ Masseur	Event
1	Mr. Dave Smith, Australia	Race Walking
2	Ms. Galina P. Bukharina, USA	400 M & 400M Relay
3	Mr. Dmitry Kislev, Russia	Masseur
4	Ms. Elmira Kisleva, Russia	Masseur

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160604>

## SPORTS PERSONALITY

Gayatri Pullela

**Question: Gayatri Pullela belongs to which of the following sports?**

(a) Tennis (b) Cricket (c) Badminton (d) Chess

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- National Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand's daughter Gayatri Pullela has bagged the singles and doubles crown at the Pembangunan Jaya Raya Junior Grand Prix held in Jakarta between April 11 and 16, 2017.
- Gayatri won the girls U-15 singles title by defeating Samiya Imad Farooqi.
- Gayatri Pullela and Samiya Imad Farooqi defeated Indonesian pair of Kelly Larissa and Shelandry Vyola to win the title of U-15 doubles category.
- Both Gayatri and Samiya are trained together at the Pullela Gopichand Academy in Hyderabad.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.badmintonindia.org/events/tournaments/949/>

<http://bwfbadminton.cn/results/2825/pembangunan-jaya-raja-international-junior-grand-prix-2017-u19%2C-u17%2C-u15/2017-04-16>

<http://airworldservice.org/english/archives/44664>

<http://pradeshtoday.com/newsdetails.php?news=Gayatri-Gopichand-wins-Under-15-Junior-Badminton-title&nid=166210>

## Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World

**Question: Which Indian players have been given the title of 'Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World' before Virat Kohli?**

- (A) Sachin Tendulkar and Virender Sehwag
- (B) Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly
- (C) VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid
- (D) Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 5, 2017; Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World title was given to Indian captain Virat Kohli for the year 2016.
- It is notable that last year Virat Kohli scored an average of 75.93 in Tests, an average of 92.37 in international one-day matches and an average of 106.33 in international T20 matches.
- Prior to Virat Kohli, the title has been given to Virender Sehwag (for the year 2008 and 2009) and Sachin Tendulkar (year 2010).
- It is important that this title was established in the year 2004; Australian Cricketer Ricky Ponting was awarded the title for the first time in 2003.
- British annual sports magazine Wisden Cricketers Almanack has given place to Virat Kohli on the cover page of the 2017 issue.
- Wisden Leading Cricketer in the World (Female) title has been given to Australian player Ellyse Perry.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.wisdenindia.com/cricket-news/kohli-named-wisdens-leading-cricketer-in-the-world-for-2016/248376>

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/england/content/story/1090049.html>

<http://aajtak.intoday.in/sports/story/kohli-named-by-wisden-as-leading-cricketer-in-the-world-1-921655.html>

## SHORT NOTES

### PERSONALITIES

#### U.P's New DGP

**Question: Who recently took charge as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh?**

- (a) Vijay Kumar
- (b) Aditya Mishra
- (c) Daljit Singh Chaudhary
- (d) Sulkhan Singh



**Ans : (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 22, 2017, senior IPS officer Sulkhan Singh took charge as the new Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh.
- On this post, he replaced S. Javeed Ahmed.
- Sulkhan Singh is the senior IPS officer of the 1980 batch.
- Earlier, he was working as Director General of Police (Training).
- Apart from this, senior IPS officer Aditya Mishra was appointed Additional Director General of Police (ADG), Law and Order.
- On this post, he will replace Daljit Singh Chaudhary.
- Daljit Singh Chaudhary was given additional charge of the Additional Director General (Economic Crime Branch) along with logistics.

**Related Links:-**

[https://uppolice.gov.in/site/writereaddata/UploadedPressRelease/pdf/PRP\\_201704222042189893.pdf](https://uppolice.gov.in/site/writereaddata/UploadedPressRelease/pdf/PRP_201704222042189893.pdf)

<https://khabar.ndtv.com/news/uttar-pradesh/sulkhan-singh-appointed-uttar-pradeshs-new-director-general-of-police-1684438>

## Vinay Shah

**Question: Recently, Vinay Shah took charge as the new managing director and chief executive officer of which organization?**

- (a) New India Insurance Company Ltd.
- (b) LIC Housing Company Ltd.
- (c) United Insurance Co. Ltd.
- (d) LIC of India

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts**

- On April 18, 2017, Vinay Shah took over as the new managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer of LIC Housing Finance Ltd.
- On this post, he replaced Sunita Sharma.
- LIC Housing Finance Ltd was incorporated on June 19, 1989 and has its headquarters in Maharashtra.

**Related Links:-**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/vinay-shah-joins-lic-housing-finance-limited-as-md-and-ceo/articleshow/58165963.cms>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/vinay-sah-is-new-md-ceo-of-lic-housing-finance/article9647729.ece>



## Justice Geeta Mittal

**Question: Recently, Justice Gita Mittal was appointed Acting Chief Justice of which of the following High Courts?**

- (A) Madras High Court
- (B) Calcutta High Court
- (C) Delhi High Court
- (D) Bombay High Court

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 13, 2017, Justice Geeta Mittal was appointed Acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court replacing Justice G Rohini.
- She was appointed by President Pranab Mukherjee under Article 223 of Indian Constitution.
- It is notable that the Delhi High Court was established on October 31, 1966.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/justice-gita-mittal-set-to-take-over-as-acting-chief-justice-of-delhi-hc/article17964202.ece>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/justice-gita-mittal-to-take-over-as-acting-chief-justice-of-delhi-hc-117041300112\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/justice-gita-mittal-to-take-over-as-acting-chief-justice-of-delhi-hc-117041300112_1.html)

<http://www.livelaw.in/justice-gita-mittal-appointed-delhi-hc-acting-cj/>



## Emma Morano

**Question- Emma Morano, the world's oldest woman passed away on April 15, 2017.**

**How old was she?**

- (a) 115 years
- (b) 116 years
- (c) 117 years
- (d) 118 years

**Answer-(c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 15, 2017, world's oldest woman Emma Martina Luigia Morano passed away in her home at Italy.
- She was 117 years old. Emma Morano was born on November 29, 1899.
- Morano was also one of the five oldest people in recorded history and also believed to have been the last surviving person in the world who was born in the 1800s.
- She was a Guinness World Record holder for the oldest living person and oldest living woman.
- She lived through two world wars and more than 90 Italian governments.

**Related Link:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/apr/15/worlds-oldest-person-emma-morano-dies-aged-117>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2017/04/world-oldest-person-dies-age-117-170415173605851.html>



## Achim Steiner

**Question: Recently, Achim Steiner was appointed as the Administrator of which global organization?**

(a) FAO (b) UNDP (c) WHO (d) UNESCO

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 12, 2017, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed Achim Steiner of Germany as the new Administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).
- He replaced Helen Clark on this post.
- Earlier, Achim Steiner was employed in the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).
- UNDP serves to reduce poverty, to improve social development and to encourage women empowerment.
- It was established in the year 1965 and is headquartered in New York City.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/afp/article-4406548/UN-chief-names-German-head-UNDP.html>

<http://www.radio.gov.pk/13-Apr-2017/un-chief-names-germany-s-achim-steiner-to-head-undp>

## Geeta Johari

**Question: Recently, senior IPS officer Geeta Johari was appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of which of the following states?**

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Gujarat  
(d) West Bengal

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 04, 2017, Geetha Johari, a 1982 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, was appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Gujarat.
- She is the first woman to be appointed Director General of Police of the State.
- She replaced 1980-batch IPS officer P. P. Pandey.
- Johari who serves as Managing Director of the Gujarat State Police Housing Corporation in Gandhinagar will continue at her current post.



**Related Link:**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/geetha-johri-becomes-states-first-woman-dgp/articleshow/58018963.cms>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/geeta-johri-becomes-dgp-gujarat/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/gujarat-appoints-its-first-woman-dgp/article17806278.ece>

<https://police.gujarat.gov.in/dgp/default.aspx>



## New Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh

**Question: Who was recently appointed the new Advocate General of Uttar Pradesh by UP Governor Ram Naik?**

- (a) Vijay Bahadur Singh (b) Raghvendra Singh  
(c) Vinay Chandra Mishra (d) Abhishek Kumar Singh

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 13, 2017, Uttar Pradesh Governor Ram Naik appointed senior advocate Raghvendra Singh as the new Advocate General of the state.
- He replaced Vijay Bahadur Singh on this post.
- It is notable that Advocate General for the State is appointed by the Governor under article 165 of Indian Constitution.
- Just as at the central level the Attorney General is the first law officer of the Government of India, in the same way, the Advocate General at the state level is the first law officer of the state government.
- The Advocate General is appointed by the Governor of the State and he holds the post during the pleasure of the Governor.
- A person qualified to be a Judge of High Court is appointed as the Advocate General of the State.
- He has the right to participate and speak in the proceedings of the Legislature of the State but there is no right to vote.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/raghvendra-singh-appointed-as-new-advocate-general-of-up/1/928777.html>

<http://www.amarujala.com/lucknow/raghvendra-singh-news-advocate-general-of-uttar-pradesh>

<http://barandbench.com/former-mp-new-advocate-general/>

## Akhilesh Das Gupta

**Question: Recently, senior Congress leader and former union minister Akhilesh Das Gupta passed away. He was the president of association for-**

- (a) Tennis (b) Badminton (c) Kabaddi (d) Shooting

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 12th, 2017, senior Congress leader and former union minister Akhilesh Das Gupta passed away. He was 56 years.
- He was the President of the Indian Badminton Association (BAI).



- He was also Vice President of the Uttar Pradesh Olympic Association (UPOA), Vice President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and Vice President of Badminton Asia Confederation (BAC).
- He was a three-time Rajya Sabha member (1996-2014) and the Union Steel Minister during 2006-2008.
- He was the son of former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and freedom fighters Babu Banarsi das.

**Related Link:**

<http://www.badmintonindia.org/download/news/President%20BAI.pdf>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/akhilesh-das-gupta-badminton-association-of-india/1/926913.html>

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

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhilesh\\_Das](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Akhilesh_Das)

## Ramesh Chandra Agrawal

**Question: Ramesh Chandra Agrawal recently passed away. He was the Chairman of which one of the following newspaper group?**

- (a) Dainik Jagaran (b) Amar Ujala  
(c) The Hindu (d) Dainik Bhaskar

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 12, 2017, Ramesh Chandra Agrawal, President of the Dainik Bhaskar Newspaper Group, passed away. He was 73.
- He was born on November 30th, 1944 in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh.
- He laid the foundation of Dainik Bhaskar with his father in Bhopal in 1958.
- Dainik Bhaskar stepped out of Madhya Pradesh for the first time in 1966 and launched its first edition from Rajasthan.
- Dainik Bhaskar is now published from 14 Indian states with 62 editions and is the fourth largest circulated daily in the world.
- Forbes placed him at number 95 in the list of 100 richest people of India in 2012.
- Apart from this, he was also awarded with Rajiv Gandhi Life Time Achievement Award in Journalism.

**Related Link:**

<https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/852108333184147456>

<http://www.bhaskar.com/news/NAT-NAN-ramesh-chandra-agarwal-success-story-news-hindi-5573220-PHO.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/dainik-bhaskar-group-chairman-ramesh-agrawal-passes-away/article17957604.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/dainik-bhaskar-group-chairman-ramesh-chandra-agarwal-passes-away/1/927264.html>

## New members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes

**Question: Who have been appointed as new members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) by the Government?**

- (a) Ajit Kumar Shrivastav and Sushil Chandra
- (b) Ajit Kumar Shrivastav and Shabri Bhattashali
- (c) Rajendra Kumar and V.N. Sarna
- (d) Ajit Seth and Kaushal Shrivastav

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 10, 2017, the Central Government appointed senior officers of the Indian Revenue Service, Ajit Kumar Shrivastav and Shabri Bhattashali as new members of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.
- It is notable that the Central Board of Direct Taxes is functioning as a statutory authority under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963, which relates to the collection and compilation of direct tax.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes consists of one president and 6 members.
- Sushil Chandra is currently serving as the Chairman of CBDT.

**Related Links:-**

<http://document.ccis.nic.in/writereaddata/CircularPortal/D2/D02eod/22657.pdf>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/ajit-kumar-srivastava-shabri-bhattasali-new-cbdt-members/1/925067.html>

<http://www.babusofindia.com/2017/04/2-new-lic-mds-appointed-acc-also-gives.html#more>



## United Nations new Messenger of Peace

**Question: Who has been named, by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, as United Nations Messenger of Peace?**

- (a) Priyanka Chopra
- (b) Kailash Satyarthi
- (c) Malala Yousufzai
- (d) John Manuel Santos

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 07, 2017, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres named Nobel Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai as 'Messenger of Peace' to the United Nations.
- Malala Yousafzai will work to promote girls' education all over the world.
- Among other peace envoys of the United Nations are stars such as Michael Douglas and Leonardo DiCaprio.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/04/malala-mop/>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/note6499.doc.htm>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/malala-yousafzai-nobel-peace-prize-laureate-un-secretary-general-un-messenger-of-peace-pakistan/1/923672.html>



## Subir Dutta

**Question: Senior Foreign Service Officer Subir Dutta has been appointed as ambassador of India to...**

(a) Germany (b) Madagascar (c) Comoros (d) Italy

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 07, 2017, Subir Dutta, senior official of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed the ambassador of India to Comoros.
- He is IFS officer of 2003 batch.
- He is currently India's Ambassador to Madagascar.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/press-](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28353/Subir+Dutta+appointed+as+Ambassador+of+India+to+Comoros)

[releases.htm?dtl/28353/Subir+Dutta+appointed+as+Ambassador+of+India+to+Comoros](http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28353/Subir+Dutta+appointed+as+Ambassador+of+India+to+Comoros)

[https://bureaucracytoday.com/top\\_news.aspx?id=175918](https://bureaucracytoday.com/top_news.aspx?id=175918)

## Raman Roy

**Question: Quattro Chairman and Managing Director Raman Roy was elected as the President of which organization recently?**

(A) FICCI (B) NASSCOM (C) CII (D) ASSOCHAM

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 05, 2017, Chairman of Quattro Global Services, Raman Roy was appointed Chairman of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) for the year 2017-18.
- He replaced C.P Gurnani, who was the President of NASSCOM for the year 2016-17.
- In addition, Wipro Ltd's Chief Strategy Officer Rishad Premji was appointed Vice President of NASSCOM.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.nasscom.in/raman-roy-chairman-md-quattro-global-services-pvt-ltd>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/tech/ites/quattros-raman-roy-is-new-nasscom-chief-rishad-premji-appointed-vice-chairman/articleshow/58028917.cms>

## Mukta Dutta Tomar

**Question: Mukta Dutta Tomar, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service, was appointed as India's ambassador to which of the following countries?**

(A) Belgium (B) Nepal (C) Germany (D) Italy



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

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to a release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs on April 07, 2017, senior officer of the Indian Foreign Service Mukta Datta Tomar was appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Germany.
- She replaced Gurjeet Singh on this post.
- She is IFS officer of 1984 batch.
- She is currently the additional secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28357/Mukta+Dutta+Tomar+appointed+as+next+Ambassador+of+India>

## Justice Indira Banerjee

**Question: Justice Indira Banerjee was sworn in as the new chief justice of which high court?**

- (a) Patna High Court (b) Delhi High Court  
(c) Madras High Court (d) Kerala High Court

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 05, 2017, Justice Indira Banerjee took oath as the new Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
- Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao administered her oath of office and secrecy.
- In this post, she replaced Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, who was appointed the Judge of the Supreme Court in February, 2017.
- Prior to this, Indira Banerjee was a judge in Delhi High Court.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.hcmadras.tn.nic.in/cjhc.htm>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/justice-indira-banerjee-sworn-in-as-chief-justice-of-madras-hc/article9617115.ece>

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzXilfcxe7yuSmROZUIReUF2azg/view>

## New Executive Director of RBI

**Question: Who among the following has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India recently?**

- (a) Surekha Marandi (b) Malvika Sinha (c) BP Kanago  
(d) M. Rajeshwar Rao

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 03, 2017, Shri B.P Kanungo was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and Malvika Sinha as the Executive Director of RBI.



- As Executive Director, Malvika Sinha will see the foreign exchange department government and bank accounting department and the internal debt management department.
- Earlier, she was the Chief General Manager in RBI's co-operative banking supervision department.

**Related Links:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=40062](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=40062)

<https://www.rbi.org.in/hindi/Scripts/PressReleases.aspx?ID=31739>

## Anuja Ravindra Dhir

**Question: Anuja Ravindra Dhir became the first black judge in the court of which of the following country?**

(a) America (b) Canada (c) UK (d) Mexico

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- In April, 2017, an Indian ancestry, Anuja Ravindra Dhir became the first black judge of London's Old Bailey Court.
- At the same time, she became the youngest circuit judge in the court.
- She was born in Dundee, Scotland to an Indian immigrant couple.



**Related Links:-**

<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/apr/08/anjua-dhir-becomes-first-non-white-circuit-judge-at-old-bailey>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-39537439>

<http://naidunia.jagran.com/world-woman-of-indian-origin-becomes-first-black-judge-in-london-court-1094739>

## Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member, IBBI

**Question: When was the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India established?**

(a) October 1, 2016 (b) October 2, 2016  
(c) August 15, 2015 (d) May 15, 2014

**Ans: (a)**

- Dr. (Ms.) Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India on April 13, 2017.
- She will look after Administrative Law Wing. She will also take care of Information Technology, Limited Insolvency Examination, National Insolvency Examination, Finance and Accounts and Communication.
- Dr. Vijayawargiya was a member of Bankruptcy Law Reforms Committee based on which, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 has been framed.





- She played a key role in drafting the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 as Additional Secretary in the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice.
- Dr. Vijayawargiya has vast experience of 35 years in various fields of law. She has served as a member of Indian Legal Service and was associated with drafting/vetting of more than 100 legislative proposals in the legislative department.
- Her previous assignment was Additional Secretary in the Legislative Department, Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India.
- It is notable that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was established on October 1, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161011>

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

## Kishori Amonkar passed away

**Question: Famous Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar, who passed away recently, was identified primarily with....**

- (a) Jaipur Gharana. (b) Gwalior Gharana (c) Agra Gharana  
(d) Indore Gharana

**Ans: (a)**

- Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away on April 03, 2017. She was 84.
- She was born on April 10, 1932. Her mother, Mogubai Kurdikar was a well-known vocalist.
- Kishori Amonkar was recognized as one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani tradition and as an innovative exponent of the Jaipur Gharana.
- She also developed her own personal style, which reflects the influence of other Gharanas and was generally regarded as an individual variant of the Jaipur tradition.
- She was known primarily for her skillful singing of classical khayals set in the traditional ragas of Hindustani music, but also performed the lighter classical genres of thumri, bhajans and film music.
- Kishori Amonkar was awarded the Padma Bhushan (1987) and Padma Vibhushan (2002). In 2010, she became a fellow of the Sangeet Natak Akademi.



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160475>

<http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/renowned-hindustani-classical-vocalist-kishori-amonkar-passes-away/article17784362.ece>

## Mahesh Kumar Jain

**Question: Recently, Mahesh Kumar Jain took charge as the new managing director and chief executive officer of which of the following banks?**

(a) IDBI Bank (b) Vijaya Bank (b) Indian Bank (d) Canara Bank

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 3, 2017, Mahesh Kumar Jain took charge as the new managing director and chief executive officer of IDBI Bank.
- He succeeds Kishor Kharat on this post.
- Earlier, he was the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Indian Bank.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.idbi.com/press/pr-1332.html>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/idbi-bank-appoints-mahesh-kumar-jain-as-md-ceo-117032001195\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/idbi-bank-appoints-mahesh-kumar-jain-as-md-ceo-117032001195_1.html)

## Dr. Navrang Saini

**Question: Dr. Navrang Saini took charge as a full time member of which of the following organizations?**

- (a) Policy Commission  
(b) Indian Securities and Exchange Board  
(c) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India  
(d) National Commission for Scheduled Castes

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 31, 2017, Dr. Navrang Saini took charge as full time member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- He has worked as a member of Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS).
- Apart from this, he has worked as commissioned officer (Lt. Colonel) in the Territorial Army (TA) from July, 1985 to March 2011.
- As a full time member, he will take care of registration and monitoring cell which involves monitoring and investigation of bankrupt professionals, bankrupt professional agencies and institutions, assessors and grievance redressal.
- Indian Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board was constituted on October 1, 2016.
- Dr. M.S. Sahu is its current president.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160364>

<http://www.ibbi.gov.in/Dr.%20Saini%20WTM%20Press%20Release.pdf>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/money/report-navrang-saini-takes-charge-as-ibbi-whole-time-member-2377113>

## India's first-ever transgender police officer

**Question: K Prithika Yashini, India's first-ever transgender police officer, has been appointed in which of the following States?**

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Tamil Nadu
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Rajasthan

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 02, 2017, K Prithika Yashini joined Tamil Nadu Police Service at Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu.
- She is India's first transgender person to join police service.
- She has been appointed on the post of Sub-Inspector after completing her training in police academy at Chennai.
- Yashini had to undergo a long legal battle and her appointment was directed by Madras High Court in November 2015.

**Related Link:**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/prithika-first-transgender-si-in-country-takes-charge/articleshow/57982654.cms>



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

**Question: Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Excise and Customs?**

- (a) Ms. Vanaja N. Sarna
- (b) Najib Shah
- (c) Ashok Lavasa
- (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 31, 2017, Ms. Vanaja N. Sarna was appointed as Chairman, Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).
- She took over on superannuation of Shri Najib Shah on 31.03.2017.
- An IRS officer of 1980 batch, Ms. Sarna served the Central Board of Excise and Customs in several capacities over the last 36 years.
- She has worked in Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax formations in Kochi, Delhi, Chennai, Meerut, Chandigarh and Bangalore.
- She has also worked as Additional Director General, National Academy of Customs, Excise & Narcotics (NACEN), in Chennai. She was also Additional Director General in Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi.
- Prior to becoming Member of CBEC, she held the charge of Director General of Vigilance and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Department.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160311>



## Dr. Navrang Saini took charge as Whole Time Member of IBBI

**Question: Who is the chairperson of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)?**

- (a) Dr. M. S. Sahoo (b) Dr. Navrang Saini  
(c) Ms. Suman Saxena (d) Sh. Ajay Tyagi

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 31, 2017, Dr. Navrang Saini took charge as Whole Time Member of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in New Delhi.
- Dr. Saini will look after Registration & Monitoring wing comprising Insolvency Professionals, Information Utilities, Insolvency Professional Agencies & Entities, Valuers, Surveillance, Investigation and Grievance Redressal. He will also look after Legal Affairs and Establishment.
- Dr. Saini has served as a member of the Indian Corporate Law Service (ICLS). He has served Ministry of Corporate Affairs in various capacities and played a key role in implementation of MCA 21.
- His last assignment was Director General, Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- Dr. Saini has post-graduation degrees in Management and Law and also professional qualification as a Company Secretary.
- It is notable that the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India was established on October 1, 2016 in accordance with the provisions of The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016. Dr. M. S. Sahoo is the Chairperson of IBBI and Dr. Navrang Saini and Ms. Suman Saxena are its permanent members.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.ibbi.gov.in/Dr.%20Saini%20WTM%20Press%20Release.pdf>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160364>

## Anil Ambani figures in international advisory board of global think-tank “Atlantic Council”

**Question: Global think-tank “Atlantic Council” is headquartered at...**

- (a) Washington (b) New York (c) London (d) Paris

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 28, 2017, Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani was inducted into the international advisory board of global think-tank ‘Atlantic Council’.
- Other global business leaders include Thomas Enders, CEO, Airbus Group, Rupert Murdoch, CEO, 21 Century Fox, Stephen A. Schwarzman, CEO of the Blackstone Group, and Marillyn A. Hewson, Chairman, Lockheed Martin Corporation.
- The Atlantic Council is a foreign policy think tank head quartered in Washington, DC. It aims to shape policy choices and strategies and provide a forum for navigating the economic and political changes.



- Jon M. Huntsman, former Governor of Utah is the Chairman of Atlantic Council.

**Related Link:**

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/anil-ambani-inducted-into-the-atlantic-council/article9604982.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/anil-ambani-gets-a-seat-on-atlantic-council-advisory-board/1/914512.html>

## India's New Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Offices in Geneva

**Question: Who has been appointed as India's New Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN Offices in Geneva?**

- (a) Ajit Kumar (b) Rajiv Kumar Chander (c) Vikas Swarup  
(d) None of the above.

**Ans: (b)**

- On March 30, 2017, Rajiv Kumar Chander was appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Offices in Geneva.
- Mr. Chander is presently Consul General, Consulate General of India, Vancouver, Canada.
- He succeeded Ajit Kumar at the Geneva office.
- Rajiv Kumar Chander is a 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service officer and has also served as Deputy Permanent Representative in the Geneva office from 2006 to 2009.
- Mr. Chander was posted to St. Petersburg as Consul General from 2000 to 2002, and then preceded on deputation to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) headquarters based in Kathmandu for four years.
- He has also been India's Ambassador to Ukraine from July 2011 to July 2015.



**Related Link:**

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28290/Rajiv+Kumar+Chander+appointed+as+Ambassador+and+Permanent+Representative+of+India+to+the+United+Nations+Offices+in+Geneva>

## New chairman of 'Research and Information System for Developing Countries'

**Question: Who has recently been appointed as the new chairman of Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)?**

- (a) Hardeep Singh Puri (b) V. S. Seshadri (c) Tufail Ahmad  
(d) Dr. S. Jaishankar

**Ans: (a)**





- On March 21, 2017, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, India's former Ambassador to the United Nations in New York and Geneva was appointed as the Chairman of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).
- Hardeep Singh Puri (65), is a 1974-batch Indian Foreign Service officer.
- RIS is an organisation that specialises in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation.
- It was envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues.
- "The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums.

**Related Link:**

<http://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/28190/Hardeep+Singh+Puri+appointed+as+the+Chairman+of+the+Research+and+Information+System+for+Developing+Countries>  
<http://www.ris.org.in/media-centre>

## Rana Kanwar Pal

**Question: Rana Kanwar Pal was elected as the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of which of the following states?**

(a) Manipur (b) Goa (c) Punjab (d) Uttarakhand

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 27, 2017, Congress MLA Rana Kanwar Pal Singh was unanimously elected as the Speaker of 15th Punjab Vidhan Sabha.
- He has been elected MLA for the third time from Anandpur Sahib Legislative Assembly of Punjab State.
- He succeeds Charanjit Singh Atwal, the Speaker of the 14th Punjab Vidhan Sabha.



**Related Links:-**

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/rana-kp-singh-elected-speaker-amid-protests-by-aap-mlas/383039.html>

## Ahmed Kathrada

**Question: Anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada of Indian origin who passed away recently belonged to which of the following countries?**

(a) Bangladesh (b) Pakistan (c) South Africa (d) Myanmar

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 28, 2017, India-born South African anti-apartheid activist Ahmed Kathrada passed away in Johannesburg. He was 87.





- He was awarded 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman' by the Government of India in the year 2005.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.kathradafoundation.org/news/kathrada-passes>

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/03/28/africa/ahmed-kathrada-anti-apartheid-activist-dies/>

## PLACES

### Kansas

**Question- Which of the following date was recently celebrated as Indo-American appreciation Day by Kansas State of America to honor the Indian citizen killed in hate crime?**

- (a) March 15, 2017 (b) March 16, 2017  
(c) March 17, 2017 (d) March 18, 2017

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 16, 2017, Indo-American appreciation day was celebrated by Kansas State of America.
- Its purpose was to honor the Indian citizen Srinivas Kuchibhotla, who was killed a few months ago in hate crime.
- On February 22, 2017, the 32-year-old Indian citizen was shot dead by US Navy's Veteran Adam Purinton (51 years).
- In this incident a Srinivas friend, Alok Madasani and American citizen Ian Grillot, who came to rescue him, were injured.
- According to Kansas governor Sam Brownback, the silly event of violence does not divide or define the state.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kansas-recognises-mar-16-as-indian-american-appreciation-day/1/906163.html>

<http://www.indianlink.com.au/us-state-declares-indian-american-appreciation-day/>

### Alaska

**Question: Which historical anniversary was recently celebrated by the American state of Alaska by the then Russian empire?**

- (A) 75<sup>th</sup> (B) 100<sup>th</sup> (C) 125<sup>th</sup> (D) 150<sup>th</sup>

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- In March 2017, the United States celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alaska's Purchase.



- Alaska was bought by the US from Russia under a treaty on 30 March 1867. On this day the two parties agreed that the United States would pay Russia \$7.2 million for the territory of Alaska.
- This large terrain was bought by America for a price of around 2 cents / acre.
- On January 3, 1959, Alaska was formally declared the 49th state of the US.
- In terms of area Alaska is the largest province of United States.
- This is one of the richest provinces in the country due to natural resources such as petroleum, gold, fisheries and beautiful tourist destinations.

**Related Links:-**

<https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2017/nr-17-34>

<http://alaskahistoricalociety.org/about-ahs/150treaty/>

[http://iam.files.cms-plus.com/newimages/portalpdfs/2009\\_05\\_06.pdf](http://iam.files.cms-plus.com/newimages/portalpdfs/2009_05_06.pdf)

## Terrorist attack in Egypt

**Question: President of Egypt announced emergency for how many months after the terrorist attacks in Tanta and Alexandria?**

(a) 1 month (b) 2 months (c) 3 months (d) 4 months

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 09, 2017, ISIS carried out two blasts on a mob of Coptic Christians gathered for Palm Sunday in Tanta and Alexandria.
- In the two separate blasts, about 49 people died and about 125 others were injured.
- According to the Ministry of Health, the first explosion took place about 120 km away from Cairo. In the remote Neil Delta, in the St George Coptic Church of Tanta City.
- About 27 people died and about 78 people were injured in this blast.
- The second explosion took place in St. Mark's Cathedral Coptic Church of Alexandria, in which about 22 people died and about 48 were injured.
- Following these attacks, a three-month emergency was announced by the Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi in the country.



**Related Links:-**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/09/middleeast/egypt-church-explosion/>

<http://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/national-international/Egypt-Christians-Bury-Dead-After-Church-Bombings-419024434.html>

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/09/world/middleeast/explosion-egypt-coptic-christian-church.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/09/world/middleeast/explosion-egypt-coptic-christian-church.html?_r=0)

<http://www.recorder.com/Egypt-s-Christians-bury-dead-after-church-bombings-9199398>

## Hazira's first private sector township goes cashless

**Question: With the help of the Mumbai-based financial technology company The Mobile Wallet (TMW), Essar's Nand Niketan Township became the first private sector colony of India to go cashless. Which bank operates this Wallet?**

- (a) HDFC Bank (b) Citibank (c) RBL Bank  
(d) State Bank of India

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 17, 2017, the Essar Group announced its Nand Niketan Township, located in Hazira, to become cashless.
- It is the first private sector colony of India to become cashless with the help of Mumbai-based Financial Technology Company, The Mobile Wallet (TMW).
- This wallet is operated by RBL Bank.
- So far, about 8,000 TMW-RBL prepaid cards have been issued to the employees, businessmen and shop owners in this township who are working in this premises.
- Thousands of digital transactions are being executed on an average of two lakh rupees per day through TMW.



**Related Links:-**

<http://indiacr.in/essars-hazira-township-goes-cashless-with-the-mobile-wallet/>

## 27th state to join Uday Yojna

**Question: Which of the following states is the 27th state to join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)?**

- (a) Manipur (b) Assam (c) Mizoram (d) Karnataka

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 02, 2017, Under the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY), a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India and the Government of Mizoram to improve the operation of the power distribution department.
- With the signing of MoU by Mizoram, the total States/ Union territories covered under UDAY will be 27.
- Mizoram would derive an overall net benefit of approximately Rs. 198 crores by opting to participate in UDAY, by way of cheaper funds, reduction in AT&C and transmission losses, interventions in energy efficiency.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60254>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160410>

## Madhya Pradesh Government banned plastic/polythene bags

**Question: Madhya Pradesh government's decision to ban plastic/polythene carry bags across the state will take effect from...**

- (a) May 1, 2017 (b) November 14, 2017  
(c) October 2, 2017 (d) August 15, 2017

**Ans: (a)**

- On April 11, 2017, Madhya Pradesh government decided to ban plastic/polythene carry bags across the state from May 1.
- The state cabinet, chaired by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan accorded nod to the proposal of imposing ban on plastic/polythene bags across the state from May 1 saying that its consumption results in large number of cow deaths.
- This ban would not be meant for bucket and other plastic materials. It is restricted to plastic carry bags.



**Related Link:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/mp-bans-plastic-polythene-bags-from-may-1/1/926130.html>

<http://mpinfo.org/Story/FrmCabinetDecision.aspx>

## India's first beggar-free State

**Question: Which of the following State has recently planned to become a "beggar free state"?**

- (a) Maharashtra (b) Goa (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 24, 2017, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar presented the State budget for 2017-18 in Legislative Assembly.
- During the budget speech he stated that State government has planned to make the State beggar free.
- He added that for this purpose State government will make a full fledged rehabilitation centre for beggars and destitutes.



**Related links:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/will-make-state-beggar-free-cm/article17653675.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goas-new-aim-indias-first-beggar-free-state/articleshow/57819136.cms>

<http://ibn7.in/state/goa/panaji/item/125438-2017-03-24-11-14-11>

# AWARDS & HONORS

## 48th Dadasaheb Phalke Award-2016

**Question: Who was recently announced to be awarded the Dada Saheb Phalke Award for year 2016?**

(a) Salim Khan (b) Nitin Mukesh (c) Prem Chopra  
(d) Kasinadhuni Viswanath

**Ans: (d)**

### Related facts

- On April 24, 2017, famous film director and actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath was announced to be conferred with 48th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2016.
- As a director, he directed 50 films from Tamil, Telugu and Hindi cinema since 1965.
- His famous Hindi films include Sargam, Kamchor, Sanjog, Jaag Utha Insaan, Ishwar, Sur Sangam, Shubhkaamna, Sangeet and Dhanwaan.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri award in the year 1992 by the Indian government for his contribution in film production.
- Apart from this, he has been honored with 5 National Film Awards, 20 Nandi Awards (by the Andhra Pradesh Government) and 10 Filmfare Awards including Lifetime Achievement Award.
- His national award winner 'SwathiMuthayam' was the official film of India in 59th Oscar Awards.
- He was born on February 19, 1930 in Andhra Pradesh.
- It is important to note Dada Saheb Phalke Award is given by the Indian Government to recognize outstanding contribution in the progress and development of Indian cinema.
- This award was started from Dada Saheb Phalke birth centenary year 1969.
- Devikaraani was the first recipient of this award.
- Under this award, a gold lotus, cash amount of Rs 10 lakh and a shawl are provided.
- This award will be given by President Pranab Mukherjee at a function organized at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on May 3, 2017.
- 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award was given to the famous film actor and director Manoj Kumar.



### Related Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161251>

## Aniruddhan Vasudevan

**Question: Sahitya Akademi has recently announced to give the Sahitya Akademi Translation Award-2016 to Aniruddhan Vasudevan for translation of 'Maadhorubaagan' written in**

- (a) Hindi language (b) Malayalam language (c) Tamil language  
(d) English language

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 18, 2017, Sahitya Akademi announced to give translation prize in English 2016 to Aniruddhan Vasudevan.
- Vasudevan will receive this prize for his 'One Part Woman', a translation of Perumal Murugan's controversial Tamil novel Maadhorubaaga.
- The selection was based on the recommendations made by a jury comprising Malayalam poet and critic K. Satchidanandan, writer Githa Hariharan and translator and historian A.R. Vankatachalapathy.
- The prize is awarded to books first published during five years immediately preceding the year of the award (i.e. between 1st January, 2010 and 31st December, 2014).
- Vasudevan will be felicitated with the award along with the other winners of the Sahitya Akademi award in 23 languages at a special function in June 2017.
- Prize consists of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque and a cheque of Rs 50,000.
- Translation prize 2016 in Malayalam language will be given to N.K. Desam for his translation Geethanjali by Rabindra Nath Tagore.



**Related Link:**

[http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/pdf/Press\\_Release\\_\(English\)\\_SATA\\_2016.pdf](http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/pdf/Press_Release_(English)_SATA_2016.pdf)

## Golf Industry Association Award-2013

**Question-Winners of the Golf Industry Association Award 2017 include:**

**(1) Aditi Ashok (2) Ali Sher (3) Shiv Prasad Chaurasia**

- (a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3 (c) Only 1 and 3  
(d) 1, 2 and 3 all

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 20, 2017, Second Golf Industry Awards were announced by the Industry Association in Gurugram (Haryana).
- The names of the winners in different classes are as follows:
- Outstanding Playing Career – Ali Sher
- Pioneer in Golf Coaching – Simran Singh





- Best New Golf Course – Glade One Golf Course, Ahmedabad
- Digital Initiative Award-Golfing Indian
- Best Golf Tour Operator – My Golf Tours
- Best Player of the Year (Men) 2016 – Shiv Prasad Chaurasia
- Excellent achievement as a player – Aditi Ashok
- It is notable that in 1991, Ali Sher became the first Indian professional golfer to win the prestigious Indian Open title.
- He was also given the Arjuna Award in the year 1991.

**Related links:-**

<https://www.sportskeeda.com/golf/aditi-ashok-ssp-chawrasia-ali-sher-win-golf-industry-awards>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/golfer-aditi-chawrasia-ali-sher-win-golf-industry-awards-117042001031\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/golfer-aditi-chawrasia-ali-sher-win-golf-industry-awards-117042001031_1.html)

## Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award-2017

**Question: Who were recently announced to be given the 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award of the year 2017?**

- (a) Aamir Khan and Sachin Tendulkar
- (b) Aamir Khan and Kapil Dev
- (c) Javed Akhtar and Navjot Singh Sidhu
- (d) Ajay Devgan and Ranvir Kapoor



**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 20, 2017, 75th Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award-2007' was announced. Special award will be given to actor Aamir Khan for his outstanding performance in the film 'Dangal'. While Kapil Dev will be honored with this award for outstanding performance in Games.
- Apart from this, famous actress Vyjayanthimala Bali will be conferred the Master Dinanath Special Award for her achievements in Hindi cinema.
- This award will be distributed on 24th April, 2017 at a function organized in Mumbai.
- It is notable that the award is given in the memory of Dinanath Mangeshkar, the father of famous singer Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle, on the occasion of his death anniversary.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.news18.com/news/movies/aamir-khan-kapil-dev-to-get-dinanath-mangeshkar-award-1379015.html>

<http://abpnews.abplive.in/bollywood/kapil-dev-and-aamir-khan-to-get-dinanath-mangeshkar-award-601612>

<http://zeenews.india.com/hindi/sports/aamir-khan-kapil-dev-to-get-dinanath-mangeshkar-award/324881>

## Pulitzer Prize, 2017

**Question-**In which of the following areas, the prestigious Pulitzer Prize is given?

**(1) Journalism (2) Literature (3) Music (4) Acting**

(A) Only 1 and 2 (B) Only 2 and 4 (C) Only 1 and 3

(D) 1,2,3and 4

**Ans :(d)**



### **Related facts**

- On April 10, 2017, Pulitzer Prize Administrator Mike Pride announced the Pulitzer Prize of the year 2017 at Columbia University, New York (USA).
- Prizes announced were given in the category of journalism (14) and category of literature, Music and Drama (one each), which are as follows:

#### **Journalism**

- Public Service – ‘New York Daily News’ and ‘ProPublica’
- Breaking News Reporting – Staff at East Bay Times, Oakland, CA
- Investigative Reporting – The Charleston Gazette-Mail’s Eric Eyre
- Explanatory Reporting-The International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, McClatchy and the Miami Herald
- Local Reporting – The Salt Lake Tribune Staff
- National Reporting – David A. Fahrenthold of ‘The Washington Post’
- International Reporting – The New York Times Staff
- Feature Writing – C.J.Chivers of The New York Time
- Comment- Peggy Noonan of The Wall Street Journal
- Criticism – Hilton Als of The New Yorker
- Editorial Writing – Art Cullen of The Storm Lake Times, Storm Lake, IA
- Editorial Cartooning – Jim Morin of ‘Miami Herald’
- Breaking news Photography -freelance photographer Daniel Bererhulak
- Feature photography – E. Jason Wambsgans of ‘Chicago Tribune’.

#### **Literature, drama, music**

- Fiction :The Underground Railroad written by -Colson Whitehead
- Drama: ‘Sweat’ written by Lynn Nottage
- History: Blood in the Water: The Africa Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy by Heather Ann Thompson (Pantheon)
- Biography / Autobiography- ‘The Return: Fathers, Sons, and Land in Between by Hisham Matar ( Random House)
- General Nonfiction – ‘Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City by Matthew Desmond (Crown)
- Music-Angel’s Bone by Du Yun

### **Related Links:-**

<http://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-year/2017>

<http://www.eyon.com/entertainment-culture/pulitzer-prize-2017#axzz4dyU6iSWO>

## Hindi Seva Samman

**Question- The prize money for Hindi Seva Samman for year 2015 given by Central Hindi Institute has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to-**

(a) Rs 2 lakhs (b) Rs 3 lakhs (c) Rs 4 lakhs (d) Rs 5 lakhs

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 10, 2017, Central Hindi Institute (Agra) announced to give Hindi Seva Samman for year 2015.
- Central Hindi Institute, (Agra) is an international educational institute working for teaching, training, research and multi-dimensional development of Hindi under the Department of Higher Education (Language Division) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- It is operated by 'Central Hindi Shikshan Mandal' an autonomous organization.
- Under 'All India Hindi Seva Samman Yojana', started in 1989, 14 Hindi Sevi scholars who have made significant contributions in various fields were honored every year under seven separate award categories till the year 2014.
- The award consists 1 lakh rupees, shawls and citations are rendered by president on behalf of the institute.
- From year 2015, the number of award categories was increased from 7 to 12 and the prize money from Rs 1 lakh to 5 lakh, whereas the number of scholars was increased to 26.
- List of scholars who were honoured with the awards of the year 2015 are as follows:
  - Gangasaran Singh Award (for outstanding contribution in the field of Hindi promotion and Hindi training)-
    1. Prof. S. Seshararatnam, Visakhapatnam, (Andhra Pradesh)
    2. Dr. M. Govind Rajan, Chennai (Tamil Nadu)
    3. Prof. Harmeendra Singh Bedi,
    4. Prof. H. Subdani Devi, Imphal (Manipur)
  - Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award (for outstanding contribution in the field of Hindi journalism and mass communication) –
    1. Baldev Bhai Sharma, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
    2. Rahul Gandhi, Gurugram, (Haryana)
  - Atmaram Award (for outstanding contributions in the fields of science, medical science and engineering)-
    1. Dr. Girish Chandra Saxena, Agra (Uttar Pradesh)
    2. Dr. Phani Bhushan Das, Bihar
  - Subrahmanya Bharti Award (for outstanding contributions in field of creativeness and criticism) –
    1. Prof. Surya Prasad Dixit, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
    2. Chandrakanta, Gurugram, (Haryana)



- Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan Award (For the basic research in the field of tourism and environment in diverse fields of knowledge through Hindi medium)-
  1. Chitra Mudgal, Delhi
  2. Dr. Jay Prakash Kardam, Delhi
- Dr. George Gireson Award (To foreign Hindi scholar, for his outstanding contributions for the promotion and writing of Hindi abroad) –
  1. Prof. Takeshi Fuji, Japan
  2. Prof. Gabriele Iliwa, New York
- Padmabhushan Dr. Motouri Satyanarayan Award- (To Non resident Indian scholar for his outstanding contributions to the promotion and writing of Hindi in abroad).
  1. Dr. Pushpita Awasthi, Netherlands
  2. Dr. Padmesh Gupta, London
- New award category included in the year 2015-  
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Award (for outstanding work in the field of agricultural science and national integration)
  1. Dr. B.R.Chapa, Bikaner (Rajasthan)
  2. Dr. Dayaprakash Sinha, Noida
- Deendayal Upadhyay Award (for the outstanding work in the field of Indian contemplation, tradition of art, culture and thought, in the field of humanities)-
  1. Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma
  2. Dr. Rakesh Sinha, Delhi
- Swami Vivekananda Award (For special contribution in the field of Bharatvidya / Indology)
  1. Shridhar Govind Paradkar, Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)
  2. Dr. Sriranjana Suriadev, Patna (Bihar)
- Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Award (For outstanding writing work through Hindi medium in the field of education and management) –
  1. Prof. Nityanand Pandey, Silchar (Assam)
  2. Prof. J.P. Singhal, Jaipur (Rajasthan)
- Rajarshi Purshottam Dass Tandon Award – (For the outstanding work in Hindi language in the field of law and public administration) –
  1. Prof. Shivdutta Sharma, Almora (Uttarakhand)
  2. Prof. Ashok Kumar Sharma, Jaipur (Rajasthan)

**Related Link:**

<https://khabar.ndtv.com/news/literature/presidential-honour-for-26-for-helping-spread-hindi-1679839>

<http://www.patrika.com/news/agra/kendriya-sansthan-announced-akhil-bhartiya-hindi-sevi-samman-2015-winner-list-in-agra-1550664/>

## Asian Business Women of the Year

**Question: Which educationist of Indian origin was given the 'Asian Business Women of the Year' award recently?**

- (a) Sangeeta Gupta (b) Asha Khemka  
(c) Lakshmi Devi (d) Anuja Ravindra Dhir

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 07, 2017, Indian-origin educationist Asha Khemka was awarded the prestigious Asian Business Women of the Year award.
- She was given this award for her contribution in the field of skill and education.
- She was awarded 'Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire' in 2014.
- Currently she is the CEO and principal of West Nottinghamshire College.



**Related Links:-**

<http://wnc.ac.uk/About-us/News/Press-Release.aspx?PRID=2325>

<http://www.connectedtoindia.com/from-bihar-to-britain-dame-asha-khemka-wins-uk-businesswoman-of-the-year-award-1128.html>

<http://naidunia.jagran.com/world-indianorigin-educationist-wins-businesswoman-of-year-award-in-uk-1094828>

## 64th National Film Awards, 2016

**Question: Who won the Best Actor award in the 64th National Film Awards, 2016?**

- (a) Ajay Devgan (b) Amir Khan (c) Hritik Roshan  
(d) Akshay Kumar

**Ans: (d)**

- The 64th National Film Awards 2016 were announced on April 07, 2017 by the Chairpersons of the juries on Feature Films, Non Feature Films, Best Writing on Cinema and Most Film Friendly State Award.
- The Feature Film Central panel was headed by Shri Priyadarshan, an eminent Film filmmaker. The Chairperson for Non – Feature Film Jury was Shri Raju Mishra while the Chairperson for Writing Jury was Ms. Bhawana Somaaya.
- The National Film Awards were presented by Hon'ble President of India on 3rd May, 2017.
- Best Film Critic award was given to G. Dhananjayan for his in depth analysis on a wide range of topics such as film genres, brands, new strategies in movie watching, taxation impact and ticket pricing.
- Best Book on Cinema award was given to 'Lata- Sur Gatha' authored by Yatindra Mishra.
- The state of Uttar Pradesh was awarded the Most Film Friendly State award for implementing a unique film policy.



- The state of Jharkhand was given Special Mention Award for their Film Policy which provided growth opportunities to the local filmmaking talent from within the State.
- Other major awards includes:
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment (Swarna Kamal): Sathamnam Bhavathi (Telgu), Director: Satish Vagesna.
- Best Actor (Rajat Kamal): Akshay Kumar (Film-Rustom ( Hindi)
- Best Actress (Rajat Kamal): Surabhi C.M (Film- Minnaminungu – the Firefly (Malayalam)
- Best Direction (Swarna Kamal): Rajesh Mapuskar (Film: Ventilator (Marathi).
- Best Male Playback Singer: Sundharayyar (Film: Joker (Tamil).
- Best Female Playback Singer: Iman Chakraborty (Film-Praktan (Bengali) .
- Best Music Direction (Songs): Bapu Padmanabha (Film- Allama (Kannada).
- Best Music Direction (Background Score): Bapu Padmanabha (Film- Allama (Kannada)
- Best Supporting Actor: Manoj Joshi (Film- Dashakriya (Marathi)
- Best Supporting Actress: Zaira Wasim (Film- Dangal (Hindi).
- Best Hindi Film: Neerja (Director: Ram Madhvani)
- Best Film Critic: G. Dhananjayan
- Best Non-Feature Film: FIREFLIES IN THE ABYSS (Director: CHANDRASHEKHAR REDDY).
- Best Debut Film of a Director: SOZ...A BALLAD OF MALADIES (Director- TUSHAR MADHAV )
- Best Film on Social Issue: Pink (Hindi) (Director: Anniruddha Roy Chowdhury).
- Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration: Dikchow Banat Palaax (Assamese) (Director: Sanjib Sabha Pandit).
- Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation: Loktak Lairembee (Manipuri) (Director: Haoban Paban Kumar).
- Best Book on Cinema: Lata : Sur Gatha (Writer: Yatindra Mishra).
- Special Jury Award (Feature Film): Munthirivallikal Thalirkkumbol, Janatha Garrage and Pullimurugan.
- Special Jury Award (Non-Feature Film): THE CINEMA TRAVELLERS (Producer: SHIRLEY ABRAHAM).

**Related Link:**

<http://www.dff.nic.in/writereaddata/NFA64PressNote2016.pdf>

## **OPERATIONS & CAMPAIGN**

### **First mock exercise on forest fire by NDMA**

**Question: In which of the following States the first mock exercise on forest fire was organized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on April 20th, 2017?**



- (a) Karnataka (b) Uttarakhand (c) Tamilnadu  
(d) Odisha

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 20, 2017, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) conducted a first-of-its-kind State-level mock exercise on forest fire in the State of Uttarakhand.
- This exercise was aimed at assessing the efficacy of integrating the preparedness and response mechanisms of the forest department.
- NDMA expert Major General V.K. Datta (Retd.) led the exercise.
- The exercise focused on ways to stop the fire and rescue the affected people, animals by using various techniques and equipment.
- The mock exercise was part of a three-day event which began with a Co-ordination Conference on April 18, 2017.
- The exercises were conducted in coordination with various agencies, such as fire, forest, Army, health, police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and civil defense.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161147>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60516>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161173>

## Sagarmatha Friendship-2017

**Question: Which of the following countries launched their first joint military exercise 'Sagarmatha Friendship -2017'?**

- (a) India and China (b) India and Nepal  
(c) India and Bhutan (d) China and Nepal

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 17, 2017, China and Nepal launched their first joint military exercise 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017'.
- This ten-day military exercise was organized at the Military Training School, Maharajganj, Nepal.
- Nepal has been practicing such a military experiment with India and America for a long time.
- It is notable that the 'Sagarmatha' is the Nepalese name of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

**Related Links:-**

<http://nepalforeignaffairs.com/first-ever-joint-military-training-landmark-on-china-nepal-defense-cooperation/>

<http://www.beijingbulletin.com/news/252829593/nepal-china-kick-off-first-ever-joint-army-drill>



# COMMISSION & COMMITTEE

## Meeting of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

**Question: Where was the meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Petroleum Ministry and Natural Gas held recently?**

(a) Bangalore (b) Jaipur (c) Ahmedabad (d) Srinagar

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 21, 2017, meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Members of Parliament for the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas was held in Srinagar.
- The theme of the meeting was "Digital Modes of Payment – Promotion of cashless transactions".



<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161194>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60540>

## Committee for the investigation of virtual currency

**Question- Under whose chairmanship the central government has constituted an inter-disciplinary committee to look into the existing structure of virtual or apparent currencies?**

(a) President, SEBI (b) Governor, RBI  
(c) Special Secretary, Economic Affairs  
(d) Chairman, CBDT

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts**

- On April 12, 2017, the Central Government constituted an inter-disciplinary committee under the chairmanship of Special Secretary, Economic Affairs to look into the existing framework of virtual or apparent currencies.
- The committee comprises of representatives from Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Financial Services, Department of Revenue (CBDT), Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Reserve Bank of India, NITI Aayog and State Bank of India.
- The committee will complete the following tasks-
  - (I) Take stock of the current situation of virtual (apparent) currencies in the country and abroad.
  - (II) Will look into the existing global regulatory and legal structures related to virtual currencies.
  - (III) will give suggestions for dealing with such types of virtual currencies, including issues related to consumer protection, money laundering etc.
  - (IV) will consider all relevant issue related to virtual currencies
- The committee will submit its report to the government within three months.



- The Reserve Bank of India has also warned about the potential financial, operational and legal risks associated with the use of virtual currencies, including the Bitcoins, holders and traders.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160923>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60422>

<http://paisa.khabarindiatv.com/article/govt-sets-up-panel-to-recommend-regulations-for-virtual-currencies/>

## High Level Committee to examine working of regulatory bodies for AYUSH

**Question: Central Council of Indian Medicine is a regulatory body for monitoring the quality of... medical education.**

(a) AYUSH (b) Allopathy (c) Surgery (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- In reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik informed the House on March 21, 2017, that a Committee has been set up to examine the working of the regulatory bodies namely, Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH).
- The committee will review governing legislations namely, Indian Medicine Central Council Act 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973 respectively, for suggesting suitable reforms.
- The Committee is working under the Chairmanship of Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog. Its members are Additional Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), NITI Aayog and Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH.
- Modern medical education is regulated through central regulatory body namely, Medical Council of India (MCI) set up under the provisions of Indian Medical Council (IMC) Act, 1956 through its subordinate regulations.
- Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM) and Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) set up as per the provisions of Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 respectively are two regulatory bodies for AYUSH medical education.



Ministry of AYUSH

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erecontent.aspx?relid=159635>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/high-level-committee-set-up-to-examine-working-of-regulatory-bodies-117033101177\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/high-level-committee-set-up-to-examine-working-of-regulatory-bodies-117033101177_1.html)

# PLANNING & PROJECT

## Reduction in the number of centrally sponsored schemes

**Question:** Recently, the number of schemes sponsored by the Central Government has been reduced from 66 to-

(A) 55 (B) 35 (C) 28 (D) 25

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 10, 2017, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Planning Rao Inderjit Singh informed the House that the government has reduced the number of schemes sponsored by the Center from 66 to 28.
- Based on the recommendation of the sub-groups of Chief Ministers on the rationalization of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Government of India has rationalized Centrally Sponsored Schemes effective from the financial year 2016-17.
- 6 schemes have been classified as Core of the Core, 20 schemes as Core Schemes and two schemes as optional.



**Related Links:-**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-reduces-number-of-centrally-sponsored-schemes-to-28/articleshow/58111323.cms>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-reduces-number-of-centrally-sponsored-schemes-from-66-to-28-117041000658\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/govt-reduces-number-of-centrally-sponsored-schemes-from-66-to-28-117041000658_1.html)

## E-sewa mobile app

**Question:** E-sewa Mobile App, recently launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, has been designed by...

(a) Department of State Technology (b) Madan Singh Visht  
(c) Prabhjot Singh (d) Sanjeev Baisla

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 10, 2017, the e-sewa mobile app was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- The aim of launching this app is to make people aware of the various schemes and programs being run by the state government.
- This app has been prepared by Prabhjot Singh, Deputy Commissioner, Ambala.
- Initially, information about more than 250 schemes and 30 different departments' has been made available on this app.
- After some time the information of the remaining departments will also be available on this app.



- Other than Information about plans and programs, information about the prescribed fees of the required documents and process of application etc. is also available on this mobile app.
- Through this, people can also know the status of the complaint lodged on the Chief Minister's portal and can also give their suggestions.

**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/mlkhattar/status/851473643859312641>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/haryana-launches-e-sewa-app-to-provide-information-about-welfare-schemes-4607555/>

## Sauni Irrigation Scheme

**Question-Sauni Irrigation Scheme was started in 2012 by...**

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

**Ans :(a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 17, 2017, phase-1 (Link 2) of the Sauni Irrigation Scheme in Botad Gujarat was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister laid the Foundation Stone of Phase-II (Link 2) of the Sauni Irrigation Scheme.
- The full name of this scheme is 'Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation' scheme.
- This scheme was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his chief ministership in year 2012.
- The objective of this scheme is to bring the water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam to the dams of Saurashtra region, through canals and pipelines.
- The scheme will help irrigation of 4.13 lakh hectares of Saurashtra's drought-hit area.
- On the same day, the Prime Minister also inaugurated Diamond Manufacturing Unit of Kiran Multi Specialty Hospital and M / s Hare Krishna Exports Private Limited at Kartagam in Surat.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161096>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-launches-projects-related-to-sauni-vojana-at-botad/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-launches-projects-related-to-sauni-vojana-at-botad/?comment=disable)

## Jakoo Ropeway Project

**Question-Jakoo Ropeway Project is located in which of the following states?**

- (a) Uttarakhand (b) Himachal Pradesh  
(c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Arunachal Pradesh

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**



- On April 10, 2017, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh inaugurated the Jakoo Ropeway project.
- The cost amount of this project is Rs. 40 crores.
- The foundation stone of the Jakoo Ropeway project was laid in July 2007.
- This ropeway has been constructed by Jagson International.
- This ropeway will provide pilgrims to reach the Hanuman temple in Jakoo in five minutes.

**Related links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/shimla-gets-its-first-ropeway/1/925719.html>  
<https://chandigarhmetro.com/shimla-to-jakhu-rope-way-time-ticket-details/>  
<http://www.amarujala.com/photo-gallery/shimla/cm-virbhadra-singh-inaugurated-jakhu-temple-ropeway>

## National Clean Ganga Mission Approves Sewage Treatment Projects

**Question: What is the estimated cost of 26 projects sanctioned under the Namami Ganges program by the National Clean Ganga Mission?**

- (a) 1998.25 crores (b) 2025.18 crores (c) 2154.28 crores  
 (d) 2230.54 crores



**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 8, 2017, National Clean Ganga Mission sanctioned 26 projects under the Namami Ganges Program.
- The estimated cost of these projects is Rs. 2154.28 crores.
- This amount will be spent in the states of UP, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand and Delhi for creation of new sewage treatment capacity of 188 Million Liters per Day (MLD) (approx.), rehabilitation of 596 MLD of existing STP capacity, upgradation of 30 MLD of existing STP capacity, Interception and Diversion works and sewerage network of 145.05 km.
- The Central government will fully fund new projects under Namami Gange Program.
- The completion of these projects will reduce the pollution of River Ganga.
- It is noteworthy that the dissipation of untreatable effluents is one of the major sources of pollution in the Ganges.

**Related links:-**

<http://pib.gov.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60362>  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160744>  
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/26-projects-worth-rs-2154-28-crore-approved-for-ganga-cleanup/articleshow/58084648.cms>



## Maitree Express Train-II

**Question-Maitree Express Train-II has been started between ...**

- (a) Kolkata-Dhaka (b) Agartala-Khulna  
(c) Kolkata-Khulna (d) Radhikapur-Birol

**Ans : (c)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On April 8, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee jointly flagged off the train service via video-conferencing from New Delhi.
- The bus services are already being operated on the Kolkata-Dhaka and Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala routes in addition to the newly introduced Kolkata-Khulna-Dhaka bus service.
- Apart from this, a freight train service was also flagged off between Radhikapur and Birol stations.
- This train service has been named Maitree Express-II.
- Maitri Express train was started between India and Bangladesh in the year 2008.
- With the commencement of these train services, the journey across the India – Bangladesh border will become convenient.
- The Kolkata Khulna Train service is expected to start regularly from July.
- This is a part of several initiatives being taken to strengthen bilateral relations and provide better road and rail connectivity for citizens of both the countries.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160749>

<http://www.jagran.com/west-bengal/kolkata-kolkata-khulna-dhaka-bus-service-to-be-inaugurated-in-kolkata-15820098.html>

<http://bdnews24.com/bangladesh/2017/04/08/hasina-and-modi-flag-off-trial-run-of-train-bus>

## Government e-Marketplace

**Question: Government e-Marketplace has been envisaged as a ...**

- (a) National Public Procurement Portal (b) National Employment Portal  
(c) National entrepreneurship Portal  
(d) All of the above

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet decided to make Government E-Marketplaces as National Portal for the purchase of goods and services by the Central and State Government units.
- The Cabinet decided to constitute a special company for this which will be known as National Public Procurement Portal (Government e-Marketplace or GeM SPV).



- It will be registered under the Companies Act, 2013 and provide vital online services to the units of Central and State Governments.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160965>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/economy/spv-to-operate-government-e-marketplace-portal-for-purchases/626030/>

## Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project

**Question: Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems Project was approved by the central government in ...**

(a) Year 2006 (b) Year 2012 (c) Year 2009 (d) Year 2014

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On April 05, 2017, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for extension of the implementation phase of the Crime and Criminals Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) Project for another one year beyond 31st March 2017.
- The extension would help in achieving the remaining objectives of the project comprehensively.
- This project was approved by the central Government in 2009 with aim to deliver various web based police related services to citizens, facilitate a pan-India search of crime and criminal records of individuals through a national database, generate crime and criminal reports at the state and central level to inform policy interventions and computerize police processes.
- In 2015, an additional objective of establishing a basic platform for an Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) was added to the Project.
- The purpose of this system (ICJS) is to connect the CCTNS project with e-courts and e-jail database and other pillars of the Criminal Justice System, such as forensics, prosecution, child rehabilitation and the nationwide fingerprint database of criminals.
- **Impact of the Project:**
  - i. Citizen portals in all states and Centre will facilitate transparency and speed in police service delivery, online registration of complaints and reporting and search of missing persons and stolen goods in self-service mode.
  - ii. Pan-India search on complete National Crime and Criminal database that is accessible to the Investigating Officers throughout the country.
  - iii. Search facility will be available to Police in regional languages for improved inter-state tracking of criminal movement.
  - iv. Reliable network connectivity to all Police Stations in the country.
- More than 83% Police Stations in the country are entering 100% FIRs through CCTNS software.
- 120 lakhs FIR have been entered in CCTNS system till date.

- Legacy Crime records since 2004 have also been migrated to the CCTNS database.
- Around seven crore records are now available in the national crime database.
- 31 States/UTs have launched their portals which provide various services like registration of complaints, verification of criminal antecedents/litigation of individuals/property, obtaining NOC from police for events for law and order clearance, search of missing person search, matching unidentified dead bodies, Vehicle related enquiries, antecedent verification for issue of passport etc.

**Related Link:**

- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?reid=60351>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?reid=160547>

## North India’s first DNA bank

**Question:- First wildlife DNA bank of northern India is being set up in ....**

- (a) Lucknow (b) Dehradun (c) Gurugram (d) Bareilly

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- The first wildlife DNA bank of North India is being set up by the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly.
- The bank is expected to start operations by the end of this year.
- DNA pattern samples of wildlife will be compiled here to prevent wildlife hunting and their trafficking.
- Compiled samples are called ‘positive patterns’ or ‘known samples’, whose DNA sequencing is known.
- Matching an ‘unknown pattern’ received in future, such as a piece of flesh, blood, hair or skin to ‘known pattern’ will help in recognizing the animal it belong to.
- So far, 140 known patterns of 25 animals have been compiled.



**Related Links:-**

- <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/north-india-to-get-its-first-dna-bank-for-wild-animals/articleshow/58032802.cms>

## Mobile app ‘e-Nagarpalika

**Question- Which state government recently launched mobile app e-Nagarpalika to provide citizen services online?**

- (A) Uttar Pradesh (B) Madhya Pradesh (C) Rajasthan  
(D) Kerala

**Ans : (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 1, 2017, the Madhya Pradesh government launched a mobile app ‘e-Nagarpalika’ to make citizen-centric services available online.



- Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan launched this mobile app.
- E-municipality is an ambitious project of the state government of Madhya Pradesh.
- Through this app, 378 services of urban bodies will be made available.
- Under this project, municipal services will be made accessible to all citizens in an accessible, transparent and time bound manner.

**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/ChouhanShivraj/status/848214319946809344>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/mp-govt-launches-app-to-provide-municipal-services-online/1/918660.html>

## Implementation of Supreme Court’s Judgment on Target plus Scheme

**Question: FIEO is a related to ...**

(a) Export (b) Import (c) Investment (d) Urban Planning

**Ans: (a)**

- On April 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the implementation of Supreme Court’s Judgment dated October 27, 2015 regarding Target Plus Scheme (TPS) 2004-09.
- The revenue implication under the TPS arising from the Supreme Court’s Judgment is about Rs. 2700 crore.
- All the applicant exporters eligible as per provisions of the initially notified TPS Scheme under FTP for the year 2005-06 will be benefitted by this decision.
- The scheme was discontinued w.e.f. 01.04.2006. However the claims which were denied as a result of retrospective Notification will be settled now as per direction of the Supreme Court.
- It is notable that in the case of DGFT v/s Kanak Exports & Ors., the Supreme Court gave verdict on the Target Plus Scheme for Export Promotion on 27.10.2015. It held that the notifications related to the Target Plus Scheme could not be applied retrospectively and they would be effective only from the date of their issue.
- With regard to the question above, FIEO is the apex body of the export promotion councils, commodity boards and export development authorities in India. It was set up in 1965.
- FIEO’s direct members contribute more than 70% of India’s exports.



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160977>

## Web Portal 'Bharat Ke Veer' and Mobile App Launched

**Question-** Recently, the web portal "Bharat Ke Veer" and a mobile app were launched by Home Minister Rajnath Singh. What is the maximum limit of financial assistance given by a donor through this?

(a) 10 lakhs (b) 15 lakhs (c) 20 lakhs (d) 5 lakhs

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 9, 2017, Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the web portal "Bharat Ke Veer" and a mobile app.
- Through this web portal and mobile app, people can give support to the families of a braveheart who sacrificed his/her life in line of duty.
- Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju and Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar were present on this occasion.
- The amount of donation will be deposited in the accounts of the nearest families of Central Armed Police Force / Central Paramilitary Force personnel.
- Through this portal, anyone can financially support any hero or donate in 'Bharat ke Veer' account as per his wish.
- This website has been developed by National Informatics Center (NIC).
- This website is operated by State Bank of India (SBI).
- The maximum limit for depositing money by any donor has been fixed at Rs 15 lakhs.
- In the event of more than this limit, the donor will be informed and they can deposit the additional portion of their donation into another Veer Soldier's account.
- The management of the Web Portal 'Bharat Ke Veer' will be undertaken by a committee, including dignitaries and senior government officials.
- This committee will decide on the basis of the requirement to pay the funds equally for the families of the brave soldiers.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60375>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160767>

<http://www.rajnathsingh.in/home-minister-shri-rajnath-singh-inaugurates-web-portal-bharat-ke-veer/>

## PM launched multiple development projects in Jharkhand

**Question:** Which of the following is the 28th state of the Union of India?

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

**Ans: (c)**

- On April 06, 2017, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi launched multiple development projects at Sahebganj in Jharkhand.





- He laid the Foundation Stone of a 4-lane bridge over the River Ganga, and a multi-modal terminal.
- The multi-modal terminal is an important component of the development of the National-Waterway 1 from Varanasi to Haldia.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the 311 kilometre Govindpur-Jamtara-Dumka-Sahebganj highway; and dedicated to the nation, a solar power facility at Sahebganj District Court Premises and Sahebganj District Hospital.
- The Prime Minister also symbolically distributed certificates of appointment to constables of the Paharia Special India Reserve Battalion; and Smartphones to women entrepreneurs of Self-Help Groups.
- Jharkhand is the 28th state of the Indian Union. It was brought into existence by the Bihar reorganization Act on November 15, 2000- the birth anniversary of the legendary Bhagwan Birsa Munda.
- Jharkhand is famous for its rich mineral resources like Uranium, Mica, Bauxite, Granite, Gold, Silver, Graphite, Magnetite, Dolomite, Fireclay, Quartz, Feldspar, Coal (32% of India), Iron, Copper (25% of India) etc.
- Forests and woodlands occupy more than 29% of the state which is amongst the highest in India.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160640>

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-lays-foundation-stone-for-various-development-projects-in-sahebganj-jharkhand-534974>

## PowerTex India

**Question: – Bhiwandi in Maharashtra is famous for it's:-**

- (a) Powerloom Sector (b) Silk Yarn (c) Grapes  
(d) Jute Industry

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 01, 2017, the Government launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive scheme for powerloom sector development.
- The scheme was simultaneously launched, by the Union Textiles Minister, Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani from Bhiwandi, Thane district, Maharashtra over 45 locations in the country.
- The scheme will especially benefit small powerloom weavers.
- Smt. Irani recalled on this occasion that powerloom sector alone employs over 44 lakh people.
- On this occasion PowerTex India helpline for any assistance in this regard was launched and PowerTex India van was also flagged off for publicity of PowerTex scheme across the country.
- The Comprehensive scheme has the following components:-
- In-situ Upgradation of Plain Power looms





- Group Workshed Scheme (GWS)
- Yarn Bank Scheme
- Common Facility Centre (CFC)
- Pradhan Mantri Credit Scheme for Powerloom Weavers
- Solar Energy Scheme for Powerlooms
- Facilitation, IT, Awareness, Market Development and Publicity for Powerloom Schemes
- Tex Venture Capital Fund
- Grant-in-Aid and Modernisation & Upgradation of Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs)

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160404>

## Talaipalli Coal Mining Project

**Question: In which of the following States Talaipalli Coal mining project is located?**

- (a) Jharkhand (b) West Bengal (c) Chhattisgarh  
(d) Bihar

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 27, 2017, Board of Directors of NTPC approved an investment of Rs. 3,004 crore for Talaipalli coal mining project.
- Project, located at Chhattisgarh, is estimated to produce 18 million tonnes coal per annum.



**Related links:**

<https://twitter.com/ntpclimited/status/846635298977017857>

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/ntpc-board-okays-rs-3004cr-investment-for-talaipalli-project/article9604345.ece>

<http://hindi.business-standard.com/storypage.php?autono=132028>

## Free WiFi service in colleges and universities

**Question- Which state government has started free WiFi service in all government colleges and universities recently?**

- (a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Bihar  
(d) Andhra Pradesh

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 22, 2017, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar launched the free WiFi scheme in all government colleges and universities of the state.
- Its aim is to provide better connectivity to students attending higher education.



- This scheme was started on the occasion of the 'Bihar Day' program held on 105th anniversary of the establishment day of the state.
- Under this scheme, arrangements have been made to provide continuous electricity to provide uninterrupted internet facility to the students of the colleges and universities.

**Related Links:-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/nitish-launches-free-wifi-service-in-bihar-univs-colleges/1/910591.html>

<http://www.univarta.com/news/states/story/818891.html>

## TREATY & AGREEMENTS

### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RBI and Bank of Guyana

**Question: The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1st, 1935 under the provisions of which of the following Acts?**

- (a) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1925
- (b) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1931
- (c) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- (d) Reserve Bank of India Act, 1935



**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 20, 2017, the Reserve Bank of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on "Supervisory Cooperation and Exchange of Supervisory Information" with Bank of Guyana.
- The MoU was signed by Dr Gobind N. Ganga, Governor on behalf of Bank of Guyana and Dr Urjit R. Patel, Governor on behalf of Reserve Bank of India.
- It is noteworthy that The Reserve Bank of India was established on April 1, 1935 in accordance with the provisions of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The Central Office of the Reserve Bank was initially established in Calcutta but was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937.
- Originally privately owned Reserve Bank became Government entity after nationalization in year 1949.

**Related Link:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=40223](https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=40223)

<http://newsroom.gy/2017/04/20/central-bank-signs-mou-with-reserve-bank-of-india-for-supervisory-exchange-of-information/>

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-Mw/MzEwMTk3/rbi-bank-of-guyana-sign-mou-for-supervisory-exchange-of-information.html>

## Agreement between India and Portugal

**Question: The signing of protocol between India and Portugal recently approved by the Union Cabinet is related to ...**

- (a) Information Technology
- (b) Development in tourism sector
- (c) Prevention of double taxation
- (d) Technical exchanges in the agricultural sector

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 19, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of the protocol related to the amendment of the Convention to prevent double taxation between India and Portugal.
- This protocol will also ensure the prevention of fiscal theft in relation to taxes on income.
- After the protocol is implemented, the two countries will be able to exchange tax information.
- This will help tax officials of both countries to prevent tax evasion.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60521>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161145>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-approves-signing-of-the-protocol-amending-the-convention-between-india-and-portugal-for-avoidance-of-double-taxation/](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-signing-of-the-protocol-amending-the-convention-between-india-and-portugal-for-avoidance-of-double-taxation/)



## Delayed Payment surcharge Amnesty Scheme

**Question: what is the percentage of waiver on surcharge on electricity bill available to small industrial units under delayed payment surcharge amnesty scheme?**

- (a) 25 percent
- (b) 50 percent
- (c) 75 percent
- (d) 100 percent

**Ans : (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 11, 2017, the Uttar Pradesh government launched delayed payment surcharge amnesty scheme.
- The purpose of the scheme is to provide relaxation on the surcharges on electricity bill.
- Under this scheme surcharge will be waived off the outstanding amount of electricity bills of consumers till March 31, 2017.
- The benefits of the scheme will be available in the domestic, commercial, private tube wells, private institutions and small and medium enterprises of urban and rural areas.



- Under the scheme, private tube-wells (rural) agricultural consumers will get 100 percent discount in surcharge and deposit the outstanding amount in installments.
- Small industrial units will get 50 percent discount in surcharge on one-time payment.
- Uttar Pradesh Government also signed a MoU on April 14, 2017, with the central government to ensure 24 × 7 electricity supply.
- Toll free number -1912 was issued for all the electricity consumers.

**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/CMOfficeUP/status/851813645826883584>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/up-signs-power-for-all-agreement-with-central-government-1681631>

<http://www.amarujala.com/lucknow/up-govt-refuses-surcharge-of-power-consumers>

<http://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/metro/lucknow/development/amnesty-schemes-announced-for-power-defaulters-in-up/articleshow/58118479.cms>

<http://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/lucknow-city-surcharge-waiver-applies-today-to-power-bill-dues-15860206.html>

## Collaboration Agreement to support the Belmont Forum Secretariat approved

**Question: The Belmont Forum was founded in ...**

(a) 2005 (b) 2008 (c) 2009 (d) 2011

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 5, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the signing of a cooperation agreement with the French National Research Agency, France to support the Belmont Forum Secretariat.
- Under this agreement, India will provide financial support to the Belmont Forum Secretariat on the expenditure of 40,000 Euros (total estimated expenditure) from January 2015 to December 2017.
- Apart from this, the Cabinet has also granted approval to continue financial assistance to the Secretariat after 2017.
- The Belmont Forum was founded in year 2009.
- This forum provides an opportunity to identify study and deliver international environmental research priorities, for the society, in an accelerated way through trans-national research collaboration between natural and social scientists and alignment of international resources.
- Members of the Belmont Forum include Australia, Brazil, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, South Africa, Britain, America, India etc.



- Since 2012, the Ministry of Earth Sciences is representing India in the Belmont forum.
- The expenditure for hosting the secretariat is borne by the member countries of the Belmont Forum as an item or cash aid.
- This agreement will help in maintaining consistency in the conduct of the forum and to coordinate the activities of this forum smoothly.
- India is already a partner in four collaborative research initiatives

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60353>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160551>

## Agreement between India and Georgia

**Question: The agreement approved for signing by the Union Cabinet between India and Georgia is related to...**

(a) Tourism (b) Agriculture (c) Tax evasion (d) Air Service

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 5, 2017, the Central Cabinet approved the signing of the Air Service Agreement (ASA) between India and Georgia, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- The agreement between the two countries is based on the latest template of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).
- The purpose of this agreement is to improve air connectivity between the two countries in view of development in the civil aviation sector.
- Air contact agreement is the basic legal framework for air operations between the two countries.
- The following are the features of this Air Services Agreement:
  - (1) Both countries can nominate one or more aviation companies.
  - (2) With this agreement, Indian aviation companies can now start services from any city in India to any city in Georgia.
  - (3) Georgia's aviation companies can start direct flights to six cities of India, New Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Chennai and Goa.
  - (4) In addition, the aviation companies nominated by both sides can provide services for any intermediate and outside city for the convenience of the route.
  - (5) The nominated aviation company of any country will have the right to set up offices in another country for the sale and promotion of its air services.
  - (6) The nominated aviation company of each party can make cooperative marketing arrangements with its designated aviation companies or third parties.
  - (7) This will not only provide direct contact but will also establish air connectivity with the third country.



- This agreement will encourage normal trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between the two countries and help in development of the civil aviation sector.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160549>

## MoU for BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection

**Question: The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization comprising ... Member States.**

(a) Seven (b) nine (c) five (d) ten

**Ans: (a)**

- On April 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for Signing of “Memorandum of Understanding for Establishment of the BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection”.
- It will be signed among member states of BIMSTEC at the upcoming 3rd BIMSTEC Energy Ministers’ Meeting to be held in Nepal shortly.
- This MoU will provide a broad framework for the Parties to cooperate towards the implementation of grid interconnections for the trade in electricity with a view to promoting rational and optimal power transmission in the BIMSTEC region.
- **Background:**  
It is notable that the “Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation in BIMSTEC” was formulated in the first BIMSTEC Energy Ministers’ Conference held in New Delhi in October, 2005. It was decided that a Task Force led by Thailand, with representatives of member countries, will give a report on draft MoU for grid interconnections. MoU for establishment of BIMSTEC Grid Interconnection was finalized by the Task Force on 16th Mar 2015.



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160976>

## Cabinet approves MoU on cooperation in the field of justice between India and Tunisia

**Question: Which of the following cities is the national capital of Tunisia?**

(a) Tunis (b) Sousse (c) Kairouan (d) Bizerte

**Ans: (a)**

- On April 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of justice between India and Tunisia.





- Bilateral relations between India and Tunisia have developed in a positive direction in recent past. Signing of an agreement on cooperation in the field of justice will further enhance good relations between the two countries and add new dimensions in the field of judicial reforms.
- Tunisia, officially the Republic of Tunisia is the northernmost country in Africa, covering 165,000 square kilometers. It is bordered by Algeria to the west and southwest, Libya to the southeast, and the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east. Tunisia's name is derived from its capital city, Tunis, which is located on Tunisia's northeast coast.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160980>

## Framework of Understanding between India and Bangladesh for hydrocarbon sector

**Question: According to the BP Statistical Review 2016, what is India's share in global energy consumption?**

(a) 5.3% (b) 10% (c) 23% (d) 15%

**Ans: (a)**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved signing of Framework of Understanding (FoU) on Cooperation in the Hydrocarbon Sector with Bangladesh on April 12, 2017.
- The objective of the framework is to establish a cooperative institutional framework mechanism to facilitate and enhance India-Bangladesh bilateral cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. The proposed FoU is non-binding in nature and will be valid for five years. It will provide impetus to development and enable the two countries to realize their developmental aspirations.
- The proposed Framework of Understanding aims to –
- Promote the energy trade and integration of oil and gas grids of the two countries
- Promote investments in each other's countries as well as in third countries, technology transfer, R&D, conducting joint studies and capacity building of human resources.
- Provide increased trans-border economic cooperation and connectivity.
- Promote bilateral cooperation at the sub-regional and regional levels
- Exchange of information to energy policy formulation in the region.
- This Framework of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of five years, and shall be automatically renewed thereafter for a period of every five year.
- It is notable that as per BP Statistical Review 2016, India's share in global energy consumption is 5.3%



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160984>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161010>

## Union Cabinet apprised of MoU between India, Russia in science

**Question:** The first person to travel in outer space was a ...

(a) Russian (b) American (c) British (d) German

**Ans:** (a)

**Related facts:-**

- On April 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Russia for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology signed in October, 2016.
- The objective of the MoU is to facilitate and support joint scientific and research activities between scientific organizations and scientists of the Republic of Russian Federation, with India through DST.
- Under this MoU, the Parties will cooperate in the following forms:
  - Exchange of information about conducted conferences, forums, exhibitions, seminars that are of mutual interest;
  - Support and provision of conditions for the formation of scientific projects aimed at the conduct of joint research, themes of which are determined jointly by the Parties;
  - Conduct of joint scientific events (seminars, conferences, round tables) aimed at establishing of direct connections between scientists of the two countries in the fields determined by the Parties;
  - Support of establishment of direct connections between scientific organizations, scientists and specialists of the Parties;
  - Provision of media coverage of the joint scientific activity aimed at the popularization of science;
  - Development of inter-disciplinary and multi-institutional projects with the involvement of industry.
- The MoU came into effect on the date of its signature and will remain valid for 5 years. Implementation of the present MoU can be extended for further 5 year periods if neither of the Parties informs by written agreement of its intention to terminate it at least 6 months before the expiration of a given 5-year period.
- It is notable that on April 12, 1961, Russian Yuri Gagarin became the first human to journey into outer space.



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160973>

## Agreement between Haryana Government and Punjab National Bank

**Question: A Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed between the Haryana Government and the Punjab National Bank for ...**

- (a) loan for irrigation projects in the state
- (b) improving the transport system in the state
- (c) providing loans to the State Government employees
- (d) To get loan for the construction of road projects in the state.

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 30, 2017, a MoU was signed between Haryana Government and Public Sector Bank Punjab National Bank to provide loan to Haryana Government employees.
- Haryana has become the first state in the country to have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with a public sector bank for giving housing and other loans to its employees under its existing Staff Loan Schemes.
- Under this agreement, the bank will provide home loans, auto loans, computer loans, marriage loans etc. to its employees in Haryana under its current credit plans.
- On this occasion, Zonal Manager of PNB Haryana Zone, A.K. Dargan in Chandigarh, handed over Rs 623 crore bank drafts to Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- It includes home loan of Rs 450 crore of total outstanding principal, vehicle loan of Rs 86 crores and personal loan of Rs 87 crores.

**Related Links:-**

<http://prharyana.gov.in/erelease.aspx?relid=6545>

<https://twitter.com/mlkhattar/status/847495602577354752>

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/chandigarh/mou-signed-between-haryana-govt-pnb-for-loans-to-govt-employees.html>



## MoU on Technical Cooperation between India and France approved by Cabinet

**Question: Airports Authority of India (AAI) was constituted in...**

- (a) 1995 (b) 1996 (c) 1998 (d) 1991

**Ans: (a)**

- On April 05, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and its French counterpart, Civil Aviation Authority (DGAC) France.



- The MoU will facilitate implementation of Technical Cooperation Program in civil aviation sector.
- The Technical Cooperation Program will be beneficial for enhancement of skills and expertise of AAI's officers.
- This MoU is also beneficial for imparting training to engineers, technicians and managers etc.
- It is notable that Airports Authority of India (AAI) was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995 by merging erstwhile National Airports Authority and International Airports Authority of India.
- AAI manages 125 airports, which include 18 International Airport, 07 Customs Airports, 78 Domestic Airports and 26 Civil Enclaves at Defense airfields.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/mbErel.aspx?reliid=160559>

## MoU between India and Australia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine

**Question: Where will the 18th International Mental Health Conference – 2017 be held?**

(a) India (b) Australia (c) Canada (d) England

**Ans: (b)**

- On April 05, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved MoU between India and Australia on cooperation in the field of Health and Medicine.
- The main areas of cooperation include communicable diseases such as Malaria and TB; mental Health and Non-Communicable Diseases; anti-Microbial Resistance and responding to public health emergencies.
- The MoU will also cover regulation of Pharmaceuticals, vaccines and medical devices; digital Health; Tobacco Control and any other area of cooperation decided mutually between the two countries.
- The MoU will involve cooperation through joint initiatives in the Health Sector and strengthen bilateral ties between India and Australia.
- In Related Link to the question above, it's notable that 18th International Mental Health Conference – 2017 will be held in Australia from 21 August –23 August 2017.



**Related Link:**

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-speaks-to-russian-president-vladimir-putin/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-speaks-to-russian-president-vladimir-putin/?comment=disable)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?reliid=160568>

## Cabinet approves MoU on Mass Media Cooperation with Bangladesh

**Question: 'Prothom Alo' is one of the leading newspapers of which of the following countries?**

(a) Myanmar (b) Bangladesh (c) India (d) Sri Lanka

**Ans: (b)**

- On April 05, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved MoU on Cooperation in the field of Mass Media between India and Bangladesh.
- As per the MoU, both the countries will facilitate training/study tour of personnel in the field of mass media and public relations.
- Exchange of experts in the field of Mass Media will also be encouraged besides cooperation between educational, training and research institutions in the field of Mass Media & Communication.
- The MoU will also facilitate exchange of publications generated by these institutions.
- Both countries will share experiences in the field of regulations of the Mass Media activities and concerned statistical data.
- It is notable that 'Prothom Alo' is one of the leading newspaper of Bangladesh.



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160565>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/cabinet-approves-mou-between-india-bangladesh-on-cooperation-in-mass-media-117040501380\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/cabinet-approves-mou-between-india-bangladesh-on-cooperation-in-mass-media-117040501380_1.html)

## Cabinet approved Indo- Bangladesh agreement on Audio Visual Co-Production

**Question: India has entered into an Audio Visual Co-Production agreement with how many countries including Bangladesh?**

(a) 12 (b) 11 (c) 10 (d) 9

**Ans: (a)**

- On April 05, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the agreement on Audio Visual Co-Production between India and Bangladesh.
- The Agreement would cover co-production of films, documentaries, and animations films.
- An audio-visual co-production made in accordance with this Agreement shall be entitled to all the benefits which may be accorded to any national audio-visual work by both countries in accordance with their respective laws and regulations.
- The Agreement will cover co-productions and provide an opportunity to create and showcase soft power of the two countries.



- The utilization of Indian locales for shooting raises the visibility / prospect of India as a preferred film shooting destination across the globe.
- It will lead to exchange of art and culture between the two countries and create goodwill and better understanding among the peoples of both the countries.
- It will create employment for artistic, technical as well as non-technical personnel engaged in the arena of Audio-Visual Co- production including post-production and its marketing.
- India has so far entered into audio-visual co-production agreements with Italy, United Kingdom, Germany, Brazil, France, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Canada, China and the Republic of Korea.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160567>

<http://www.uniindia.com/cabinet-approves-agreement-on-audio-visual-co-production-between-india-bangladesh/india/news/833026.html>

## Cabinet approval to MoUs for India-Bangladesh cooperation in multiple sectors

**Question: The incumbent Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina, belongs to which of the following political parties of Bangladesh?**

- (a) Bangladesh Awami League
- (b) Bangladesh Nationalist Party
- (c) Workers Party (d) Liberal Democratic Party

**Ans: (a)**



- On April 05, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved MoU on passenger cruise services on the coastal and protocol routes between India and Bangladesh.
- The Union Cabinet also approved signing of MoU between India and Bangladesh in the field of judicial sector cooperation. It is aimed at developing, promoting and strengthening mutual cooperation between the judiciaries of the two countries.
- This MoU provides for promoting mutual interaction among judges and officials at various levels of the judiciary through exchange visits, training and academic programmes. It will also encourage mutual exchange of information on latest developments in the field of law and justice.
- The Cabinet on the same day approved MoU between India and Bangladesh for fairway development of Ashuganj-Zakiganj stretch of Kushiyara River and Sirajganj-Daikhawa stretch of Jamuna River in the Indo-Bangladesh protocol route. The MoU will considerably reduce the logistics cost of cargo movement to North Eastern India. It will also reduce the congestion through the Siliguri Chicken's Neck corridor.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160563>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160561>



## India, ADB sign \$175 million loan agreement

**Question: The recent loan agreement signed between India and ADB for \$175 million is for the construction of...**

- (a) Transmission systems (b) Solar Park  
(c) Hydro Power Projects (d) None of the above.

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 29, 2017, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$175 million loan to Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) to help construction of high voltage transmission systems to evacuate power generated from new mega solar parks to the interstate grid
- As part of the assistance, ADB will also administer a \$50 million co-financing loan equivalent from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF) and a \$5.8 billion component of the Climate Investment Funds.
- This is aimed at providing developing countries resources to expand efforts in utilizing low carbon technologies and transitioning to clean, renewable energy sources.
- The project will improve the capacity and efficiency of interstate transmission networks, particularly in transmitting the electricity generated from the new solar parks to the national grid.
- Apart from the evacuation of 2,500 megawatts (MW) of power from solar parks in Bhadla, Rajasthan, and 700 MW from Banaskantha, Gujarat, POWERGRID is also including two additional sub projects that will increase solar power generation by 4.2 gigawatt and lessen carbon emissions by over 7 million tons every year.
- The Solar Transmission Sector Project is also the first project to be implemented following the usage of agency-level country safeguards and procurement systems for POWERGRID to speed up processes while providing autonomy and ownership of the project.



**Related Link:**

<https://www.adb.org/projects/49214-002/main#project-pds>

<http://www.uniindia.com/india-adb-sign-175-mln-loan-agreement/business-economy/news/834517.html>

## MoU for a Project on “Conservation, Development & Maintenance of Purana Qila”

**Question: Purana Qila of Delhi was built by ...**

- (a) Sher Shah Suri (b) Akbar (c) Dara Sikoh  
(d) Qutub-uddin aibak

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 31, 2017, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), National Culture Fund (NCF) and National Building Construction Corporation (India) Limited (NBCC),



signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the 'Conservation, development & maintenance of Purana Qila project' at Purana Qila, New Delhi.

- This move has been taken under NBCC's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative.
- The main aim of this MoU is the conservation, restoration, development of monument precinct, upkeep of monument and museum, development to ensure better presentation and conservation of the monument and development of various tourists related amenities and highlight the history, heritage value of the monument and it's surrounding along with its context.
- Under this agreement, NBCC (India) Limited has agreed to support the project of "Conservation, Development & Maintenance of Purana Qila" and will provide funds of up to Rs. 14.35 Crore for the next 5 years in stages starting from FY-2016-17.
- The execution of the project shall be undertaken in 3 phases mentioned as under –
  - PHASE-I : Conservation, Restoration and Horticulture & Development Works
  - PHASE-II : Upgradation and extension of museum and Parking
  - PHASE-III : Excavation and Display
- It is notable that Purana Qila (Old Fort) is one of the oldest forts in Delhi. Its current form was built by Sher Shah Suri.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160351>

## Cabinet approves signing of new Air Services Agreement between India and Serbia

**Question: Which of the following is the capital city of Serbia?**

(a) Belgrade (b) Brussels (c) Toronto (d) Ulaanbaatar

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 31, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for updation of the existing Air Services Agreement between India and Serbia which was signed on 31st January, 2003.
- The updation is as per latest International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) template keeping in view the latest developments in civil aviation sector and with an objective to improve the air connectivity between the two countries.
- Below are the essential features of the new Air Services Agreement :
  - (i) the open sky has been formalized with Serbia as per National Civil Aviation Policy. Now the Indian carriers can operate to any points in Serbia from points in India. Whereas the carriers of Serbia can establish direct operation to 4 Metros – New Delhi, Mumbai and 2 more points to be specified later. Apart from this through routing flexibility any intermediate and beyond point can also be served by the designated carriers of both sides.
  - (ii) The designated airlines shall be entitled to exercise domestic code share



operation to any four (4) additional points in the territory of the other Party over and above the points specified in route schedule, These 4 points may be specified at any time.

(iii) The designated Airline of each party can enter into cooperative marketing arrangements with the designated carriers of same party, other party and third country.

(iv) It will not only provide direct connectivity but also connectivity through 3rd country carriers, which may also be viable for Indian carriers.

(v) Both countries shall be entitled to designate one or more airline. In earlier arrangement only maximum of two airlines could be designated by each side.

- The new updated and liberalized Air Services Agreement between India and the Serbia will promote greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries.
- It will provide enabling environment for enhanced and seamless connectivity while providing commercial opportunities to the carriers of both the sides.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160377>

## Agreement between Ministry of Rural Development and CIRDAP

**Question: The Headquarter of CIRDAP (Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific) is located in ...**

(a) Dhaka (b) Colombo (c) Kathmandu (d) Thimphu

**Ans: (a)**

- On March 31, 2017, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for signing of an Agreement between Ministry of Rural Development and Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) for establishment of CIRDAP Centre at National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad.
- CIRDAP Centre in NIRD&PR premises would give the later an advantage of having first-hand knowledge of networking with organizations specialized in rural development programmes.
- This Centre will also help NIRD&PR to enhance its status in the region through linkages with other Ministries/Institutes in the CIRDAP Member Countries.
- The scope of work of the Centre is to focus on the implementation of integrated rural development, particularly poverty alleviation programmes within member countries.
- The CIRDAP is a regional Inter – Governmental and autonomous institution which came into existence in 1979 at the initiative of the countries of Asia Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations with support from several other UN bodies and donors.



- India is one of the key founder members of this Organisation. Its Headquarters is located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Iran, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Fiji are the member countries of CIRDP.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160371>

## CONFERENCE

### Second BRICS Film Festival

**Question: – In which country will the ‘Second Brics Film Festival -2017’ be organized during June 23-27, 2017?**

(a) China (b) Russia (c) India (d) South Africa

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- ‘Second BRICS Film Festival-2017’ will be organized in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, Southwest China from 23 to 27 June, 2017.
- In this film festival, screening of 30 films of BRICS countries Brazil, Russia, China, India and South Africa will be done.
- Its aims to increase co-operation among the BRICS countries and create harmony.
- ‘The first BRICS Film Festival 2016’ was held in New Delhi during September 2-6, 2016.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8625554\\_China-to-host-BRICS-Film-Festival-in-June](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8625554_China-to-host-BRICS-Film-Festival-in-June)

### First-ever World Ocean Festival

**Question: Which country will organize the first World Ocean Festival?**

(a) Ireland (b) China (c) America (d) Japan

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The first World Ocean Festival, which will run from 5 to 9 June, will be organized in New York, America.
- Festival will be organized by the Global Brain Foundation.
- It aims to raise voices to reverse the declining health of our oceans.
- The festival will draw attention towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 14, on conservation and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56544#.WP49pYjyvlU>

## Meeting of G-7 Foreign Ministers

**Question- Where was the Foreign Ministers meeting of G7 countries held recently?**

(a) Lucca (b) Paris (c) Amsterdam (d) New York

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 10-11 April, 2017, a meeting of Foreign Ministers of G-7 countries was held in Lucca, Italy.
- Issues discussed in the meeting include the Syrian crisis, Eastern Ukraine, Middle East peace process and security crisis in Asia, Iran, Africa, Iraq and Libya was discussed.
- Apart from this, the Foreign Ministers of G-7 countries discussed topics related to maritime security, non-proliferation and disarmament, terrorism and climate change etc.
- Members of the group are- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.



**Related Links:-**

<https://twitter.com/g7/status/851759510259720193>

[http://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2017/04/declaration\\_on\\_cyberspace.pdf](http://www.esteri.it/mae/resource/doc/2017/04/declaration_on_cyberspace.pdf)

## G20 Digital Minister's first meeting on Digital Economy

**Question: Where was the first meeting of G-20 Digital Ministers on Digital Economy held?**

(a) Canada (b) Germany (c) America (d) India

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- From April 6 to 7, 2017, the first meeting of G-20 Digital Ministers on the digital economy was held in Dusseldorf, Germany.
- During this two-day meeting, a Round Table Conference on 'Digitization: Policies for a Digital Future' was also co-hosted by the Global Forum of Women (W20) MPs. India was represented by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister for Electronics & IT and Law and Justice.
- He expressed India's view to support better international cooperation in cyber security to fight against growing cybercrime and cyber terrorism.
- It is noteworthy that G-20 was established in the year 1999 after the East Asian financial crisis. The 11th summit of the G-20 was held in Hangzhou, China on September 4-5, 2016.
- The 12th summit of the G-20 is proposed in Germany.
- Its first meeting took place in 2008 in Washington (U.S.A.).



**Related Link:**

<http://www.w20-germany.org/program/events/details/wip-w20-g20-roundtable-duesseldorf/>

## National Conference on Empowering Deaf through Indian Sign Language

**Question- Divyangjan Empowerment Department under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India was established under ...**

- (a) Society Registration Act, 1859
- (b) Society Registration Act, 1860
- (c) Society Registration Act, 1863
- (d) Society Registration Act, 1856

**Ans : (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- A National Conference on 'Empowerment of the deafs through Indian Sign Language' was organized on 20-21 March, 2017. This conference was organized by the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center.
- The purpose of this conference was to provide a public forum for the professionals involved in the field of Deaf Education, Indian Sign Language, Sign Linguistics Bilingualism, Interpreter Education and other related subjects.
- The conference was organized in three languages namely Hindi, English and Sign Language.
- Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (TSLRTC), under the aegis of Divyangjan Empowerment Department under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Government of India, is an autonomous organization established under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.
- Its main objective is to develop human resources for teaching and research in Indian Sign Language and to develop Indian Sign Language as an educational medium.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159526>

<https://twitter.com/TCGEHLOT/status/843705847112982528>

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8521139\\_India-s-first-sign-language-dictionary-to-come-up-soon.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8521139_India-s-first-sign-language-dictionary-to-come-up-soon.html)

## World Homeopathy day

**Question: When is 'World Homeopathy Day' celebrated?**

- (a) April 10 (b) April 11 (c) April 8 (d) April 15

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- World Homeopathy Day was celebrated throughout the world on April 10, 2017.
- This day is celebrated on the occasion of the birthday of Dr. Christian Frederick Samuel Hahnemann, founder of Homeopathy.





- A National Conference was organized on World Homoeopathic Day in New Delhi.
- The main theme of the conference was 'Enhancing Quality Research in Homeopathy through Scientific Evidence and Clinical Experiences'.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.bjain.com/homeopathy360-wp/2017/03/10/world-homoeopathy-day-2017/>

<http://www.newskarnataka.com/campus/world-homoeopathy-day-2017-observed-at-fmci>

## First NIMCARE World Health Day Summit 2017

**Question: What is slogan of the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit- 2017?**

- (a) Mental depression
- (b) Unite for a healthy Mind
- (c) Global challenges of mental health
- (d) Sense for mental health



**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 7, 2017, President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the first NIMCARE World Health Day Summit-2017.
- The slogan of this conference was 'Unite for a healthy Mind.'
- According to the Mental Health Survey 2015-16 by NIMHANS, 5.2 percent of the Indian adult population is suffering from some type of depression.
- In order to meet the needs of mental health advisers, the e-CAP and SOL's Telepsychiatry application has been launched for rural and urban populations.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160694>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60347>

## 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

**Question- Where was the 136th Assembly of Inter Parliamentary Union held recently?**

- (A) New Delhi (B) Dhaka (C) Islamabad (D) Male

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts**

- 136th assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union was organized in Bangabandhu International Conference Center, Dhaka, Bangladesh from April 1 to 5, 2017.
- The theme of the conference was "Redressing Inequalities: delivering on dignity and well-being for all,"
- The conference was organized jointly by Bangladesh National Parliament and Inter Parliamentary Union.



- During the conference, MPs from all over the world discussed ways of tackling widespread inequalities, violence and terrorism as a global problem.
- The member countries of the IPU adopted a broad resolution to ensure women's reach to financial institutions.
- The Forum of Women MPs emphasized the urgent need to end child marriage and gender-based violence.
- Two new members Tuvalu and Central African Republic were included in the IPU in this conference.
- There are currently 173 member countries in the IPU.
- During the conference, Ugandan parliamentarian Maureen Osofu (26) was elected president of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians.
- A delegation of Indian MPs led by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan attended the conference. Pakistan did not participate in this conference.
- This union was established in 1889 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Related Links:-**

<http://ipu136bangladesh.org/main/viewcontents/1>

<http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/136agnd.htm#programme>

<http://www.parliament.gov.zm/node/6337>

## 75th Conference of Concurrent Depot Commanders

**Question:-Where was the 75th Conference of Concurrent Depot Commanders organized?**

(a) New Delhi (b) Bangalore (c) Barmer (d) Jammu

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts**

- A continuous medical education program was organized on Medical Logistics and Supply Chain Management along with the 75th Conference of Concurrent Depot Commanders in New Delhi organized on April 6-7, 2017.
- The conference was organized by the Directorate of Armed Forces Medical Services.
- The theme of the conference was 'Medical Logistics for Armed Forces in Digital India-Transforming Logistics through Technology Automation and innovation'.
- During this conference, issues related to medical logistics, supply chain, medical stores and inventory management were discussed.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160512>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60317>

## 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference

**Question: Where was the 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference organized?**

(a) Raipur (b) Dehradun (c) New Delhi (d) Port Blair

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On 3-7 April, 2017, the 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference was organized in Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The conference was organized by the Forest Research Institute in collaboration with the Indian Forest Research and Education Council, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Government of India and Commonwealth Forestry Cooperation Organization.
- The theme of this conference was 'Forests for Prosperity and Posterity'.
- The conference was held for the second time in India.
- The first conference was organized in New Delhi in 1968.



**Related Links:-**

[http://www.cfc2017.in/wp-](http://www.cfc2017.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Final_Conference_Program_small-size.pdf)

[content/uploads/2015/11/Final\\_Conference\\_Program\\_small-size.pdf](http://www.cfc2017.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Final_Conference_Program_small-size.pdf)

<http://www.indianhighcommission.com.my/commerce/news.php?nid=177>

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/dehradun/19th-commonwealth-forestry-conference-concludes-at-fri.html>

## World Environment Conference

**Question: Which agency recently organized the World Environment Conference in New Delhi?**

(a) Ministry of Earth Sciences (b) Policy Commission  
(c) National Green Tribunal (d) Ministry of Tourism

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 25, 2017, the 'World Environment Conference' was organized by the National Green Tribunal in New Delhi.
- During this conference, experience and information shared with the exchange of ideas about environmental issues.
- It is a constitutional obligation of the states under the Indian Constitution to protect the environment and provide protection to the forests and wildlife of the country.
- Under the Paris Convention, the governments of the world have expressed their resolve that they will make a significant reduction in carbon emissions to keep global warming below 2 degree centigrade.
- Government of India has set a target to generate renewable energy of 175 GW by 2022.



- By 2030, 40 percent of our installed capacity will be based on non-fossil fuels.

**Related Links:-**

- <https://twitter.com/RashtrapatiBhvn/status/845568058903052289>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159942>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60136>

## SASEC Finance Ministers Conference

**Question: Which country participated in the meeting of South Asian Sub Region Economic Cooperation (SASEC) Finance Ministers in New Delhi as the seventh member?**

- (a) Bhutan (b) Maldives (c) Myanmar (d) Nepal

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 3, 2017, Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley chaired a meeting of Finance Ministers of South Asia Sub-Regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) in the Taj Palace in New Delhi.
- In this meeting, along with India, the Finance Ministers of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal and Sri Lanka participated with officials of these countries and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- During the meeting, the Finance Minister launched the SASEC Vision.
- This program will provide an opportunity for exchange of ideas and better cooperation to member countries of this sub-region.
- In this meeting Myanmar participated as the seventh member in the SASEC program.



**Related Links:-**

- <https://www.adb.org/news/events/sasec-finance-ministers-meeting>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160430>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60270>

## National Tribal and North East Conclave-2017

**Question: The National Tribal and North-Eastern Arts Conclave-2017 was organized by...**

- (a) Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region  
 (b) Ministry of Culture  
 (c) Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi  
 (d) Ministry of Tourism

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**



- On March 28, 2017, “National tribal and north east art conclave -2017” was inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent Charge).
- The 7-day conclave was inaugurated on 28 March and will conclude on 4 April, 2017 at the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi. It was organized by the Lalit Kala Akademi (under the Ministry of Culture), New Delhi.
- During the conclave, more than 12 styles of tribal art were exhibited.
- During the program, leather painting was exhibited mainly by the Cheriyal painter of Telangana, the miniature painting of south India, the Patachitra art of Odisha, the fresco painting of Rajasthan, along with the artists of Bhil, Mina and Andhra Pradesh.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/NEWSITE/hindirelease.aspx?reliid=60179>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?reliid=160103>

## 9th World Environmental Education Congress

**Question: Where will the 9th World Environmental Education Congress be held?**

(A) Ottawa (B) Montreal (C) Toronto (D) Vancouver

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The 9th World Environmental Education Congress will be held in Vancouver BC, Canada from 9-15 September, 2017.
- The World Environmental Education Congress (WEEC) is an International Congress which addresses education for environment and sustainability.
- Theme of this event was– “ Culture / Environment: Weaving New Connections ”



**Related Links:-**

<http://weec2017.eco-learning.org/>

[http://weecnetwork.org/congresses/9weec/:](http://weecnetwork.org/congresses/9weec/)

## Second meeting of National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

**Question- Where will the second meeting of ‘National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction’ (NPDRR) be held between April 24-25, 2017?**

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

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 6, 2017; Union Minister of State for Home Hansraj Gangaram Ahir launched the website for the second meeting of National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR).



- The second meeting of National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction was held on 24-25 April, 2017 in New Delhi on provisional basis.
- The theme of this two-day meeting was 'Disaster Risk Reduction: 'Making India Flexible By 2030' for Sustainable Development.
- NPDRR is a multi-stakeholder national Platform chaired by the Union Home Minister, which includes representatives of the Central Government, State Government, local self-government, parliament, disaster related experts, agencies, institutions of national importance, industry, media, and civil society organizations.
- It promotes participation in decision-making in disaster management and strengthens the country's federal policy. It is worth mentioning that the first meeting of the NPDRR was held on May 13, 2013 in New Delhi.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160577>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60321>

[https://twitter.com/MIB\\_India/status/849913564638855169](https://twitter.com/MIB_India/status/849913564638855169)

<http://www.npdrr2-mha.net.in/>

## **ASSOCIATIONS & ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Approval for setting up of a National Commission for socially and Educationally Backward Classes (NSEBC)**

**Question: Which of the followings institution is to be set up by dissolving the National Backward Classes Commission?**

- (a) National Commission for Educationally Backward Class
- (b) National Commission for Socially Backward Class
- (c) National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Class
- (d) National Samrasta Commission

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 23, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of National Social and Educational Backward Classes Commission (NSEBC) as a Constitutional body for socially and educationally backward classes.
- An amendment to the Constitution by inserting an article 338B shall be made to give Constitutional status to this commission.
- The commission shall comprise one Chairman, one Vice-Chairman and three members.
- The cabinet has also approved the Repeal of National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 and Dissolution of the Commission constituted under the Act of 1993.
- The bill is the resultant of the demands for constitutional status for the National Commission for Backward Classes in order to allow it to hear the grievances of



OBCs in the same manner as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes hear complaints.

**Related Link:**

<http://www.aninews.in/newsdetail-Mg/MzA1NDUz/cabinet-approves-setting-up-of-nsebc-as-constitutional-body.html>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-approves-setting-up-of-nsebc-117032300350\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-approves-setting-up-of-nsebc-117032300350_1.html)

## LAW & JUSTICE

### Cabinet Approves changes to Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill 2016

**Question- When did the Union Cabinet approve changes in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016?**

(a) March 31, 2017 (b) April 1, 2017 (c) April 2, 2017  
(d) April 3, 2017

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 31st, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved changes in the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016.
- The bill provides for linking of driving license and vehicle registration with Aadhaar-based platform and proposes heavy penalties for traffic violations.
- The Bill proposes Aadhaar-based verification for grant of online services including learner's license without visiting transport office.
- This would ensure the integrity of the online services and also stop creation of duplicate licenses.
- After the bill is approved vehicle dealers will be authorized to issue vehicle numbers and register them through an all-India electronic register.



**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160385>

### Amendment in 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' approved by Cabinet

**Question:- 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' came into effect on ...**

(a) March 1, 2010 (b) April 1, 2010  
(c) April 5, 2011 (d) April 1, 2012

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**



- On March 22, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the amendments 'The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009' under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- This will ensure that all teachers, in position as on 31st March, 2015, acquire the minimum qualifications prescribed by the academic authority to extend the period for such training for four years up to 31st March, 2019.
- This will enable the in-service untrained elementary teachers to complete their training and ensure that all teachers at the elementary level in the country have a certain minimum standard of qualifications.
- This would also ensure that all Teachers would attain minimum qualifications as considered necessary to maintain the standard of teaching quality.
- The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, is effective from 1st April, 2010. It envisages free and compulsory elementary education to every child in the age group of 6-14 years.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159739>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60091>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/cabinet-approves-amendment-to-the-right-of-children-to-free-and-compulsory-education-act-2009/](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/cabinet-approves-amendment-to-the-right-of-children-to-free-and-compulsory-education-act-2009/)

## Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill 2017

**Question-Footwear Design and Development Institute was founded in ...**

- (a) Year 1984 (b) Year 1985 (c) Year 1986  
(d) Year 1988

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 5, 2017, Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill 2017 was passed in the Lok Sabha.
- This Bill provided for the establishment of the Footwear Design and Development Institute (FDDI) as an institution of national importance.
- It is notable that the footwear design and development institute was established in 1986.



**Related Link:-**

[http://164.100.47.4/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/PassedLoksabha/45-C\\_2017\\_LS\\_Eng.pdf](http://164.100.47.4/BillsTexts/LSBillTexts/PassedLoksabha/45-C_2017_LS_Eng.pdf)

## Gujarat Animal Protection (Amendment) Bill 2017

**Question: The ban on the transport and slaughter of cow and cattle was imposed by the Gujarat Government in ...**

- (a) Year 2010 (b) Year 2011 (c) Year 2012 (d) Year 2013

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 31, 2017, Gujarat Animal Protection (Amendment) Bill 2017 was passed in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.
- This bill was introduced by the Minister of State for Home Pradip Singh Jadeja in the state assembly.
- The Bill provisions for at least 10 years and maximum life imprisonment and a penalty of five lakh rupees for those found involved in cow slaughter.
- The Bill also bans transportation of animals from one place to another at night while providing for permanent forfeiture of vehicles involved in the transportation of progeny of cows, beef and beef products.
- Cows transport will be restricted from evening 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. in the morning.
- In 2011, the transport and slaughter of cow and cattle was banned in Gujarat.

**Related Links:-**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/8561802\\_Life-term-for-cow-slaughter-in-Gujarat-Assembly-clears-bill](http://www.ptinews.com/news/8561802_Life-term-for-cow-slaughter-in-Gujarat-Assembly-clears-bill)

## YEAR, DAY & WEEK

### World Malaria Day

**Question- On April 25, 2017, 'World Malaria Day' was celebrated all over the world.**

**What is the main theme of this day for year 2017?**

- (a) Invest in the future, defeat malaria (b) End malaria for good  
(c) Beat malaria (d) Prevent malaria

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- World Malaria Day was celebrated all over the world on April 25, 2017.
- The theme of this day for 2017 is 'End Malaria for Good'.
- According to the World Malaria Report 2016, 212 million new cases of malaria were reported worldwide in the year 2015, resulting in a total of 4.29 lakhs deaths. According to this, a child dies of malaria in every two minutes.
- According to another report, between 2010 and 2015, the number of new cases of malaria risk decreased by 21 percent in the world.
- According to the World Malaria Report, in 2015, 90 percent of the total cases of the entire world and 92 percent of total deaths were in the African region.
- It is known that the infection of malaria spreads through female anopheles mosquitoes, which takes parasite called Plasmodium from one body to another.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.who.int/campaigns/malaria-day/2017/en/>  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs094/en/>  
[https://twitter.com/MoHFW\\_INDIA/status/856762104233291776](https://twitter.com/MoHFW_INDIA/status/856762104233291776)



## National Panchayati Raj Day

**Question: On April 24th, 2017, 'National Panchayati Raj Day' was celebrated across the country. The day is observed to commemorate the passage of ...**

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

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 24, 2016 National Panchayati Raj Day was celebrated across the country.
- It is notable that the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 that came into force with effect from 24th April, 1993 institutionalized Panchayati Raj through the village, Intermediate and District level Panchayats.
- You-Tube Channel of Ministry of Panchayati Raj with short films on Best Practices and schemes of Government of India was launched on this occasion.
- Quarterly magazine with QR codes and its online version for access to PRIs over mobile phones was also released.
- National awards viz., Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar, Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar to be conferred upon Panchayati Raj Institutions and e-Panchayat Puraskars to State Governments.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161182>

<http://airnews.nic.in/Panchayati.asp>



## World Book and Copyright Day-2017

**Question: 'World Book and Copyright Day' was celebrated on April 23, 2017 all over the world. Which of the following cities was chosen as the 'World's Book Capital' this year?**

- (a) Inchiool (b) Mumbai (c) Conakry (d) Shanghai

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 23, 2017, World Book and Copyright Day was celebrated across the world. World Book and Copyright Day is an opportunity to highlight the power of books to promote our vision of knowledge societies.
- This year, the African country of Guinea, Conakry has been chosen as World Book Capital. UNESCO created the World Book and Copyright Day in its General Conference, held in Paris in 1995, to pay a world-wide tribute to books and authors on this date.

**Related Link:**

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

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/wbcd>



## World Earth Day

**Question: – The them for World Earth Day 2017 is ...**

- (a) Tree for the Earth (b) Water for the Earth
- (c) Earth and climate change
- (d) Environment and Climate Literacy

**Ans : (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 22, 2017, World Earth Day was celebrated all over the world.
- 'World Earth Day' is also celebrated as 'International Mother Earth Day'.
- The theme for World Earth Day 2017 is "Environmental & Climate Literacy".
- World Earth Day is celebrated every year since 1970, to spread awareness about the importance of Earth's preservation.
- The United Nations decided to designate 22 April as International Mother Earth Day through resolution A/RES/63/278, adopted in 2009.



**Related Links:-**

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

<http://www.earthday.org/about/the-history-of-earth-day/>

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

<http://www.earthday.org/earthday/global-environmental-climate-literacy-campaign/>

## Civil Service Day

**Question: 'Civil Service Day' is celebrated on...**

- (a) April 20 (b) April 19 (c) April 24 (d) April 21

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- 'Civil Service Day' was celebrated on April 21, 2017.
- The Government of India decided to celebrate 21st April every year as 'Civil Service Day' in 2006.
- Its aim is to provide an opportunity for civil servants to re-submit themselves to the citizens and to reshape their commitment to excellence in public service and work.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161192>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161201>

[http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-presents-awards-addresses-civil-servants-on-civil-services-day/?comment=disable](http://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-presents-awards-addresses-civil-servants-on-civil-services-day/?comment=disable)

## World Hemophilia Day 2017

**Question: 'World Hemophilia Day' is celebrated on**

(a) April 16 (b) April 17 (c) April 10 (d) April 15

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 17, 2017, World Hemophilia Day was observed across the world.
- The theme for World Hemophilia Day 2017 is – “Hear Their Voices”.
- World Hemophilia Day is celebrated to spread awareness in public about Hemophilia and supports those with hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.
- Hemophilia (lifelong bleeding disorders that prevent blood from clotting properly) is an inherited disease. People with hemophilia can experience uncontrolled bleeding in comparison to others that can result from a seemingly minor injury.
- Hemophilia is far more common among males than females.
- There are two main types of hemophilia – Hemophilia A (due to clotting factor VIII deficiency) and Hemophilia B (due to clotting factor IX deficiency).

**Related Link:**

<https://www.wfh.org/en/whd>

<http://www.hemophiliaworld.org/2016/12/world-hemophilia-day-2017-lighting-it-up-red-in-2017/>



## World Heritage Day

**Question: How many of India's current sites are included in the World Heritage List?**

(a) 36 (b) 78 (c) 35 (d) 32

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 18, 2017, World Heritage Day or International Day for Monuments and Sites was celebrated across the world.
- The aim to celebrate this day is to enhance awareness of the importance of world heritage sites and to attract people's attention to protect and conserve them.
- In 1982, the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) based in France, announced April 18th as the “World Heritage Day”, approved by the General Assembly of UNESCO in 1983.
- Idea behind the International Day for Monuments and Sites or World Heritage Day was originated at a symposium organized by ICOMOS in Tunisia on April 18th, 1982.
- At present total 35 sites of India are included in the World Heritage list.
- Out of which 27 are of cultural category, 7 belong to natural and 1 is from mixed category.

**Related Link:**

<http://www.icomos.org/en/9-uncategorised?start=21>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/visakhapatnam/world-heritage-day-a-call-to-all-to-save-our-past/articleshow/58210971.cms>





## International Day of Sport for Development and Peace

**Question- 'International Day of Sport for Development and Peace' (IDSDP) is celebrated on ...**

(a) April 5 (b) March 25 (c) April 6 (d) 30th March

**Ans: (c)**



**Related facts:-**

- On April 6, 2017, the 'International Day of Sport for Development and Peace' was celebrated all over the world.
- The purpose of this day is to promote the role and contribution of games in the society. April 6, was designated as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in 2013.
- It is notable that on April 6, 1896, the first modern Olympic Games in Athens (Greece) were inaugurated.

**Related Links:-**

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

<https://www.olympic.org/idsdp>

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/events/prizes-and-celebrations/celebrations/international-days/international-day-of-sport-for-development-and-peace/>

## National Maritime Day

**Question: National Maritime Day is celebrated every year on ...**

(a) April, 1 (b) April, 5 (c) March, 29 (d) April, 2

**Ans: (b)**



- 54th National Maritime Day of India was celebrated on April 5.
- National Maritime Day is celebrated in commemoration of the maiden voyage of S.S Loyalty, India's first merchant vessel from Mumbai to London on April 5, 1919.
- The London-based International Maritime Organisation is the United Nation's specialized agency responsible for improving maritime safety and preventing pollution from ships.
- The Organisation also convenes international maritime conferences and drafts international maritime conventions from time to time. IMO has 158 countries as its members; India became its member in 1959.
- India has about 7516 kilometres of coastline serviced by a total of 199 ports.
- 12 of them are under a special status as Major Ports which are under the purview of the Central Government. Ennore in Tamil Nadu has been declared as the 12th Major Port.
- Minor ports come under the jurisdiction of the respective State Governments.
- The Indian Ports Act (IPA), 1908 is the governing Act which defines the jurisdiction of Central and State Governments over ports.

- Major Ports are autonomous bodies, managed by Board of Trustees under the overall control of the Central Government through the Ministry of Shipping. Major Ports are administered under the framework of Major Port Trusts Act (MPTA), 1963.

**Related Link:**

<http://shipping.nic.in/index1.php?lang=1&level=0&linkid=16&lid=64>  
<http://pib.nic.in/feature/feyr2001/fmar2001/f260320011.html>

## World Health Day

**Question- Theme of World Health Day 2017 is..**

- (a) Food security-global scenario (b) Eliminate diabetes  
 (c) Depression: Let's talk things (d) Climate change

**Ans: (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 07, 2017, World Health Day was celebrated worldwide.
- Theme of World Health Day 2017 is "Depression: Let's talk things".
- World Health Organization is also conducting a 1 year global campaign on depression.
- This campaign of World Health Day 2017 was started in 10 October 2016.
- The goal of this campaign is to help more and more people suffering from depression everywhere in the world.
- Significantly, more than 300 million people are suffering from depression. It increased by more than 18 percent between the year 2005 and 2015.
- World Health Day is celebrated on April 07, to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organization (W.H.O.).
- The World Health Organization is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.



**Related Links:-**

[https://www.nhp.gov.in/world-health-day-2017\\_pg](https://www.nhp.gov.in/world-health-day-2017_pg)  
<http://www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/2017/en/>  
<https://twitter.com/narendramodi/status/850166376719196160>

## World Autism Awareness Day

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

- (a) April 2 (b) April 1 (c) March 31 (d) April 3

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 02, 2017, World Autism Awareness Day was celebrated across the globe.
- This year's theme of this day is – 'Towards Autonomy and Self-Determination'.
- The purpose of this day is to take steps to improve the lives of the children with autism and help them to lead a meaningful life.



- Autism is a serious developmental disorder that disrupts communication and ability to communicate.
- It affects the nervous system and affects the person's overall cognitive, emotional, social and physical health.

**Related Links:-**

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

[https://www.nhp.gov.in/World-Autism-Awareness-Day\\_pg](https://www.nhp.gov.in/World-Autism-Awareness-Day_pg)

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Air India reduces the age limit of senior citizen

**Question: How recently has the age limit for senior citizens set for Air India's travel concession?**

(a) 60 years (b) 62 years (c) 63 years (d) 65 years

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 21, 2017 Air India revised the age limit for senior citizens for travel concession.
- Age limit to avail travel concession has been fixed at 60 years.
- Earlier, the age limit prescribed for travel concession was 63 years.
- As per the revised rules, any senior citizen who is an Indian national, permanently resides in India and has attained the age of 60 on the date of commencement of journey, shall be entitled to a 50% discounted ticket in economy class on the basic RBD (reservation booking designators) fare.
- The revised age limit has been implemented with immediate effect only for all domestic flights.
- The claimants would be required to produce a valid photo-identity card with the date of birth, like Aadhaar, Voters ID, Driving License, Passport or Senior Citizens ID card issued by Air India at the time of booking.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.airindia.in/senior-citizen-concession.htm>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/air-india-revises-senior-citizen-age-eligible-for-50-discount-from-63-to-60/story-ypNBXANqmHrzTDiqCfFX2H.html>

### The first freight train between the UK and China

**Question- What is incorrect in relation to the first freight train which left for China from the United Kingdom recently?**

- (A) This shipment will cover approximately 7500 miles.
- (B) This cargo will pass through 6 countries.
- (C) It will go from Stanford Lee-Hope's DP world London



Gateway rail terminal to Yiwu city of Zhejiang province.

(D) British goods, including various products, have been dispatched from 30 containers laden on this shipment.

**Ans : (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 10, 2017, from the United Kingdom, the first freight train left for the China.
- The goods train will reach China by covering approximately 7500 miles in 17 days.
- The British goods, including soft drinks, vitamins and baby products, have been sent to China in 30 containers loaded on this freight train.
- It departed from Stanford-Lee Hope's DP World London Gateway Rail Terminal to Yiwu city of Zhejiang Province (East China).
- This cargo will pass through 7 countries – France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan and reach its destination on April 27.
- Under this program, China wants to give a new start to an almost 2000-year-old Silk Road Trading Route, which connects it with western countries.

**Related Links:-**

<http://www.londongateway.com/news/press-releases/global-britain-open-business-first-uk-china-train-loaded-full-export-containers-depa/>

## TAL launches first indigenous robot

**Question: Country's first indigenous industrial robot was launched by TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a fully-owned subsidiary of Tata Motors. The name of this robot is –**

(a) Beve (b) Brabo (c) Vabro (d) Lakshmi

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 11, 2017, TAL Manufacturing Solutions launched the country's first indigenous industrial robot 'Brabo'.
- It has been designed and manufactured in the country itself.
- Brabo is developed in the range of 2 Kg, 5Kg and 10 Kg payload and priced between INR Rs. 5 – 7 lakhs.
- It is designed and styled in-house at TAL Manufacturing and Tata Elxsi respectively. Some of the critical components of the robot have been manufactured by Tata AutoCorp.
- This robot is conceptualized to complement human workforce and perform repetitive, high volume, dangerous and time consuming tasks.
- Robot 'Brabo' can be deployed across industries.
- Brabo increases productivity upto 15-30 per cent.



**Related Link:**

<http://www.tal.co.in/robotics/>

## Free legal help to women suffering from triple talaq

**Question: Which state of India has recently arranged to provide free legal help to women suffering from triple talaq?**

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Odisha (d) Kerala

**Ans: (d)**

**Related facts:-**

- According to the reports published on April 5, 2017, free legal help to women suffering from triple talaq will be provided by the state government in Kerala.
- The State Minority Commission has initiated this initiative.
- Minority Commission Chairman P.K. Haneef has been ordered to make panels of legal advisers in all the 14 districts of Kerala.
- These women will include 4 women advocates.
- The women suffering from triple talaq can contact the panel directly. Panel will provide legal help to women victims.
- It is worth mentioning that these days issue of triple talaq is in great discussion and hearing of its legality is doing the constitutional bench of the Supreme Court.
- Triple talaq is a system under Muslim communities, under which a man can divorce his wife by saying three times talaq talaq talaq or by writing (by message).



**Related links;-**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/kerala-launches-free-legal-aid-in-triple-talaq-cases/1/921983.html>

<http://www.jagran.com/news/national-free-legal-help-to-triple-talaq-victims-in-kerala-15809511.html>

## Approval of establishment of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy

**Question:- The Union Cabinet recently approved the establishment of the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) in ...**

(A) Surat (B) Jamnagar (C) Visakhapatnam (D) Mumbai

**Ans : (c)**

**Related facts:-**

- On April 12, 2017, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy (IIPE) in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).
- In addition, the Cabinet also sanctioned Rs 655.46 crore for the establishment of this institute. It will be an institution of national importance under an Act passed by the Parliament. This institute will be able to give degree like IIT and its operational structure will be like IIT.

**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160972>



## Book release by PM Modi

**Question: The book 'Matoshree', recently released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is written by which of the followings persons?**

- (a) Lal Krishna Advani (b) Sumitra Mahajan  
(c) Uddhav Thackeray (d) Meera Kumar

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 11, 2017, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the book 'Matoshree' written by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.
- This book is based on the life of the Maratha Queen Ahilyabai Holkar of Indore, dealing with the facts of her life and time period.
- She adopted high ideals of good governance, which established a peaceful, stable and prosperous state in India.
- The book 'Matoshree' depicted 15 important events of the life and struggle of Rani Ahilyabai Holkar.

**Related Link:**

[https://twitter.com/PIB\\_India/status/851809869740912642](https://twitter.com/PIB_India/status/851809869740912642)

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-releases-lok-sabha-speaker-sumitra-mahajan-s-book-matoshree-535030>



## Launching of 'nakshe' portal

**Question: Which one of the followings Ministry recently launched the 'nakshe' portal?**

- (A) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas  
(B) Ministry of Labor and Employment  
(C) Ministry of Science and Technology  
(D) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On April 10, 2017, the Ministry of Science and Technology launched the 'nakshe' portal.
- Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science Technology and Earth Sciences, launched new web portal on 250th Anniversary of Indian Survey (SOI).
- It is notable that the Survey of India is the principal mapping agency of the country, established in the year 1767. It is the oldest scientific department in India and one of the oldest survey establishments in the world.
- It is noteworthy that foundation for the scientific survey and mapping of the country was laid with The Great Trigonometric Survey (GTS) in 19th century on this day i.e. 10th April, 1802, by noted surveyors Col. Lambton and Sir George Everest.
- The SOI surveyed and mapped each and every part of the country and these maps have played an invaluable role in the saga of India's nation building and were





pivotal in the foundation of almost all major developmental activities of modern India.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60380>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160805>

## Minimum support price for Copra approved

**Question: What is the minimum support price for proper average quality of 'Milling Copra' for season 2017?**

- (A) Rs 6,785 per quintal (B) Rs 65,00 per quintal  
(C) Rs 6,240 per quintal (D) Rs 5,950 per quintal

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:-**

- Under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the minimum support price of Rs 6,500 per quintal for the year 2017 for the proper average quality of 'Milling Copra'. It was Rs. 5950 per quintal last year.
- The minimum support price for the year 2017 season has been fixed at Rs. 6,785 per quintal for the proper and average 'Ball Copra'. In 2016, it was Rs 6,240 per quintal. This clearance has been given on the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- Copra is referred for coconut or gari.



**Related Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=159745>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=60098>

## Cabinet approves closure of Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana

**Question: Which of the following is not correct about PIO (Person of Indian Origin) card holder?**

- (a) PIO card holders do not require a visa to visit India for a period of 15 years from the date of issue of the PIO card.  
(b) They are exempted from registration at FRRO/FRO if their stay does not exceed 180 days.  
(c) They enjoy parity with NRIs in economic, financial and educational benefits.  
(d) PIO cardholders enjoy employment rights in Government of India services.

**Ans: (d)**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved closure of the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana (MGPSY) on 5th April, 2017. This scheme was set up in 2012 to address the social security-related issues of the Emigration Check Required (ECR)-category workers going abroad for employment to ECR countries.



- The reason for closure of the scheme is low subscription under the MGPSY. There was no new subscription for more than a year.
- Closure of the scheme will prevent recurring administrative and record-keeping expenditure.

**Related Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=160555>  
[https://mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryQuickLink/703\\_PIO-OCI.pdf](https://mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryQuickLink/703_PIO-OCI.pdf)

## Increase in financial grant to pilgrims

**Question: Amount of Grant announced by the Uttar Pradesh Government for Kailash Mansarovar journey is...**

(a) 50 thousand (b) 75 thousand (c) 1 lakh (d) 1.5 lakh

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On March 25, 2017, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath announced a financial grant of Rs 1lakh to the pilgrims of the State willing to go on Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. The amount the grant given by the State government previously was 50 thousand rupees.
- The government has also decided to construct a Mansarovar Bhawan somewhere near Delhi or any other state for the benefit of the pilgrims.
- This will encourage the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra.



**Related Links:**

<http://www.upnews360.in/Detail.aspx?id=67622&ln=HI>  
<http://www.upnews360.in/Detail.aspx?id=67622&ln=EN>  
[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=17](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=17)

## New rules for GPF clearance

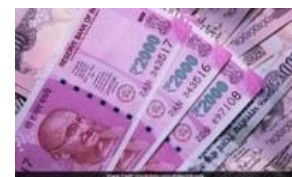
**Question: Under the new rules of GPF clearance, the employees can now withdraw their GPF's money for special work, after the completion how many years of their job?**

(a) 10 years (b) 12 years (c) 15 years (d) 18 years

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:-**

- On March 7, 2017, the Central Government announced the simplification of general provident fund GPF clearance rules.
- The employees will now be able to withdraw their GPF's money after 10 years of employment for special work. In the past, the limit was 15 years.



**Related Links:-**

<http://ajitak.intoday.in/story/new-rules-for-gpf-withdrawal-15-day-limit-for-getting-money-1-916481.html>