

ALL THE BEST for UPSC CSE-PRELIMS : 2017

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1) Consider the following statements regarding Agni-IV missile that was test-fired successfully on January 2, 2017.

I. It is a surface-to-surface missile

II. It can carry nuclear warheads

III. It can carry warheads weighing up to 1 tonne

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) II only

b) I and II only

c) II only

d) I, II & III

2) Consider the following statements regarding Agni-IV missile that was test-fired successfully on January 2, 2017.

I. It is a single stage missile

II. It uses solid fuel

III. It uses liquid fuel

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) II only

b) I and II only

c) II only

d) II and III only

India successfully test-fired its intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-IV from the Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island off Odisha coast on January 2, 2017. The test was aimed at revalidating new technologies incorporated in Agni-IV system and checking the readiness of armed forces to launch the missile on its own. Agni-IV is a two-stage, surface-to-surface missile that is 20 metres long and weighs 17 tonnes. Agni-IV uses solid fuel. It can carry a one-tonne nuclear warhead over a distance of 4,000 kilometres. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) designed and developed AGNI-IV. This was the sixth test of the missile and second user associate launch from the Wheeler Island. Before January 2, 2017, the missile was tested successfully on November 9, 2015.

3) Women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children would receive how much financial assistance as per an announcement made by the Prime Minister on December 31, 2016?

a) Rs. 10,000

b) Rs. 8,000

c) Rs. 6,000

d) Rs. 4,000

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced that women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children would get an assistance of Rs 6,000, a move aimed to improve maternal mortality rate and health of the mother and the child. "We are introducing a nation-wide scheme for financial assistance to pregnant women. Rs 6,000 will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children," he said. So far pregnant women in 53 districts were getting an assistance of Rs 4,000 under the pilot project.

4) The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was signed between India and Pakistan in which year?

- a) 1950 b) 1960 c) 1970 d) 1980

5) Which of the following has a specific role of dispute resolution on Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan?

- a) International Monetary Fund b) United Nations c) Asian Development Bank d) World Bank

6) Pakistan has objected to the construction of Kishanganga Hydroelectric Plant by India. The Plant will divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in which river's basin?

- a) Ravi b) Indus c) Jhelum d) Beas

7) Pakistan has objected to the construction of Ratle Hydroelectric Plant by India. The Plant is under construction on which of the following rivers?

- a) Ravi b) Indus c) Jhelum d) Chenab

8) Who among the following Presidents of Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with India?

- a) Ayub Khan
b) Yahya Khan
c) Iskander Mirza
d) Fazal Ilahi Chaudhry

India on January 5, 2017 asked the World Bank not to rush in to broker a deal on its dispute with Pakistan over Kishanganga and Ratle project, asserting that the differences can be resolved bilaterally or through a neutral expert. India's position was conveyed during a meeting World Bank representative Ian H Solomon held with senior officials of External Affairs and Water Resources ministries in New Delhi. Solomon had come as part of World Bank's efforts to break the deadlock between the two neighbours on the Kishanganga and Ratle project which are coming up in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed by India and Pakistan in 1960, the World Bank has a specific role of dispute resolution between the two countries.

The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank (then the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development). The treaty was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960 by Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan. According to this agreement, control over the three "eastern" rivers — the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej — was given to India, while control over the three "western" rivers — the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum — to Pakistan.

The **Kishanganga** Hydroelectric Plant is run-of-the-river hydroelectric scheme that is designed to divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in the Jhelum River basin. It is located 5 km north of Bandipore in Jammu and Kashmir and will have an installed capacity of 330 MW. Construction on the project began in 2007 and is expected to be complete in 2016. Construction on the dam was temporarily halted by the Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration in October 2011 due to Pakistan's protest of its effect on the flow of the Kishanganga River (called the Neelum River in Pakistan). In February 2013, The Hague ruled that India could divert a minimum amount of water for power generation.

The **Ratle** Hydroelectric Plant is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station currently under construction on the Chenab River, downstream of the village of Ratle in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

9) The Election Commission announced schedule for assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa on January 4, 2017. What is the election spending limit for candidates in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand according to EC's rules?

- a) Rs. 36 lakh
b) Rs. 32 lakh
c) Rs. 28 lakh
d) Rs. 24 lakh

10) What is the election spending limit for candidates in Goa and Manipur in the forthcoming Assembly elections according to Election Commission's rules?

- a) Rs. 36 lakh
b) Rs. 32 lakh

c) Rs. 28 lakh

d) Rs. 20 lakh

Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa will be held between February 4 and March 8, the Election Commission announced on January 4, 2017. Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi said all candidates have been directed to open bank accounts, and pay for all expenses above Rs.20,000 through cheques. The maximum limit for expenses for each candidate in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand is Rs.28 lakh. In Goa and Manipur, the limit is Rs.20 lakh.

11) Cabinet approved signing of agreement with Uruguay on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters in January 2017. Which of the following is the currency of Uruguay?

a) Sol

b) Real

c) Bolivar

d) Peso

12) Which of the following is the capital of Uruguay?

a) Asuncion

b) Paramaribo

c) Belmopan

d) Montevideo

The Cabinet on January 4, 2017 approved the signing and ratifying an agreement between India and Uruguay on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters. Uruguay is an important trading partner of India among members of the MERCOSUR, a trading block in Latin America. India signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with the MERCOSUR which came into effect from 1st June, 2009. Uruguay has Montevideo as capital and Tabaré Vázquez as President. Countries and currencies: Peru-Sol, Brazil-Real, Venezuela-Bolivar, Uruguay-Peso and Paraguay-Guarani.

13) Which of the following hosted the 17th Swami Haridas-Tansen Sangeet-Nritya Mahotsava in January 2017?

a) Lucknow

b) Pune

c) Hyderabad

D) Delhi

Aiming to revive and enhance interest in traditional Indian art forms, particularly among the younger generation, the 17th Swami Haridas-Tansen Sangeet-Nritya Mahotsava, presented by HCL Concerts and Bharatiya Sangeet Sadan was organised in New Delhi from January 5 to 8, 2017.

14) Which of the following organised the 44th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair in New Delhi in January 2017?

a) Sahitya Akademi

b) National Book Trust

c) Press Information Bureau

d) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity

The 44th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on January 7, 2017. It has been themed 'Manushi', focusing on "writings on and by women". The 9-day-long fair, organised by National Book Trust (NBT), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, in association with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), will aim to show and project the diversity of writings by women writers. The fair will close on January 15.

15) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Sri Lanka's Mahinda Amaraweera who came on an official visit to New Delhi in January 2017?

a) Nitin Gadkari

b) Prakash Javadekar

c) Radha Mohan Singh

d) Sushma Swaraj

India and Sri Lanka held Ministerial level talks on fishermen issues on January 2, 2017 in Colombo. Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare of India Radha Mohan Singh met with Minister for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka Mahinda Amaraweera. The talks followed the first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on fisheries held in New Delhi on December 31, 2016. The Ministers exchanged views on possible mechanisms to help find a permanent solution to the fishermen issues.

16) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Sri Lanka's Samantha Wimalathunge who came on an official visit to New Delhi in January 2017?

- a) Bipin Rawat
- b) Rajendra Singh
- c) Sunil Lanba
- d) Krishna Chaudhary

A three member delegation led by Director General Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge visited India from January 3 to 5, 2017 for a High Level Meeting, with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The Indian delegation was led by Director General, Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh. The visit was in continuation of the various efforts by the governments of the two countries in furthering cooperation between the coast guards of two countries on maritime issues of mutual concerns to formulate a cooperative approach.

17) Which of the following hosted a three-day International Conference on "Yoga for Diabetes" in January 2017?

- a) Lucknow
- b) Pune
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Delhi

A three-day International Conference on "Yoga for Diabetes" organised in New Delhi from January 3 to 5, 2017. It was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shripad Yesso Naik. The conference held discussions on the role of Yoga in the prevention and management of Diabetes.

18) Smart Phones and Daisy Players were distributed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) on January 4, 2017. Whose birth anniversary was observed on this day?

- a) Louis Pasteur
- b) Karl Landsteiner
- c) Jonas Salk
- d) Louie Braille

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot participated in the event organized on the occasion of Sir Louie Braille's birth anniversary day in New Delhi on January 4, 2017. On the occasion, 270 Smart Phones and 40 Daisy Players were distributed to students with visual impairment under ADIP scheme of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Scholarships cheques worth Rs. 5.00 lakhs also distributed to each of 66 Students with visual impairment under National Scholarship Scheme of National Federation of the Blind.

19) Who among the following is the author of 'Chanakya in Daily Life' released recently?

- a) Ashwin Sanghi
- b) Radhakrishnan Pillai
- c) Kiran Nagarkar
- d) Chetan Bhagat

20) Ullekh N.P. is the author of a book on who among the following former Prime Ministers released in December 2016?

- a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- d) Manmohan Singh

Recent releases: Chanakya in Daily Life by Radhakrishnan Pillai, The Untold Vajpayee: Politician and Paradox by Ullekh N.P.

21) What was the highest civilian honour conferred on Om Puri who passed away in Mumbai on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri

22) Om Puri died on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He won the National Film Award for Best Actor for which of the following in in 1981?

- a) Aakrosh

- b) Arohan
- c) Bhavni Bhavai
- d) Dharavi

23) Om Puri died on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He won the National Film Award for Best Actor for which of the following in 1983?

- a) Ardh Satya
- b) Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron
- c) Dhoop
- d) Mirch Masala

24) Om Puri died on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He was conferred with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in ____.

- a) 2007
- b) 2009
- c) 2011
- d) 2013

Veteran actor Om Puri passed away in Mumbai on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He won National Film Award for Best Actor for "Arohan" in 1981 and "Ardh Satya" in 1983. He was honoured with the Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award in 1990. In 2004, was made an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He was conferred with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. Hailing from Ambala in Haryana, Puri studied at the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune. He was also an alumnus of the 1973 class of the National School of Drama. The actor made his film debut in 1976 with the Marathi film "Ghashiram Kotwal".

25) Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan passed away in Mumbai on January 4, 2017 at the age of 88. He was a noted exponent of which musical instrument?

- a) Sitar
- b) Tabla
- c) Sarangi
- d) Violin

26) Hindustani classical musician Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan passed away in Mumbai on January 4, 2017 at the age of 88. What was the highest civilian honour conferred on him?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri

Renowned sitar player Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan, - the last survivor of the 'Sitar Trinity' of India along with the late Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan - died in Mumbai on January 4, 2017 at the age of 88. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1970, Padma Bhushan in 2006 and was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 1987. Born in Jawra, Madhya Pradesh, he, during his music career spanning over six decades, played the sitar for various Bollywood films, including "Mughal-E-Azam", "Kohinoor", "Goonj Uthi Shehnai" and "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje", among many others.

27) Who among the following was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Air Staff in January 2017?

- a) K. K. Nohwar
- b) S. Mukerji
- c) D. C. Kumaria
- d) S. B. Deo

Air Marshal S B Deo on January 2, 2017 took over as Vice Chief of Air Staff.

28) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in January 2017?

- a) Jacob M. Nisamoah
- b) Winston S. Acheampong
- c) Martin J. Rawlings
- d) David R. Syiemlieh

David R Syiemlieh was appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on January 2, 2017.

29) Rajen Habib Khwaja took charge as the Director General of which of the following institutions in January 2017?

- a) Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Delhi
- b) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune

c) Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru

d) Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad

Retired IAS officer Rajen Habib Khwaja took charge as the Director General of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) in Hyderabad on January 3, 2017. The ASCI was started jointly by the Government of India and the representatives of industry as an autonomous institute in the year 1956 to impart training in the field of management development. It specialises in training of civil servants and managers of corporate and government sectors and urban management.[]

30) India and _____ on January 1, 2016 exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between the two countries.

a) China

b) Russia

c) USA

d) Pakistan

India and Pakistan on January 1, 2017 exchanged respective lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between the two countries. The exchange was done through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad. This is the twenty sixth consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.

31) India and Kazakhstan signed a protocol to amend the existing double taxation avoidance convention (DTAC) on January 6, 2017. BEPS refers to:

a) Base Erosion and Profit Sharing

b) Base Erosion and Profit Shifting

c) Basic Erosion and Profit Sharing

d) Basic Erosion and Profit Shifting

India and Kazakhstan on January 6, 2017 signed a protocol to amend the existing double taxation avoidance convention (DTAC) between the two countries. The protocol has among other things inserted a limitation of benefits (LOB) article to provide a main purpose test to prevent misuse of the DTAC and to allow application of domestic law and measures against tax avoidance or evasion. The original DTAC was signed on December 9, 1996. The protocol also inserts specific provisions to facilitate relieving of economic double taxation in transfer pricing cases. This is a taxpayer-friendly measure and is in line with India's commitment under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) action plan to meet the minimum standard of providing mutual agreement procedure (MAP) access in transfer pricing cases. The protocol has inserted service Permanent Establishment (PE) provisions with a threshold and also provides that the profits to be attributed to PE will be determined on the basis of apportionment of total profits of the enterprise.

32) Which of the following is setting up an agency to combat a flood of news on social media that was "slanderous, fake, misleading and spread hate" in January 2017?

a) Indonesia

b) Malaysia

c) The Philippines

d) Singapore

Indonesia is setting up an agency that will tackle fake news after a flood of untrue stories on social media, an official said in Jakarta on January 5, 2017. The new cyber agency will also seek to protect state institutions from hackers, said the presidential spokesman. The government said that the move was necessary to combat a flood of news on social media that was "slanderous, fake, misleading and spread hate". Among the agency's tasks would be to monitor news circulating online to check for false stories. It will be overseen by the security ministry and will work alongside other government agencies. It came after President Joko Widodo declared his intention to combat fake news at a cabinet meeting in December 2016.

33) Which of the following has become the first country in Europe to pay its unemployed citizens a basic monthly income from January 2017?

a) The Netherlands

b) Denmark

c) Sweden

d) Finland

Finland has become the first country in Europe to pay its unemployed citizens an unconditional monthly sum, in a social experiment that will be watched around the world amid gathering interest in the idea of a universal basic income. Under the two-year, nationwide pilot scheme, which began on 1 January, 2,000 unemployed Finns aged 25 to 58 will receive a guaranteed sum of €560 (£475). The income will replace their existing social benefits and will be paid even if they find work. Kela, Finland's social security body, said the trial aimed to cut red tape, poverty and above all unemployment,

which stands in the Nordic country at 8.1%. The present system can discourage jobless people from working since even low earnings trigger a big cut in benefits.

34) Who among the following former Army Chiefs of Pakistan was appointed as head of Saudi Arabia-led 39-nation Islamic military coalition formed to combat terrorism in January 2017?

- a) Abdul Waheed Kakar
- b) Jehangir Karamat
- c) Pervez Musharraf
- d) Raheel Sharif

Pakistan's recently retired army chief Gen Raheel Sharif will head a Saudi Arabia-led 39-nation Islamic military coalition formed to combat terrorism, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in Islamabad on January 6, 2017. The headquarters of the new Saudi-led coalition would be based in Riyadh. The coalition includes countries like Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Sudan, Malaysia, Egypt and Yemen among others.

35) Indian-American Rajiv Shah was in news for his appointment as head of which of the following non-profit institutions in United States in January 2017?

- a) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- b) Bloomberg Foundation
- c) Carnegie Foundation
- d) Rockefeller Foundation

Rajiv Shah, a former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, will be the Rockefeller Foundation's next president, the U.S.-based philanthropic organization announced on January 4, 2017.

36) Who among the following was appointed as the Prime Minister of Romania in January 2017?

- a) Dacian Ciolos
- b) Sorin Grindeanu
- c) Traian Basescu
- d) Adrian Nastase

Veteran leftist Sorin Grindeanu has been named Romania's Prime Minister-designate by President Klaus Iohannis. The former telecommunications minister was proposed for the job on January 4, 2017 by Romania's Social Democrat party (PSD), victor of a general election in December 2016.

37) French police on January 5, 2017 arrested Ramush Haradinaj for alleged war crimes. He is the former Prime Minister of:

- a) Serbia
- b) Kosovo
- c) Croatia
- d) Macedonia

French police on January 5, 2017 arrested the former Prime Minister of Kosovo Ramush Haradinaj based on a Serbian arrest warrant for alleged war crimes. Haradinaj served as a rebel commander in the 1998-1999 Kosovo conflict, which eventually led to the Kosovo declaring independence. Haradinaj was arrested by police at Basel Mulhouse Freiburg airport in eastern France.

38) Who among the following is the artiste associated with the idea behind Disney film 'Bambi'? He died aged 106 in Los Angeles on December 30, 2016.

- a) Tim Blake
- b) Derek Parfit
- c) John Berger
- d) Tyrus Wong

British philosopher Derek Parfit died on January 2, 2017 in London at 74. John Berger, the British critic, novelist and screenwriter known for his 1972 television series and book, 'Ways of Seeing', died in Paris on January 2, 2017 at the age of 90. Tyrus Wong, the artist whose works inspired the Disney film 'Bambi', died aged 106 in Los Angeles on December 30, 2016. Kyriakos Amiridis, Greece's ambassador to Brazil, was murdered in Rio de Janeiro in December 2016.

39) A 'leap second' was added to the Indian clock at 5:29.59 hours on January 1, 2017 to synchronise with the Earth's rotational clock. This was done by which of the following government institutions?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) Indian Institute of Science
- c) National Physical Laboratory
- d) Centre for Advance Technology

A 'leap second' was added to the Indian clock at 5:29.59 hours on January 1, 2017 to synchronise with the Earth's rotational clock. As the atomic clock at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in New Delhi struck 23:59:59 on December 31, 2016, it was programmed to add an extra second to 2017 to compensate for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation.

Adding the leap second to the Indian clock is done by the NPL under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Atomic clocks are so precise that the margin of error in its functioning is just of a second in 100 million years. To be in sync with the Indian Standard Time (IST) and the Earth's rotational clock, the Indian clock need to be adjusted after the insertion of a leap second.

40) Who among the following is the General President of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) which organised the 104th Indian Science Congress in Tirupati in January 2017?

- a) R. Vishnu Vardhan
- b) Ashok Kumar Saxena
- c) Malay Bhattacharyya
- d) D. Narayana Rao

41) What was the theme of the 104th Indian Science Congress organised in Tirupati in January 2017?

- a) Science and Technology for Rural Development
- b) Science and Technology for Indigenous Development
- c) Science and Technology for Urban Development
- d) Science and Technology for National Development

The 104th Indian Science Congress (ISC) was organised at the Sri Venkateswara University Campus in Tirupati from January 2 to 7, 2017. Professor D. Narayana Rao is the General President of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) which organises the ISC. Theme of the 104th ISC was 'Science and Technology for National Development'. The 6th Women Science Congress was organised as part of the 104th ISC at the same venue on January 4, 2017. Children's Science Congress was organised at the same venue from January 4-6, 2017.

42) Who among the following was announced as the winner of Bharatiya Jnanpith's Navlekhan award in January 2017 for the poem 'Akash Mein Deh'?

- a) Amlendu Tiwari
- b) Balram Kawant
- c) Om Naagar
- d) Ghyansham Kumar Devansh

Two new Hindi writers Shradha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh have been chosen for Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award for the year 2016, the literary organisation announced in New Delhi on December 29, 2016. The decision to confer the award on Shradha for her short story, 'Hawa Mein Phadphadati Chitthi' and on Devansh for his poem 'Akash Mein Deh' was taken unanimously by a selection panel chaired by eminent poet Vishnu Nagar.

43) What is the new credit guarantee limit for small and medium businesses announced by the government on December 31, 2016?

- a) Rs. 1 crore
- b) Rs. 2 crore
- c) Rs. 3 crore
- d) Rs. 4 crore

To give a boost to the small entrepreneurs and job creation, the government on December 31, 2016 doubled the credit guarantee limit for small and medium businesses to Rs 2 crore to help them tide over the liquidity problems. Earlier, the scheme only covered bank loans. It will cover loans given by NBFCs (non-banking financial companies) as well. This decision will enable better access to credit for small shop-owners and small enterprises, the Prime Minister said, adding banks and NBFCs "will not" levy high interest on these loans, as the government is bearing the cost of underwriting them. The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, which provides bulk of employment, accounts for 45 per cent of India's manufacturing; 40 per cent of exports and nearly 8 per cent to the country's GDP.

44) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced ____ waiver from payment of interest on crop loan taken by farmers for the winter rabi sowing from district co-operative banks and primary societies.

- a) 30 days
- b) 45 days
- c) 60 days
- d) 75 days

Farmers will get 60 days waiver from payment of interest on crop loan taken for the winter rabi sowing from district co-operative banks and primary societies. Those who have already paid will get back the money in their accounts. This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016.

45) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced fixed 8 per cent return on bank deposits up to Rs 7.5 lakh of ____ maturity for Senior Citizens.

- a) 6 year
- b) 8 year

- c) 10 year
- d) 12 year

In order to protect senior citizens from any decline in interest rates, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 said they will get a fixed 8 per cent return on 10-year bank deposits of up to Rs 7.5 lakh. The interest will be paid monthly. Currently, banks give senior citizens an additional interest of 0.50 per cent over the regular rates on fixed deposits.

46) Consider the following regarding cash withdrawals from January 1, 2017?

- I. Daily cash withdrawal limit: Rs. 4500
- II. Weekly cash withdrawal limit from Banks (including ATMs) for individuals: Rs. 24,000
- III. Weekly cash withdrawal limit from Banks (including ATMs) for small traders: Rs. 50,000

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II and III

The Reserve Bank on December 30, 2016 said cash withdrawal limit from ATMs will be increased to Rs 4,500 per day from the current Rs 2,500 from January 1, 2017. However, there has been no change in the weekly withdrawal limit, which stands at Rs 24,000, including from ATM, for individuals (Rs 50,000 in case of small traders). Following demonetisation of old Rs 500/1000 notes on November 9, limits had been imposed on withdrawal of cash from banks as well as ATMs.

47) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 3, 2017 instructed banks to ensure that at least _____ of bank notes are supplied to rural areas

- a) 10 per cent
- b) 20 per cent
- c) 30 per cent
- d) 40 per cent

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 3, 2017 instructed banks to ensure that at least 40 per cent of bank notes are supplied to rural areas, in denomination of Rs 500 or below, as the notes being supplied to rural areas "are not commensurate with the requirements of rural population".

48) The Finance Ministry on January 2, 2017 notified the interest rates for different small savings schemes for the quarter ending March 2017. The highest rate is available on which of the following?

- a) Kisan Vikas Patra
- b) Public Provident Fund
- c) 5-year recurring deposit
- d) Sukanya Samridhhi Account

Interest rates of all small savings schemes for the January-March quarter have been kept unchanged at the levels of the previous quarter, a Finance Ministry notification said on January 2, 2017. "On the basis of the decision of the government, interest rates for small savings schemes are to be notified on a quarterly basis," the ministry said, notifying the interest rates for the fourth quarter of the current fiscal from January 1 to March 31. Investments in Public Provident Fund (PPF) as well as in the 5-year National Savings Certificate scheme will continue to earn an annual interest rate of 8 per cent. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) investments will continue to fetch 7.7 per cent and mature in 112 months. The Sukanya Samridhhi Account Scheme for the girl child and the 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will both continue to yield 8.5 per cent per annum. A savings deposit will fetch 4 per cent interest annually while term deposits of 1-5 years will offer 7-7.8 per cent. The 5-year recurring deposit will continue to yield 7.3 per cent.

49) The Indian economy is expected to grow _____ in 2016-17, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) said in its 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017.

- a) 6.9 per cent
- b) 7.1 per cent
- c) 7.3 per cent
- d) 7.5 per cent

50) Which of the following will see the worst growth (-1.8%) in 2016-17, according to Central Statistics Office's 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017?

- a) Manufacturing

- b) Agriculture
- c) Mining & Quarrying
- d) Financial services, real estate, insurance and professional services

51) Which of the following will see the best growth (9%) a negative growth in 2016-17, according to Central Statistics Office's 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017?

- a) Manufacturing
- b) Agriculture
- c) Mining & Quarrying
- d) Financial services, real estate, insurance and professional services

52) Who among the following is the Chief Statistician of India?

- a) TCA Anant
- b) R.B. Barman
- c) P. V. Sukhatme
- d) Bibek Debroy

The Indian economy is expected to grow 7.1 per cent in 2016-17, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) said in its 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017.

CSO Estimates of growth (%)		
	2016-17	2015-16
Manufacturing	7.4	9.3
Agriculture	4.1	1.2
Mining & Quarrying	-1.8	9.3
Financial services, real estate, insurance and professional services	9.0	10.3

TCA Anant, Chief Statistician of India made it clear that the CSO had not factored in deposits into the banking system in November 2016, the first month of demonetisation. The surge in deposits in November caused volatility, which the CSO wanted to avoid in the computation although his office had all the relevant data, he said.

53) What is the per capita net national income during 2016-17 estimated at current prices by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in January 2017?

- a) Rs. 93,007
- b) Rs. 1,03,007
- c) Rs. 1,13,007
- d) Rs. 1,23,007

India's per capita income, a gauge for measuring living standard, is estimated to cross Rs 1 lakh in 2016-17, up from Rs 93,293 in the previous financial year. As per the 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on January 6, 2017, the per capita net national income during 2016-17 is "estimated to be Rs 1,03,007" at current prices. This is higher by 10.4 per cent compared to Rs 93,293 during 2015-16. "The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2016-17 is likely to attain a level of Rs 81,805 as compared to Rs 77,435 for the year 2015-16," the estimates said.

54) The IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police launched in January 2017 has been developed by government's Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and which industry chamber?

- a) FICCI
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII
- d) PHDCCI

The Commerce & Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police in New Delhi on January 4, 2017. The toolkit has been jointly prepared by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). This toolkit will be a ready reckoner for police officials

across the country in dealing with IP crimes, specifically Trade Marks counterfeiting and Copyrights piracy. CIPAM comes under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) of the Commerce & Industry Ministry. CIPAM in collaboration with the International Trademark Association will also launch an IPR awareness campaign for schoolchildren.

55) . PSU oil marketing companies Indian Oil, BPCL & HPCL are offering how much discount on LPG refill bookings made online from January 3, 2017?

- a) Rs. 5
- b) Rs. 10
- c) Rs. 15
- d) Rs. 20

PSU oil marketing companies Indian Oil, BPCL & HPCL are offering an upfront discount of Rs 5 on every LPG refill to all LPG customers who will book and pay for their LPG cylinders online from January 3, 2017. Customers can make payment through existing online modes i.e. net banking, credit & debit cards at the time of web-booking their refills.

56) Which of the following is the training programme for essential digital skills launched by Google for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India in January 2017?

- a) Digital Cracked
- b) Digital Directions
- c) Digital Unlocked
- d) Digital Developed

57) Which of the following is the free tool to develop a website launched by Google for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India in January 2017?

- a) My Industry Website
- b) My Business Website
- c) My Company Website
- d) My Enterprise Website

58) Which of the following is the free mobile app designed to teach digital marketing skills launched by Google in India in January 2017?

- a) Driver
- b) Seller
- c) Trader
- d) Primer

Google CEO Sundar Pichai on January 4, 2017 announced two initiatives 'Digital Unlocked' and 'My Business Website' for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India. Google, along with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), has developed a training programme called 'Digital Unlocked', to empower thousands of Indian SMBs with essential digital skills that would enable them to get online and start using the power of the internet to grow their businesses.

Google also started another initiative 'My Business Website'. It is a free tool, which would help make a website in 10 minutes. 'My Business Website' is available in English, Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Further, for India's mobile-first audience, Google also launched Primer, a free mobile app uniquely designed to teach digital marketing skills in a quick, easy and interactive way. Primer also works offline and is currently available in English and Hindi. Tamil, Telugu and Marathi versions are coming up shortly.

59) Which of the following has launched "Internet Saathi" digital literacy initiative for women in India?

- a) Apple
- b) Google
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM

Tata Trusts and Google India have expanded Internet Saathi, a digital education initiative, by enabling cashless transactions through MobiKwik, with an aim to drive digital economy in rural parts of India. Launched in July 2015, Internet Saathi is now live in 10 States, reaching out to over 26,000 villages. Close to 12 lakh women have benefited from the programme by getting trained on digital and internet literacy. (January 4, 2017)

60) Who among the following Indian American CEOs received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at IIT Kharagpur on January 6, 2017?

- a) Shantanu Narayen
- b) Sundar Pichai
- c) Indra Nooyi
- d) Ajay Banga

Google CEO Sundar Pichai received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at IIT Kharagpur on January 6, 2017.

61) Which of the following launched CNG-fuelled two-wheeler in Mumbai on January 1, 2017?

- a) Indraprastha Gas Limited
- b) Mahanagar Gas Limited
- c) Bharat Gas Limited
- d) Indane Gas Limited

Mahanagar Gas Limited on January 1, 2017 launched CNG-fueled two-wheeler, whose cost of running comes to 60 paise a kilometre and will also help in cutting emission level. The vehicle was launched by Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Mumbai. In the initial phase, the scooters shall be retrofitted with a CNG kit manufactured by Lovato which has got approval for 18 scooter models of various OEMs present in the market.

62) Which of the following states/union territories launched 'Good Samaritan Policy' in January 2017 under which monetary incentive of Rs 2,000 and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims?

- a) Goa
- b) Delhi
- c) Kerala
- d) Chandigarh

Delhi government on January 6, 2017 approved 'Good Samaritan Policy' under which monetary incentive of Rs 2,000 and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims in the national capital. Announcing the Cabinet's decision, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the scheme is intended to encourage people to take accident victims in emergency situation to hospitals so that someone's life could be saved.

63) Who among the following announced the launch of 'Guru Circuit' to tap Sikh tourism potential in the state in January 2017?

- a) Nitish Kumar
- b) Akhilesh Yadav
- c) Devendra Fadnavis
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on January 5, 2017 said that his government would carve out "Guru Circuit" connecting important destinations of Sikhs in the state to attract larger footfall of devotees. Kumar made this announcement during concluding function of 350th Prakash Parva of 10th Sikh Guru Govind Singh in Patna which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal at Gandhi Maidan.

64) Which of the following hosted 10-day Island Tourism Festival in January 2017?

- a) Mahe
- b) Port Blair
- c) Kavaratti
- d) Karaikal

A 10-day Island Tourism Festival 2017 was organised at Port Blair by the Directorate of Tourism of Andaman and Nicobar Administration from January 6 to 15, 2017.

65) H.S. Mahadeva Prasad died at the age of 58 in Chikmagalur on January 2, 2017. He was member of:

- a) Legislative Assembly
- b) Legislative Council
- c) Lok Sabha

d) Raja Sabha

Karnataka Cooperation and Sugar Minister H.S. Mahadeva Prasad died on January 2, 2017 at the age of 58 in Chikmagalur. Born on August 5, 1958, Prasad was elected from the Gundlupet constituency in Chamaraajnar district from the Congress.

66) Who among the following Chief Ministers laid the foundation for Brahmanda Science Museum at an estimated cost of Rs 1,300 crore on January 4, 2017?

- a) K. Siddaramaiah
- b) Pinarayi Vijayan
- c) K. Chandrasekhar Rao
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for a National Science Museum, which will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 1,300 crore, near Tirupati on January 4, 2017. The Brahmanda Science Museum, housing a planetarium and other science related structures, will be constructed as per international standards in about 100 acres of land at the foothills of Tirumala. It will be a seven dome colossal complex, resembling the sacred seven hills of Lord Venkateswara.

67) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched Aarogya Raksha family health insurance scheme in January 2017? It will cover every individual in a family on monthly premium of Rs.100 per head for a year.

- a) K. Siddaramaiah
- b) Pinarayi Vijayan
- c) K. Chandrasekhar Rao
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu began the New Year by launching the Aarogya Raksha family health insurance scheme in Vijayawada on January 2, 2017. It is intended to provide health insurance cover to every individual in a family on payment of a monthly premium of Rs.100 per head for a year. Naidu said it was a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) scheme for the Above Poverty Line families. Similar schemes targeted at the BPL families would continue, he said, allaying apprehensions in this regard. Under the Aarogya Raksha, end-to-end cashless services would be rendered for 1044 diseases under secondary and tertiary care through 432 government and private hospitals.

68) Which state launched 'Bharosa Cell' to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of any crime in January 2017?

- a) Haryana
- b) Goa
- c) Bihar
- d) Maharashtra

Maharashtra Police will start 'Bharosa Cell' in all the districts to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of any crime, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on January 1, 2017. "The formation of Bharosa Cell is the need of the hour to address the problems of the victims (women and children). Such cell will provide all assistance including psychiatric help and legal advice to them," said Fadnavis after the inauguration of Bharosa Cell of Nagpur police.

69) Who among the following Chief Ministers announced Rs 1,000 monthly living wages for "distressed lonely women" in the state from January 2017?

- a) K. Siddaramaiah
- b) Pinarayi Vijayan
- c) K. Chandrasekhar Rao
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on January 6, 2017 announced Rs 1,000 monthly living wages for "distressed lonely women" in the state. Making an announcement in the Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad, Rao said that the scheme will be implemented for the next financial year and necessary directions are issued to all District Collectors to enroll the details of lonely women. The Chief Minister however did not elaborate on the eligibility guidelines of the scheme.

70) Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of fire services in India in January 2017?

- a) Irrfan Khan
- b) Manoj Bajpayee
- c) Rajkumar Rao
- d) Randeep Hooda

The Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC), a Central government body, has roped in Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda as the brand ambassador of fire services in India. "Every service has a brand ambassador, likewise we decided to have our own. The SFAC and the Union Government approached the actor, who is already associated with the Mumbai fire brigade, to be the face of fire services," P S Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer of Mumbai Fire Brigade, said. The decision to

make Hooda the brand ambassador was taken at the two-day 38th meeting of the SFAC, held in Mumbai on Mumbai on January 6-7, 2017. SFAC is the apex body set up by the Centre to advise on fire service-related matters.

71) Which state saw the opening of India's first transgender school on December 30, 2016?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh

India's first transgender school opened in Kochi on December 30, 2016. The school, named Sahaj International, was inaugurated by transgender activist, writer and actor Kalki Subramaniam at Thrikkakara in Kerala's Ernakulam district.

72) Which of the following formed a new government in Arunachal Pradesh on December 31, 2016?

- a) Congress
- b) Janata Dal (United)
- c) Trinamool Congress
- d) Bharatiya Janata Party

In a dramatic development, BJP formed a new government in Arunachal Pradesh in Itanagar on December 31, 2016 with 33 MLAs of PPA led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu joining the party, two days after he was suspended by his own party. Khandu paraded the 33 of the 43 MLAs of Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) before Assembly Speaker Tenzing Norbu Thongdok who recognised them as BJP members in a House of 60. BJP has 11 MLAs.

73) Who among the following is the Chairperson of the Committee on National Sports Development Code set up by the Sports Ministry in January 2017?

- a) Narinder Batra
- b) Injeti Srinivas
- c) Bishweshwar Nandi
- d) Nandan Kamath

Union Sports Ministry on January 5, 2017 constituted a nine-member committee to make recommendations for bringing out a comprehensive National Sports Development Code across sports disciplines. Sports Secretary Injeti Srinivas will chair the committee that will also include sportspersons and others. "The terms of reference of the committee are to identify basic universal principles of ethics and good governance based on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Charter international best practices, draft National Sports Development Bill, National Sports Development Code of 2011, Supreme Court and High Court judgments," the ministry said in a statement.

74) Who among the following lawyers is Amicus Curiae to the Supreme Court regarding implementation of Justice RM Lodha committee recommendations by the BCCI?

- a) Gopal Subramaniam
- b) Harish Salve
- c) Lalit Bhasin
- d) Satish Maneshinde

The BCCI's existing power structure was dismantled by the Supreme Court of India in a landmark order on January 2, 2017, which directed the removal of the board president Anurag Thakur and secretary Ajay Shirke from office with immediate effect. The order was the culmination of a long-standing impasse between the BCCI and the Justice (Retd.) Rajendra Lodha Committee. The Board had resisted implementing the majority of the committee's recommendations despite being told to do so by a Supreme Court order on July 18. Amicus Curiae Gopal Subramaniam and senior advocate Anil Divan were asked by the court to suggest names of persons having "integrity and experience in managing a similar enterprise" for the committee of administrators.

75) Who among the following became the first batsman in test cricket in January 2017 to score centuries in 11 countries that have hosted test matches?

- a) Alastair Cook
- b) Younis Khan
- c) Hashim Amla
- d) AB de Villiers

Veteran Pakistan batsman Younis Khan on January 5, 2017 became the first player in Test cricket to score centuries in 11 countries that have hosted the longest format of the game. He has scored centuries in 10 countries and one at United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is currently Pakistan's home venue for international matches. Opponent countries refuse to play in Pakistan owing to security reasons. The 39-year-old slammed his 34th century against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

76) Who among the following became the most experienced umpire in cricket when he old supervised his 332nd international match in January 2017?

- a) Ian Gould
- b) Aleem Dar
- c) Marais Erasmus
- d) Chris Gaffaney

Pakistan umpire Aleem Dar has surpassed South African Rudi Koertzen's record of officiating in the highest number of international games to become cricket's most experienced umpire. The 48-year-old supervised his 332nd international match which was the second Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka in Cape Town in January 2017. His 332 matches include 109 Tests, 182 ODIs, and 41 T20Is. Koertzen had stood in 331 international matches.

77) India won the SAFF Women's Football Championship title in January 2017 at which of the following venues?

- a) Itanagar
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Siliguri

A dominant India defeated Bangladesh 3-1 to win their fourth consecutive SAFF Women's Football Championship title in Siliguri on January 4, 2017. Goals for India came from Dangmei Grace (12th minute), Sasmita Malik (12th minute) and Indumathi (67th minute). Bangladesh's only goal came from Sirat Jahan Shopna in the 40th minute.

78) Somdev Devvarman announced retirement from professional tennis in January 2017. He won gold medal in which of the following?

- I. Commonwealth Games
- II. Olympics
- III. Asian Games

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) III only
- d) I and III only

79) . Somdev Devvarman announced retirement from professional tennis in January 2017. What was his highest ever career ranking?

- a) 62
- b) 82
- c) 102
- d) 122

Somdev Devvarman on January 1, 2017 announced his retirement from professional tennis at the age of 31. Having made his debut in 2008, he was a regular in India's Davis Cup squad. His best achievement so far on the ATP World Tour has been reaching the final of the Chennai Open in 2009. In 2010, Somdev won the gold medal in the men's singles event of Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, and he followed it up with both men's singles and doubles gold in the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China. He was conferred the Arjuna award -- the country's second highest sporting honour - in 2011. He achieved the highest ranking of 62 in July 2011.

80) Who among the following won the FIDE World Blitz chess championship in Doha, Qatar in December 2016?

- a) Viswanathan Anand
- b) Sergey Karjakin
- c) Vladimir Kramnik
- d) Vassily Ivanchuk

81) Who among the following won the FIDE World Rapid chess championship in Doha, Qatar in December 2016?

- a) Viswanathan Anand
- b) Sergey Karjakin
- c) Vladimir Kramnik
- d) Vassily Ivanchuk

Russia's Sergey Karjakin won the FIDE World Blitz chess championship in Doha, Qatar that concluded on December 30, 2016 while Norway's world champion Magnus Carlsen finished second. Both players had finished on 16.5/21 points each but Karjakin won the title on additional criteria of having won his last match. Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine won the FIDE

World Rapid Championship at the same venue. Among women, Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk won both FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships.

82) Who among the following won the second IIFL Wealth Mumbai International Open chess tournament in Mumbai in January 2017?

- a) Nigel Short
- b) P. Harikrishna
- c) Michael Adams
- d) Adam Tukhaev

Ukrainian Grandmaster Adam Tukhaev won the second IIFL Wealth Mumbai International Open chess tournament in Mumbai on January 3, 2017.

83) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subsidy of ____ on urban housing loans upto Rs. 9 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana taken in 2017.

- a) 1 per cent
- b) 2 per cent
- c) 3 per cent
- d) 4 per cent

84) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subsidy of ____ on urban housing loans more than Rs. 9 lakh but not exceeding Rs. 12 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana taken in 2017.

- a) 1 per cent
- b) 2 per cent
- c) 3 per cent
- d) 4 per cent

85) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subvention of ____ on rural housing loans upto Rs. 2 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana taken in 2017.

- a) 1 per cent
- b) 2 per cent
- c) 3 per cent
- d) 4 per cent

In a bid to boost rural and urban housing post demonetisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subsidy of up to 4 per cent on loans taken in 2017 under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana. In urban areas housing loans of up to Rs 9 lakh and up to Rs 12 lakh will receive interest subsidy of 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, while in rural areas housing loans up to Rs 2 lakh will get an interest subvention of 3 per cent. The number of houses being built for the poor in rural areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana is being increased by 33 per cent, he added

86) What was the theme of the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) organised in Bengaluru in January 2017?

- a) Global Indian and National Development
- b) Engaging the Diaspora: Inclusive Growth
- c) Engaging Diaspora: The Indian Growth Story
- d) Redefined Engagement with Indian Diaspora

87) The first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was organised in which year?

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

The three-day 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was organised in Bengaluru from January 7 to 9, 2017. The theme for this year was 'Redefined Engagement with Indian Diaspora'. PBD is held on January 9 each year to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in 1915. It is celebrated to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of the country. Organised for the first time in 2003 by the Vajpayee government, PBD

continued as an annual event till 2015 when the government decided to make it biennial. The 13th PBD was organised in Gandhinagar.

88) Navy's submarine Khanderi was launched on January 12, 2017. It is a submarine of which class?

- a) Viking
- b) Agosta
- c) Sturgeon
- d) Scorpene

89) Navy's submarine Khanderi was launched on January 12, 2017. It was built with transfer of technology from DCNS of:

- a) Japan
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Portugal
- d) France

90) Navy's submarine Khanderi was launched on January 12, 2017. It was built at which of the following shipyards?

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Khanderi, the second of Indian Navy's Scorpene' class stealth submarine, was 'launched' at the Mazagon Dock Shipyard Limited (MDL) on January 12, 2017 paving the way for her sea trials. The construction of six Scorpene submarines is presently being progressed at MDL, under Project 75 with Transfer of Technology from M/s DCNS, France as the Collaborator. The first of the class submarine, Kalvari is presently undergoing sea trials and likely to be commissioned into Navy by Mid 2017. These submarines, post induction, would form the core of Navy's conventional Submarine Arm.

91) January 11 to 17, 2017 was observed as _____ in India.

- a) Immunisation Week
- b) Climate Change Week
- c) Primary Education Week
- d) Road Safety Week

92) Who among the following is the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister?

- a) S. Christopher
- b) M. Annadurai
- c) Tessy Thomas
- d) G. Satheesh Reddy

93) Consider the following defence R&D organisations.

I. Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)

II. Research Centre Imarat (RCI)

III. Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)

Which of the above are based in Hyderabad?

- a) II only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

The Pinaka Rocket converted to a Guided Pinaka was successfully test-fired from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Chandipur on January 12, 2017. The Pinaka Rocket Mark-II, which evolved from Pinaka Mark-I is equipped with a navigation, guidance and control kit and has been transformed to a Guided Pinaka. This conversion has considerably enhanced the range and accuracy of Pinaka. The guided Pinaka has been jointly developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL). Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and Director-General (Missiles and Strategic Systems) Dr G. Satheesh Reddy was present during the mission. DRDO Chairman Dr S. Christopher congratulated the teams participated in the successful mission.

94) Which of the following is the indigenously-developed howitzer that has successfully completed trials? This was announced by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in January 13, 2017.

- a) Surya
- b) Trishul
- c) Aditya
- d) Dhanush

After successfully completing field trials of indigenously-developed howitzer Dhanush, another self propelled gun 155/52 is in the final stages of being ordered, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said on January 13, 2017. The 155mm/45-calibre Dhanush howitzer has been tested and field trials have been completed, he said at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar. Indian army has not had a new 155mm artillery gun inducted since the Bofors scandal of 1987. 'Dhanush' is indigenously-developed 155mm gun with 45 calibre having advanced features with a strike range of 38 km. The towed howitzer 'Dhanush' has larger range than 27-km of the imported Bofors.

95) Which of the following is the special rescue force inducted by the Army to respond in case of emergencies at Siachen glacier?

- a) Avalanche Pumas, Mountain Rescuers
- b) Avalanche Lions, Mountain Rescuers
- c) Avalanche Tigers, Mountain Rescuers
- d) Avalanche Panthers, Mountain Rescuers

In order to check the casualties caused by the snow avalanches at Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, Army has inducted a special rescue force, 'Avalanche Panthers, Mountain Rescuers' to respond in case of an emergency. The force was inducted by the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Northern Command, Lt Gen D Anbu who visited the camp in Jammu on January 11, 2017.

96) Which of the following is the firepower exercise conducted by the Indian Army near Nashik in Maharashtra in January 2017?

- a) Sarvatra Vijay
- b) Sarvatra Prahar
- c) Sarvatra Shanti
- d) Sarvatra Suraksha

A firepower exercise 'Sarvatra Prahar' by the Indian Army was conducted in the ranges of School of Artillery at Devlali in Nashik district of Maharashtra. During the exercise, held on January 9, by the artillery wing of the Army, the "Gunnery" displayed their prowess and deadly firepower, an official release said in Mumbai on January 11, 2017.

97) Which of the following hosted the 21st National Youth Festival in January 2017?

- a) Hissar
- b) Karnal
- c) Rohtak
- d) Chandigarh

98) Which of the following was the theme of the 21st National Youth Festival organised in Haryana in January 2017?

- a) Youth for Digital India
- b) Youth for Vibrant India
- c) Youth for Demographic Dividend
- d) Youth for Rural Resurgence

The 21st National Youth Festival was organised with the theme "Youth for Digital India" in Rohtak, Haryana from January 12 to 16, 2017. The Youth Festival is organised to celebrate the life, legacy and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. The first festival was held in 1985 after the central government had decided to commemorate the day to inspire the youths to emulate the path taken by Vivekananda.

99) Which of the following has launched campaign "Puchna Mat Bhulo" (Don't Forget to Ask) for doctors to promote organ donations in January 2017?

- a) Medical Council of India
- b) Indian Medical Association

- c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched a country wide campaign “Puchna Mat Bhulo” as a part of which it will urge doctors to request relatives or legal heirs, in case of routine death, for donation of eyes and organs (in case of brain death). As a part of the initiative, IMA members will be sent text alerts reminding them to ask families to donate organs of their deceased loved ones to promote organ donation in the country. “Doctors should counsel the families and encourage them to donate the organs after a death,” IMA president Dr KK Aggarwal said on January 12, 2017.

100) Who among the following has compiled Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s monthly radio broadcast of ‘Mann ki Baat’ as a book that was released in January 2017?

- a) Sameer Sharma
- b) Pranay Sinha
- c) Sujeet Krishna
- d) Rajeev Gupta

A book compiling Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s monthly radio broadcast of ‘Mann ki Baat’ in which he addresses the nation on various issues was launched by Union minister Jual Oram at the World Book Fair in New Delhi on January 11, 2017. The book compiled by 29-year-old Rajeev Gupta, a research scholar from Uttar Pradesh’s Faizabad, covers the ‘Mann ki Baat’ episodes broadcast between October 3, 2014 and November 27, 2016. The book is titled “Pradhanmantri Ke Mann Ki Baat”.

101) Which of the following is being set up by the government in Mumbai? The Museum Advisory Committee is chaired by Shyam Benegal.

- a) National Museum of Indian Culture
- b) National Museum of Indian Cinema
- c) National Museum of Indian Media
- d) National Museum of Indian Crafts

The upcoming National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) has appealed people from within the industry to come forward and donate memorabilia related to Indian cinema. The Museum Advisory Committee, chaired by veteran film maker Shyam Benegal, on January 10, 2017 appealed to the film industry to donate rare artefacts, vintage instruments and other memorabilia to the National Museum, which chronicles the century old journey of cinema in India. The museum will be set up in the Films Division premises in Mumbai.

102) Which of the following is the government programme that aims to connect institutions of higher education such as IIMs and IITs with rural development processes through adoption of village clusters?

- a) Safal Bharat
- b) Viksit Bharat
- c) Saksham Bharat
- d) Unnat Bharat

IITs and IIMs will soon adopt village clusters, carry out field studies and come up with developmental solutions which could be implemented by district authorities under a unique initiative planned by the Centre. Secretaries of Union ministries of HRD, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj signed an MoU in New Delhi on January 12, 2017 under the ‘Unnat Bharat’ programme, which aims to connect knowledge institutions with rural development processes through adoption of village clusters. The programme is being implemented in 92 districts in Phase-I.

103) ‘An Unsuitable Boy’ is the forthcoming book by who among the following film personalities?

- a) Shoojit Sircar
- b) Rajkumar Hirani
- c) Anurag Kashyap
- d) Karan Johar

104) Who among the following is the author of ‘The People’s President: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam’ released recently?

- a) Pranay Lal
- b) S. M. Khan
- c) Usha Thakkar

d) Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

105) Who among the following Chairpersons of ISRO is the author of 'My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man behind the Mangalyaan Mission' released recently?

- a) U. R. Rao
- b) K. Kasturirangan
- c) G. Madhavan Nair
- d) K. Radhakrishnan

Recent Books: •Gandhi in Bombay: Towards Swaraj by Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta • Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent by Pranay Lal • Religion and Modernity in India by Edited by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Aloka Parasher Sen • When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics by Milan Vaishnav • An Unsuitable Boy by Karan Johar •The People's President: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam by S.M. Khan • My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man behind the Mangalyaan Mission by K. Radhakrishnan with Nilanjan Routh • The Modern Monk: What Vivekananda Means to Us by Hindol Sengupta

106) Who among the following is the author of 'Olympus - An Indian Retelling of the Greek Myths' released recently?

- a) Maha Khan Phillips
- b) Devdutt Pattanaik
- c) Anamika Mukherjee
- d) Vamsee Juluri

Recent Books: •The Curse of Mohenjodaro by Maha Khan Phillips • Olympus - An Indian Retelling of the Greek Myths by Devdutt Pattanaik • Survivors by Anamika Mukherjee • Saraswati's Intelligence by Vamsee Juluri • The Trail of Four by Manjiri Prabhu

107) Who among the following was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff in January 2017?

- a) Lt Gen B. S. Negi
- b) Lt Gen Devraj Anbu
- c) Lt Gen P. M. Hariz
- d) Lt Gen Sarath Chand

Lieutenant General Sarath Chand, Army Commander of Jaipur-based South Western Command, was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff on January 12, 2017.

108) Who among the following Union Ministers in the previous government was appointed as Senior Fellow of US-based think tank Atlantic Council I January 2017?

- a) Girija Vyas
- b) Kapil Sibal
- c) Jairam Ramesh
- d) Manish Tewari

Congress leader and former Union Minister Manish Tewari has been appointed senior fellow of US-based think tank Atlantic Council, headquartered in Washington DC. (January 11, 2017)

109) Easwar Sagar, who died in USA at 95 on January 8, 2017, was well-known as a:

- a) Scientist
- c) Journalist
- c) Musician
- b) Sculptor

Veteran journalist Easwar Sagar, who was a long-time correspondent for The Hindu in Washington and a deputy editor, passed away at the age of 95 in died in Centreville, Virginia on January 8, 2017.

110) Journalist Ramu Sharma passed away in New Delhi on January 10, 2017 at the age of 81. He was known for his articles on:

- a) Politics
- c) Economy
- c) Science
- b) Sports

Senior sports journalist Ramu Sharma passed away in New Delhi on January 10, 2017. He was 81. Sharma worked as a Senior Sports Correspondent with the Statesman for three decades before taking over as Sports Editor of the Indian Express in 1990.

111) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Israel's Uri Ariel who came on an official visit to New Delhi in January 2017?

- a) Nitin Gadkari
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Radha Mohan Singh
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Radha Mohan Singh met Israeli delegation led by the Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Israel, Uri Ariel to discuss issues relating to bilateral cooperation in agriculture between the two countries in New Delhi on January 11, 2017.

112) Which neighbouring country was provided financial assistance by India for construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Nepal
- c) Bangladesh
- d) Myanmar

India has provided Nepali Rs 619.63 million in financial assistance to Nepal for construction of embankments along three major rivers in the country's south to check flooding in the downstream areas. Ambassador of India to Nepal Ranjit Rae on January 11, 2017 handed over a cheque of NRs 619.63 million to Nepal's Minister of Irrigation as India's contribution towards constructing the embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers, Indian Embassy said in a statement in Kathmandu.

113) Which of the following is the Indian counterpart of CNES of France?

- a) Railways
- b) RBI
- c) ISRO
- d) DRDO

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and French Space agency CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) signed a partnership agreement in satellite launch technology. The agreement was signed between ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall in the presence of visiting French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Marc Ayrault in Bengaluru on January 10, 2017.

114) Who among the following is the President of Kenya in news for official visit to India in January 2017?

- a) Eliud Kipchoge
- b) Dennis Kimetto
- c) Stanley Biwott
- d) Uhuru Kenyatta

India and Kenya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the agriculture sector and allied sector and Line of Credit for USD100 million for agricultural mechanisation. The MoU was signed following delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in New Delhi on January 11, 2017.

115) Who amongst the following is the President of Rwanda in news for coming on an official visit to India in January 2017?

- a) Emmanuel Habyarimana
- b) Augustin Bizimana
- c) Pasteur Bizimungu
- d) Paul Kagame

India on January 10, 2017 announced a grant of USD 3 million for medicines and purchase of medical equipment as well as a Line of Credit of USD 81mn for a road project in Rwanda after wide-ranging talks in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame declared elevation of bilateral ties to "strategic partnership".

116) The government is organising a Festival of India in which of the following from January 25 to March 16, 2017?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Gabon
- c) Ghana
- d) Rwanda

A Festival of India is being organised in Ghana from January 25 to March 16, 2017. The activities of the Festival include amalgamation of Indian classical dances, Sufi & Folk Music and Saptarang – confluence of seven classical dance forms. To complete the experience, a Food Festival, Yoga and Meditation, Film Festival will also be organised during the Festival. The Festival events are being showcased in four cities of Accra, Kumasi, Cape Coast and Takoradi.

117) Who among the following politicians was honoured with National Order of Knighthood by Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa in Panaji on January 12, 2017?

- a) Michael Lobo
- b) Eduardo Faleiro
- c) Avertano Furtado
- d) Atanasio Monserrate

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa on January 12, 2017 honoured former Union Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro with the 'Grande Oficial da Ordem do Infante da Henrique', the Portuguese national order of knighthood. The order was bestowed on Faleiro (76), a veteran Congress leader, by Costa, in Panaji.

118) The annual Vishwa Hindi Diwas was celebrated by the External Affairs Ministry on____, 2017

- a) January 9
- b) January 10
- c) January 11
- d) January 12

External Affairs Ministry as well as over 160 Indian Missions on January 10, 2017 celebrated 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas' as part of efforts to popularise the language. The MEA and Indian Missions have been celebrating 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas' on January 10 every year since 2006 by organising various events.

119) What was the global unemployment rate in 2016 according to the World Employment and Social Outlook report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released in January 2017?

- a) 4.7 per cent
- b) 5.7 per cent
- c) 6.7 per cent
- d) 7.7 per cent

120) What was the unemployment in India according to the World Employment and Social Outlook report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released in January 2017?

- a) 7.7 million
- b) 17.7 million
- c) 27.7 million
- d) 37.7 million

121) Who among the following is the Director-General of International Labour Organisation (ILO)?

- a) Liu Yung
- b) Guy Ryder
- c) Juan Somavia
- d) Daniel Funes de Rioja

The United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its 2017 World Employment and Social Outlook report on January 12, 2017. The report said that global unemployment levels and rates are expected to remain high in the short term, as the global labour force continues to grow. In particular, the global unemployment rate is expected to rise modestly in 2017, to 5.8 per cent (from 5.7 per cent in 2016) - representing 3.4 million more unemployed people globally (bringing total unemployment to just over 201 million in 2017). "We are facing the twin challenge of repairing the damage caused by the global economic and social crisis and creating quality jobs for the tens of millions of new labour market entrants every year," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. "Unemployment in India is projected to increase from 17.7

million last year to 17.8 million in 2017 and 18 million next year. In percentage terms, the unemployment rate will remain at 3.4 per cent in 2017-18," the report added.

122) Which of the following identified economic inequality, societal polarisation and growing environmental dangers as the top risks facing the world in its Global Risks Report released in January 2017?

- a) UNICEF
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) Maplecroft

Economic inequality, societal polarisation and growing environmental dangers are the top risks facing the world over the next 10 years while India alone can see this year a staggering 93 per cent holding jobs without social security benefits, said the World Economic Forum's (WEF) in its Global Risks Report 2017 released in London on January 11, 2017.

123) Which of the following has estimated India's share in Global GDP at 17% in its global economy watch (GEW) report released in January 2017?

- a) E&Y
- b) McKinsey
- c) BCG
- d) PwC

India grew fastest among major economies worldwide at over 7.5 per cent in 2016 and will continue to drive global growth in 2017 with its share in the world GDP expected to rise to 17 per cent, a study said on January 12, 2017. "Asia will remain the fastest-growing region of the world, but the spotlight will shift away from China to India and Indonesia," PwC's global economy watch (GEW) said.

124) Which of the following became the first country to begin replacement of FM radio broadcasting with digital from January 2017?

- a) The Netherlands
- b) Denmark
- c) Sweden
- d) Finland

Norway has become the first country to cease FM radio broadcasting as the Nordland County stopped broadcasting using analogue frequencies from January 11, 2017 as the Government plans to roll out digital-only radio over the course of the year. The change is occurring county by county, starting with Nordland. According to the national broadcaster, NRK, nationwide radio channels began switching to digital audio broadcasting that offers a wider range of broadcasting options and greater sound quality.

125) Which former Chief of Indian Army was in news for joining a political party in January 2017?

- a) Gen. S. Padmanabhan
- b) Gen. Deepak Kapoor
- c) Gen. D. S. Suhag
- d) Gen. J. J. Singh

Former Army Chief Gen (retd) J. J. Singh joined the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal in Chandigarh on January 7, 2017. On January 31, 2005, Singh had assumed the office of Chief of Army Staff. After his retirement in September 2007, Gen Singh served as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from 2008 to 2013.

126) Who among the following CMs announced the launch of the newly constituted 'Happiness Department' in the state in January 2017?

- a) Nitish Kumar
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Shivraj Singh Chauhan

With an aim to bring cheer in the lives of people, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the launch of the newly constituted 'Happiness Department' which started its maiden week-long functions from January 14, 2017. A week-long programme of Happiness Department christened as Anandam started on January 14. Cultural and sports programmes are scheduled throughout the week in all the 51 district headquarters. In 2016, Madhya Pradesh became the

first State in the country to set up a 'Happiness Department', with an aim to ensure "happiness in the lives of common people".

127) Which state runs the Jayprakash Narayan Senani Samman Pension scheme?

- a) Bihar
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

RJD President Lalu Prasad would get JP Senani Samman Pension of Rs 10,000 per month after being declared eligible for it. Prasad's application has been approved to make him eligible to get a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 under JP Senani Samman Pension Scheme, officials in the state Home Department said in Patna on January 11, 2017. Prasad, who was a student leader when Jayprakash Narayan (popularly known as JP), launched "Sampoorna Kranti" (total revolution) in 1974 and was jailed under MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act). Prasad would be eligible to get the monthly pension in accordance with amended JP Senani Samman Pension scheme brought in 2015.

128) Gold medals won by three Chinese women at 2008 Beijing Olympics in which sport were withdrawn in January 2017? They were disqualified for doping following a reanalysis of their drug tests.

- a) Cycling
- b) Athletics
- c) Gymnastics
- d) Weightlifting

Three Chinese women's weightlifting gold medallists at the 2008 Beijing Olympics were disqualified for doping following a reanalysis of their drug tests, the International Olympic Committee said in Lausanne on January 13, 2017. Cao Lei, the 75kg champion, Chen Xiexia, the 48kg gold medallist, and Liu Chunhong, who won the 69kg category, were stripped of their 2008 titles. The three Chinese weightlifters, all aged between 31 and 34, tested positive for the banned GHRP-2, a human growth hormone.

129) How many teams will participate in the 2026 FIFA World Cup according to a decision announced in January 2017?

- a) 32
- b) 36
- c) 40
- d) 48

FIFA's ruling council on January 10, 2017 unanimously approved an expansion of the World Cup to 48 teams in 2026, in a major coup for the body's president Gianni Infantino. The World Cup expanded to 24 teams in 1982 in Spain before moving to its current 32-team version at France 1998. The landmark decision to expand the tournament is the latest overhaul of the World Cup, which has seen its global popularity and financial might surge since the inaugural edition in 1930. That contest, won by Uruguay, had just 13 countries.

130) Which Indian player became a member of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee in January 2017?

- a) S. V. Sunil
- b) S. K. Uthappa
- c) P. R. Sreejesh
- d) Birendra Lakra

The Indian men's hockey team captain PR Sreejesh on January 11, 2017 became a member of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee. FIH Athletes' Committee comprises a total of eight current and former hockey players who have the responsibility to act as a liaison between the FIH and the athletes to make sure the players have voice in the FIH decision making process.

131) Which of the following regarding title winners at the January 2017 Brisbane International tennis and their countries is not matched correctly?

- a) Men's Singles winner Grigor Dimitrov: Romania
- b) Men's Doubles winner Thanasi Kokkinakis: Australia
- c) Women's Singles winner Karolína Plíšková: Czech Republic
- d) Women's Doubles winner Bethanie Mattek-Sands: United States

India's Sania Mirza and American Bethanie Mattek-Sands won the Brisbane International Women's Doubles title by beating the Russian pair of Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina 6-2, 6-3 in Brisbane on January 7, 2017. Men's Singles title was won by Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov who beat Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in the final while the Women's Singles title was won by Karolína Plíšková of Czech Republic who beat Alizé Cornet of France 6-0, 6-3. Men's Doubles Title was won by the Australian pair of Thanasi Kokkinakis and Jordan Thompson who defeated Luxembourg's Gilles Müller and United States' Sam Querrey in the final 7-6(9-7), 6-4.

132) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the Shenzhen Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Peng Shuai and Andrea Hlavackova
- b) Raluca Olaru and Olga Savchuk
- c) Katernia Siniakova and Alison Riske
- d) Timea Babos and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova

Czech Republic's Katernia Siniakova won the Women's Singles title at the \$750,000 Shenzhen Open on January 7, 2017 when she overcame Alison Riske of the United States in the final 6-3, 6-4 to claim her first-ever WTA title. The Women's Doubles title was won by China's Peng Shuai and Andrea Hlavackova of the Czech Republic who beat Raluca Olaru of Romania and Olga Savchuk of Ukraine 6-1, 7-5 in two straight sets 6-1, 7-5 in the final.

133) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Chennai Open tennis tournament in January 2017?

- a) Aljaz Bedene
- b) Borna Coric
- c) Frederik Nielsen
- d) Roberto Bautista Agut

134) Who among the following won the Men's Doubles title at the Chennai Open tennis tournament in January 2017?

- a) Vasek Pospisil and Radek Štěpánek
- b) Leander Paes and Raven Klaasen
- c) Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan
- d) P. Raja and D. Sharan

Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut won the Men's Singles title by Chennai Open tennis 2017 by beating Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-4 in the final on January 8, 2017. Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan defeated P. Raja and D. Sharan 6-3, 6-4 in the final to win the Men's Doubles title.

135) Government of which neighbouring country overturned a 26-year-old decree in January 2017 that required top bureaucrats of the country to wear a suit and tie?

- a) China
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Pakistan

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena on January 9, 2017 overturned a 26-year-old decree that required top bureaucrats to wear a suit and tie, saying they could now opt for "more comfortable" clothing instead. He made the announcement while speaking at a conference in Colombo and said that the 1991 decree had forced officials in the tropical country to suffer in uncomfortable clothing. Sri Lanka's civil service is largely based on traditions inherited from the country's former British colonial rulers who governed the island nation from 1815 until 1948.

136) Which neighbouring country's Supreme Court prohibited registration of public figures as trademarks from January 2017?

- a) China
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Pakistan

China's top court has ruled that the names of public figures in areas such as politics, economy, culture and religion cannot be registered as trademarks. The Supreme People's Court (SPC) on January 11, 2017 issued a document on handling cases involving trademark approval. The new rules state that trademarking public figures' names is forbidden in accordance with trademark law, due to the "negative influence" on the public interest and social order that it could cause.

137) Which of the following is the Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) testfired by Pakistan in January 2017?

- a) Babar-3

- b) Aurangzeb-3
- c) Hatf-3
- d) Jahangir-3

Pakistan on January 9, 2017 conducted its first successful test-fire of Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM), capable of carrying a nuclear warhead from an undisclosed location in the Indian Ocean. Babur-3 has a range of 450 kilometers.

138) Nikola Gruevski was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Macedonia in January 2017. What is the currency of Macedonia?

- a) Euro
- b) Lira
- c) Riyal
- d) Denar

Macedonia's President Gjorge Ivanov on January 10, 2017 appointed veteran politician and ex-premier Nikola Gruevski to form a new government after his conservative party won a narrow victory in the election held on December 11, 2016. Macedonian denar is the currency while Skopje is the capital.

139) Who among the following was President of Iran from 1989 to 1997? He died at 82 on January 8, 2017.

- a) Sadeq Larijani
- b) Syed Ali Khamenei
- c) Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- d) Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died in Tehran on January 8, 2017. He was 82. Rafsanjani was the President of Iran from 3 August 1989 until 3 August 1997.

140) Who among the following was President of Portugal from 1986 to 1996? He died at 92 on January 7, 2017.

- a) Carlos Pinto
- b) Mário Soares
- c) Jorge Sampaio
- d) Aníbal Cavaco Silva

Ex-Portuguese President and Prime Minister Mario Soares died at the age of 92 in Lisbon on January 7, 2017. Soares was Prime Minister between 1976 and 1978. He served as president between 1986 and 1996.

141) Roman Herzog died at the age of 82 on January 10, 2017. He served as which of the following in Germany?

- a) President
- b) Army Chief
- c) Head of Bundesbank
- d) National football coach

142) Who among the following is the singer-songwriter of the popular song 'Where Do You Go To'? He died at 75 on January 8, 2017.

- a) Nat Hentoff
- b) Leonard Cohen
- c) Peter Sarstedt
- d) Juan Gabriel

143) Clare Hollingworth, who died aged 105 in Hong Kong on January 10, 2017, became well-known as a/an:

- a) Architect
- b) Journalist
- c) Singer
- d) Scientist

Author, journalist and Jazz critic Nat Hentoff died in New York on January 7, 2017 at the age of 91. Singer-songwriter Peter Sarstedt, best known for the song Where Do You Go To (My Lovely), died at the age of 75 on January 8, 2017 in Sussex, United Kingdom. Former German president (1994-99) Roman Herzog died at the age of 82 on January 10, 2017. Veteran British war correspondent Clare Hollingworth, who broke the news that World War II had started, died aged 105

in Hong Kong on January 10, 2017. C.G. Weeramantry, who was the first Sri Lankan to be appointed to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, passed away in Colombo on January 7, 2017.

144) Which of the following is the reading machine for the visually challenged developed by Chandigarh-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO)?

- a) Divya Drishti
- b) Divya Nayan
- c) Divya Kiran
- d) Divya Prakash

Visually challenged persons can now get the most advanced reading machine, at an affordable cost. The machine would bring to an end dependence on others to read and learn. Chandigarh-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), under the CSIR has developed a reading machine for visually challenged, the most advanced so far. The scanner named "Divya Nayan" scans any script and read it aloud for visually challenged to understand. (January 2017)

145) 11. Which state will host the 2nd National Biodiversity Congress in February 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) West Bengal
- d) Sikkim

National Biodiversity Congress (NBC) 2017, one of the significant biodiversity mega events of the country, will be held in Thiruvananthapuram from February 22. It will be hosted by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, a release said on January 12, 2017.

146) Prime Minister of which of the following was among the recipients of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) in January 2017?

- a) Fiji
- b) Jamaica
- c) Trinidad & Tobago
- d) Portugal

As many as 30 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) were conferred during the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held in Bangalore from January 7 to 9, 2017. The jury considered their contribution for achievements on philanthropic investments and charitable work in India and for contribution towards India's development. The winners included: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth (Finance Minister of Mauritius) for Public Service; Priti Patel (Secretary of State for International Development in United Kingdom) for Public Service and Antonio Luis Santos da Costa (Prime Minister of Portugal) for Public Service.

147) Which state won the Gold award for 'Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering' for its 'Loan Charge Creation Module of the Land Administration' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017?

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh

148) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of technology in e-Governance' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its State Pension Portal Online Social Security Schemes Management system (OSSSMS).

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

149) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of GIS Technology in e-Governance' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its G Triangulation project.

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka

- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

150) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of Mobile Technology in e-Governance Governance' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its Hawk Eye Mobile App.

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

151) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of ICT by State Government PSUs/Cooperatives/Federations/Societies Go' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its Nation's First Intelligent Transport System with Mobile App.

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The two day National Conference on e-Governance concluded in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017. "Digital Transformation" was the core theme of the Conference. Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Law & Justice P.P. Chaudhary gave away the awards to the winners.

Category –I: Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering

- Gold was won by Loan Charge Creation Module of the Land Administration of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Silver was won by Madhya Pradesh Shram Seva Portal of Civil Supplies & Food Department

Category- II: Outstanding performance in citizen centric service delivery

- Aadhaar enabled Public Distribution System of Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies, Andhra Pradesh
- SAHAJ – Online LPG connection and Cylinder e-payment of Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Category III: Innovative use of technology in e-Governance

- Gold was won by State Pension Portal Online Social Security Schemes Management system (OSSSMS) of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare department of Madhya Pradesh
- Silver was won by Setting up of wireless LAN in Kedar valley from district HQ upto Kedarnath temple on yatra route by District Disaster Management Authority, Rudra Prayag of Uttarakhand government

Category IV: Incremental Innovations in existing projects

- Gold was won by NREGASoft of Union Ministry of Rural Development
- Silver was won by E-Filing Project of Income Tax department

Category V: Best District level initiative in citizen-centric service delivery through ICT

- Silver was won by SUGAM COLLECTORATE of Junagarh, Gujarat

Category VI: Innovative use of GIS Technology in e-Governance

- Gold was won by G Triangulation of Gurgaon, Haryana
- Silver was won by Implementation of GIS app along with GIS database at Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), Gujarat

Category VII: Innovative use of Mobile Technology in e-Governance

- Gold was won by Hawk Eye Mobile App Hyderabad City Police, Telangana

Category VIII: Sectoral Award: Digital Transformation towards transforming India

- Gold was won by MyGov project of the Union Ministry of Electronic & Information Technology

Category IX: Innovative use of ICT by Central Government PSUs

- Gold was won by Village Electrification Mission of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd.
- Silver was won by GyanEraOnline Learning Management System of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Andhra Pradesh

Category X Innovative use of ICT by State Government PSUs/Cooperatives/Federations/Societies

- Gold was won by Nation's First Intelligent Transport System with Mobile App at Mysore City of KSRTC, Karnataka

- Silver was won by Transformation of TNHDC (Tamil Nadu Handicraft Development Corporation) using Information Technology of Tamil Nadu
Category XI Outstanding e-Governance initiative by Academic and Research institutions
- Silver was won by Indira Gandhi Information Management System (IGMIS) of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, Chhattisgarh

152) Which of the following was the Best Motion Picture-Musical/Comedy at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Sing Street
- b) Deadpool
- c) La La Land
- d) Florence Foster Jenkins

153) Which of the following was the Best Motion Picture-Drama at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Lion
- b) Moonlight
- c) Hacksaw Ridge
- d) Hell or High Water

154) Which of the following was the Best Animated Feature Film at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Sing
- b) Moana
- c) Zootopia
- d) My Life as a Zucchini

155) Which of the following was the Best Foreign Language Film at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Elle
- b) Divines
- c) Neruda
- d) The Salesman

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone-starrer musical comedy “La La Land” clinched as many as seven honours at the 74th Golden Globe Awards in Los Angeles on January 8, 2017. The winners are selected by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for performances in movies and television. Winners include: Best motion picture – drama: Moonlight; Best motion picture - comedy or musical: La La Land; Best animated feature film: Zootopia; Best foreign language film: Elle (France)

156) Claudio Ranieri won Men’s Coach of the Year award at the Best FIFA Football Awards in Zurich on January 9, 2017. He won for coaching which of the following EPL teams?

- a) Chelsea
- b) Tottenham Hotspur
- c) Liverpool
- d) Leicester City

157) Who among the following won the Puskas Award for Goal of the Year at the Best FIFA Football Awards in Zurich on January 9, 2017? He plays for Malaysian club Penang FC.

- a) Elias Sulaiman
- b) Mohd Faiz Subri
- c) Mohd Azrul Ahmad
- d) Mohd Syukur Saidin

158) Which of the following winners at the Best FIFA Football Awards in January 2017 and their countries is matched correctly?

- I. Silvia Neid – Germany
- II. Carli Lloyd – United States
- III. Atletico Nacional – Portugal

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only
- d) II and III only

The Best FIFA Football Awards were conferred on winners in Zurich on January 9, 2017. Mohd Faiz Subri's remarkable swerving free kick was named the best goal of the year by FIFA. The breath-taking strike earned the Malaysian forward the 2016 FIFA Puskás Award. Playing for Malaysian club Penang, Subri hit a swerving long-range free-kick against Pahang in the Malaysia Super League on February 16, 2016. ALL WINNERS: **Men's Player** - Cristiano Ronaldo; **Women's Player** - Carli Lloyd (United States); **Men's Coach** - Claudio Ranieri (coach of EPL club Leicester City); **Women's Coach** - Silvia Neid (Germany); **Fair Play Award** - Atletico Nacional (Colombian club); **Award for Outstanding Career** - Falcao; **Puskas Award** - Mohz Faiz Subri; **Fan Award** - Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool supporters

159) Who among the following was honoured by the US Embassy to acknowledge his immense contribution to the India-US ties on tuberculosis in January 2017?

- a) Anupam Kher
- b) Boman Irani
- c) Amitabh Bachchan
- d) Akshay Kumar

Amitabh Bachchan was honoured by the US Embassy to acknowledge his immense contribution to the India-US ties on tuberculosis. The award was presented by US Ambassador to India Richard R Verma to the 74-year-old actor, who himself is a TB survivor and brand ambassador for the cause, in Mumbai on January 9, 2017.

160) Which country was the top source of FDI in India in 2015-16, according to a report released by the RBI in January 2017?

- a) Mauritius
- b) United States
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Singapore

161) Which country was the top destination for ODI (Overseas Direct Investment) by Indian companies in 2015-16, according to a report released by the RBI in January 2017?

- a) Mauritius
- b) United States
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Singapore

Mauritius provided the maximum inward foreign direct investment, accounting for 20.8 per cent of FDI in India, followed by the US, Britain, Singapore and Japan till the end of the last fiscal, the RBI said in its 'Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies for 2015-16' released on January 10, 2017. The major destination for ODI (Overseas Direct Investment) by Indian companies was Singapore (20.6 per cent) in March 2016.

162) Which of the following statements regarding Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) is/are correct?

- I. The number of free withdrawals in a month is limited
- II. Bank can't levy charge for non-operation/activation of BSBDA
- III. BSBDA does not have requirement of any minimum balance

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only
- d) I, II and III

163) Which of the following statements regarding Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) is/are correct?

- I. There is no limit on the number of deposits that can be made in a month
- II. Banks are required to issue cheque books free of cost to BSBDA holders
- III. Holders of BSBDA will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only
- d) II and III only

The Centre has asked banks to obtain and link permanent account number (PAN) or Form 60 (where PAN is not available) in all existing bank accounts by February 28, 2017. The income tax rules have been amended for the purpose.

The directive will, however, not apply to the basic savings bank deposit account (BSBDA), according to an official release on January 7, 2017.

About 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' (BSBDA):

- This account shall not have the requirement of any minimum balance.
- While there will be no limit on the number of deposits that can be made in a month, account holders will be allowed a maximum of four free withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawals.
- No charge will be levied for non-operation/activation of in-operative 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'.
- Holders of 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank. If a customer has any other existing savings bank deposit account in that bank, he/she will be required to close it within 30 days from the date of opening a 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'.
- There is no provision for issue of cheque book with these accounts. Regarding paid facilities, banks can provide additional value-added services beyond the stipulated basic minimum services on reasonable and transparent basis.

164) Which of the following became the first bank to have a national tie-up with India Post in January 2017?

- a) HSBC
- b) Citibank
- c) Barclays Bank
- d) Bank of America

British lender Barclays Bank on January 10, 2017 became the first bank to have a national tie-up with the India Post which runs over 1,55,000 post offices across the country. The tie-up allows the bank to access to parts of the country that its existing branch network doesn't cover.

165) Consider the following statements regarding Payment Banks.

- I. They can issue Debit Cards
- II. They can issue Credit Cards
- III. They can offer loans

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) II only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) II and III only

166) Consider the following statements regarding Payment Banks.

- I. They can accept current deposits
- II. They can accept savings bank deposits
- III. Minimum balance in account can't exceed Rs. 1 lakh

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) II only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) I, II and III

Airtel Payments Bank commenced operations on January 12, 2017 offering an interest rate of 7.25 per cent on deposits in savings accounts. Customer's mobile number will serve as his bank account number. The bank will allow transfer of money to any bank account in India at a cost, but money transfers from an Airtel number to another Airtel number within the Payments Bank will be free. There are no charges for depositing money into the account but the Payments Bank will levy a charge of 0.65% when a customer makes physical cash withdrawal. A customer will be able to withdraw cash only at the banking retail points. The bank is a joint venture between Bharti Airtel (80.1 per cent) and Kotak Mahindra Bank (19.9 per cent).

RBI norms on Payments Banks

- Payments Bank can hold a maximum balance of Rs. 1 lakh per individual customers
- They cannot offer loans.
- They are however allowed to issue ATM/debit cards and other prepaid payment instruments.
- They are not allowed to issue credit cards.
- These banks can also distribute non-risk sharing simple financial products like mutual funds and insurance products.
- Payment banks can accept demand deposits, i.e., current deposits, and savings bank deposits from individuals, small businesses and other entities. No NRI deposits can be accepted

167) Consider the following.

- I. Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)
- II. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- III. National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Which of the above is/are listed as on January 14, 2017?

- a) I only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) II and III only

Asia's oldest bourse BSE will launch its much-awaited Rs 1,500 crore initial public offering (IPO) on January 23. The shares are expected to list on rival National Stock Exchange (NSE) on or around February 3. The IPO, which would open on January 23, closes on January 25, according to Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) filed by BSE with markets regulator SEBI on January 13, 2017. Multi Commodity Exchange of India is the only publicly listed exchange in the country. It was listed on BSE in 2012.

168) The India International Exchange (INX) was inaugurated at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, on January 9, 2017. It is owned by which of the following?

- a) NSE
- b) BSE
- c) MCX
- d) NCDEX

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India International Exchange (INX), the country's first international exchange at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City, Gandhinagar, on January 9, 2017. India INX is one of the world's most advanced technology platforms with a turn-around time of 4 micro seconds. It will operate for 22 hours a day to allow international investors and NRI to trade from anywhere across the globe. The India INX is a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE Ltd is expected to start trading before the end of January 2017. The exchange can trade securities and products other than Indian rupees. The securities and products that could be traded on the India INX are: equity shares of companies incorporated outside India, depository receipts, debt securities, currency and interest rate derivatives, index based derivatives, commodity derivatives and such other securities that may be allowed.

169) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for December 2016?

- a) 2.41%
- b) 3.41%
- c) 4.41%
- d) 5.41%

Retail inflation eased further to nearly 3-year low of 3.41 per cent in December, reflecting weak demand as consumers grappled with cash crunch following demonetisation, government data showed on January 12, 2017. The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation stood at 3.63 per cent in November 2016, as per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. A year ago, in December 2015, retail inflation was at 5.61 per cent.

170) Which of the following, in its report titled "Global Economic Prospects" released in January 2017 has forecast 7% growth for the Indian economy in 2016-17?

- a) IMF
- b) WEF
- c) OECD
- d) World Bank

The World Bank on January 11, 2017 cut India's GDP growth for 2016-17 fiscal to 7 per cent from its previous estimate of 7.6 per cent citing the impact of demonetisation, but forecast that the country would regain momentum in the following years with a growth of 7.6 per cent and 7.8 per cent due to a number of reform initiatives. "The immediate withdrawal of a large volume of currency in circulation and subsequent replacement with new notes announced by the government in November contributed to slowing growth in 2016," the World Bank said in its latest report titled Global Economic Prospects.

171) Where was world's largest street light replacement programme launched in January 2017? The existing lights will be replaced by LED.

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

Union Minister of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal dedicated the LED based Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), currently running in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) area, to the nation on January 9, 2017. It is the world's largest street light replacement programme, which is being implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power.

172) Consider the following regarding trade data in April-December 2016?

- I. Imports
- II. Exports
- III. Trade Deficit

Which of the above decreased over the same period of 2015?

- a) I only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) II and III only

India's exports continued to grow for the fourth straight month in December 2016, expanding by 5.72 per cent to USD 23.9 billion compared to USD 22.6 billion in the same month of previous year. Imports too rose by 0.46 per cent to USD 34.25 billion during the month under review, leaving a trade deficit of USD 10.36 billion, the trade data released by Commerce and Industry Ministry on January 13, 2017 showed. During April-December period, exports grew marginally by 0.75 per cent USD 198.8 billion. However, Imports dipped 7.42 per cent to USD 275.3 billion. Trade deficit during the nine-month period stood at USD 76.54 billion as against USD 100 billion in the same period last year.

173) Which of the following is the new ticketing app launched by IRCTC in January 2017?

- a) IRCTC Rail Click
- b) IRCTC Rail Clip
- c) IRCTC Rail Credit
- d) IRCTC Rail Connect

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on January 10, 2017 launched a new ticketing App, IRCTC Rail Connect, to facilitate booking of train tickets in a faster and easier way.

174) Who among the following sportspersons is not a golf player?

- a) Kevin Durant
- b) Tiger Woods
- c) Rory Mcilroy
- d) Jordan Spieth

A study prepared by the London School of Marketing has revealed that Swiss tennis player Roger Federer was the world's most marketable sports person in 2016. According to the study, published by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) website on January 12, 2017, the former World No.1, currently ranked 17th, earned nearly \$60.7 million in 2016. The world's top 10 marketable sportsmen are: 1) Roger Federer (tennis) 2) LeBron James (basketball) 3) Phil Mickelson (golf) 4) Tiger Woods (golf) 5) Kevin Durant (basketball) 6) Rory Mcilroy (golf) 7) Novak Djokovic (tennis) 8) Cristiano Ronaldo (football) 9) Jordan Spieth (golf) 10) Rafael Nadal (tennis).

175) KM Philip did at 104 in Chennai on January 11, 2017. He was known for contribution to which industry?

- a) Cement
- b) Tea
- c) Steel
- d) Rubber

KM Philip, 104, former whole-time director on the board of MRF, passed away in Chennai on January 11, 2017. A founding member of the All India Rubber Industries Association, he played a key role in the establishment and growth of the domestic rubber and tyre industries.

176) . Which of the following has 51% shareholding in Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL)?

- a) ISRO
- b) Air India

- c) ONGC
- d) HAL

Moving ahead with the strategic sale of Pawan Hans, the government on January 11, 2017 said it will sell its entire 51 per cent stake and transfer the management control of the helicopter service operator. Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL) was incorporated in 1985. Presently the shareholding of the Government of India is 51% and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is 49%. PHHL was incorporated with the primary objective of providing helicopter support services to the oil sector for its off-shore exploration operations, services in remote and hilly areas and charter services for promotion of tourism.

177) Which of the following said it will reserve six seats for women on its flights operating on domestic routes from January 18, 2017?

- a) GoAir
- b) IndiGo
- c) Jet Airways
- d) Air India

In a first-of-its-kind move in the aviation industry, national carrier Air India will reserve six seats for women on its flights operating on domestic routes from January 18, 2017. At times, a woman travelling alone gets a middle or window seat on aircraft, which puts her to inconvenience, particularly while going to washroom. This necessitated for the airline to keep some seats reserved for them on aircraft flying on domestic routes, an Air India spokesperson said. Keeping this in mind, it has been decided to keep all the six seats in the third row of the economy class on Airbus A320 reserved only for women. However, woman travelling with their family members would not be entitled to these seats.

178) Who among the following was appointed as the new MD & CEO of firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in January 2017?

- a) Aman Mehta
- b) Ishaat Hussain
- c) V. Thyagarajan
- d) Rajesh Gopinathan

Country's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on January 12, 2017 named Rajesh Gopinathan as its new MD and CEO after the incumbent N. Chandrasekaran was elevated as Chairman of Tata Sons -- the group's holding company. TCS also appointed N. Ganapathy Subramaniam as President and Chief Operating Officer. Chandrasekaran will assume charge as the Chairman of Tata Sons Ltd from February 21, 2017.

179) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Sons in January 2017?

- a) Ravindra Pisharody
- b) N. Chandrasekaran
- c) Satish Borwankar
- d) C. Ramakrishnan

Tata Sons on January 12, 2017 named TCS Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director N Chandrasekaran as its new Chairman over two months after the unceremonious sacking of Cyrus Mistry. The 54-year-old was chosen to step into the shoes of interim Chairman Ratan Tata, who took over on October 24, 2017 after the removal of Mistry.

180) Where was India's biggest public Wi-Fi network with 500 dedicated hotspots launched in January 2017?

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

India's biggest public Wi-Fi network, and among the world's largest, went live at 500 dedicated hotspots across Mumbai on January 9, 2017. The Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation (MITC) has collaborated with US-based companies like Hewlett Packard and Fortinet for the technical aspects. The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd is the bandwidth provider and Larsen & Toubro is the systems integrator.

181) The first Khadi Lounge was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at which of the following in January 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai

d) New Delhi

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on January 7, 2017 opened its first high end Khadi outlet named Khadi lounge in Mumbai, which will showcase designer line of garments and exclusive fabric for men and women. The designer wear includes high fashion garments including ready to wear designed by Ritu Beri, an acclaimed fashion designer.

182) Which of the following showcased human-sized robot Ira for banking operations in January 2017?

- a) Kotak Bank
- b) Axis Bank
- c) ICICI Bank
- d) HDFC Bank

The private lender HDFC Bank on January 9, 2017 launched what it claimed to be the first 'humanoid' in the domestic banking space, and also said it is looking to partner with start-ups having technological solutions for rural operations. The bank showcased human-sized robot Ira, developed in association with Kochi-based Asimov Robotics, and said it will be deployed soon. In 2016, City Union Bank had introduced robot 'Lakshmi', which uses artificial intelligence to handle 125 topics.

183) What was the theme of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit organised in Gandhinagar in January 2017?

- a) Bringing India to the World
- b) Bringing Gujarat to the World
- c) Connecting India to the World
- d) Connecting Gujarat to the World

The eight edition of the biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was organised at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 12, 2017. Themed around 'Connecting India to the World', the three-day summit had started with a grand opening ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in his valedictory address termed the event a big.

184) Which of the following has decided to build gaushalas (cow-sheds) in prisons in the state that have adequate land for the purpose?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Haryana

The Haryana government has decided to build gaushalas in all those prisons in the state that have adequate land for the purpose and first of these cow-sheds will come up at Karnal District Jail. "In the first phase gaushalas will be constructed in six jails of the state. The first will come up at the Karnal District Jail," State Jail Minister Krishan Lal Panwar said in Safidon, Jind on January 11, 2017. The Minister said the gaushalas will serve the dual purpose of cow protection and make milk available to inmates, who will help in upkeep of the sheds.

185) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the Apia International tennis tournament in Sydney in January 2017?

- a) Peng Shuai and Andrea Hlavackova
- b) Raluca Olaru and Olga Savchuk
- c) Katernia Siniakova and Alison Riske
- d) Timea Babos and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova

Sania Mirza and Czech Republic's Barbora Strycova went down to Timea Babos of Hungary and Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in straight sets in the Women's Doubles final of the Apia International tennis tournament in Sydney on January 13, 2017. The top seeded pair of Sania and Strycova lost 4-6, 4-6.

186) Who among the following won the Men's race at the Wipro Chennai Marathon on January 8, 2017?

- a) Isaac Kemboi
- b) Eliud Kipchoge
- c) Philemon Baaru
- d) Edisa Merga Ejigu

187) Who among the following won the Women's race at the Wipro Chennai Marathon on January 8, 2017?

- a) Kavita Raut
- b) Simta Sharma

c) Monica Athare

d) Sudha Singh

Isaac Kemboi from Kenya and Simta Sharma from Mumbai won the men's and women's full marathon respectively, in the 5th edition of 'The Wipro Chennai Marathon 2016,' held in Chennai on January 8, 2017. Kemboi clocked the 42.2 kilometers distance in 02:37:39. Simta Sharma took 3 hours and 34 minutes to emerge victorious in the Women's Full Marathon

188) Which of the following places in New Delhi hosted the Bharat Parv organised by the government from January 26 to 31, 2017?

a) India Habitat Centre

b) Rashtrapati Bhawan

c) Parliament House

d) Red Fort

189) Which was the first foreign contingent to participate in India's Republic Day Parade in 2016?

a) Australia

b) Russia

c) United Kingdom

d) France

The Nation celebrated its 68th Republic Day on January 26, 2017. The day honours the date on which the Constitution came into force on 26th January in 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document. The main function was held in New Delhi. A major highlight of the parade was 149-member marching contingent from UAE comprising personnel from Presidential Guards, the Air Force, the Navy and Army, led by a band comprising 35 musicians from the Gulf country. The UAE is the second country after France whose troops participated in the Republic Day in 2016. Bharat Parv was organized by the Government of India at the Red Fort, Delhi from January 26 to 31, 2017. The objective was to promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to popularise the idea of "Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat". The Ministry of Tourism was designated as the nodal Ministry for the event.

190) The 'TROPEX' naval exercise started on January 24, 2017. Acronym TROPEX stands for:

a) Theatre Readiness and Offensive Exercise

b) Theatre Readiness and Operational Exercise

c) Theatre Reconnaissance and Offensive Exercise

d) Theatre Reconnaissance and Operational Exercise

The annual Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX) started on January 24, 2017. The month-long exercise has ships and aircraft of both the Western and Eastern Naval Commands, as also the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard exercising together.

191) Which of the following social media was launched as helpline by Chief of Army staff General Bipin Rawat to receive grievances of the army personnel on January 27, 2017?

a) WhatsApp

b) Pinterest

c) Twitter

d) Facebook

Chief of Army staff General Bipin Rawat on January 27, 2017 launched a WhatsApp helpline to receive grievances of the army personnel. The aggrieved armed personnel will be able to directly communicate with the Army chief with the help of this helpline. It comes in the backdrop of complaint being uploaded by some soldiers on social media platform.

192) Which of the following hosted the Combined Commanders Conference on January 21, 2017?

a) Shimla

b) Dehradun

c) Bhopal

d) Panaji

The day-long Combined Commanders Conference was held at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun on January 21, 2017 where top military commanders along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, defence minister Manohar Parrikar and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval took stock of security challenges before the country. The conference saw presentations from Chiefs of Navy, IAF and Army.

193) Which of the following was used by AIIMS to digitise services? The AIIMS has been asked to replicate the project in government hospitals across the country.

- a) Communication Project
- b) Automation Project
- c) Networking Project
- d) Transformation Project

The Centre has asked AIIMS in New Delhi to help public hospitals across the country replicate the premier medical institute's Transformation Project for digitising services. The Union Health Ministry has mandated AIIMS to help the states and Union territories replicate the initiative which comprises the institute's digital project and OPD Transformation, AIIMS Deputy Director (Administration) informed the media in on January 26, 2017.

194) National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 24, 2017 to mark which of the following?

- a) Date on which independent India's first government was sworn in
- b) Date on which the first vote was cast in independent India
- c) Date on which the first voter identity card was issued
- d) Date on which the Election Commission was founded

195) The ____ National Voters' Day (NVD) was celebrated by the Election Commission of India on January 25, 2017.

- a) 6th
- b) 7th
- c) 8th
- d) 9th

196) What was the theme of the National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 24, 2017?

- a) Inclusive and Qualitative Participation
- b) Proud to be a Voter – Ready to Vote
- c) Empowering Young & Future Voters
- d) Easy Registration, Easy Correction

197) Which of the following is the book launched by the election Commission on National Voters' Day on January 24, 2017?

- a) Observing Indian Elections- Saga of Living Democracy
- b) Energising Indian Elections- Saga of Living Democracy
- c) Chronicling Indian Elections- Saga of Living Democracy
- d) Unfolding Indian Elections- Journey of Living Democracy

The 7th National Voters' Day (NVD) was celebrated by the Election Commission of India on January 25, 2017 with theme the "Empowering Young & Future Voters". NVD is being celebrated since 2011 on 25th January, the foundation Day of Election Commission of India (25th January 1950). Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi released the book "Unfolding Indian Elections- Journey of Living Democracy" and presented first copy to the President. This book has been brought out by the Election Commission of India and Publication Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

198) National Girl Child Day was observed on:

- a) January 23
- b) January 24
- c) January 25
- d) January 26

199) Consider the following women achievers.

- I. Avani Chaturvedi – Woman fighter pilot
- II. Arunima Sinha – Amputee mountaineer
- III. Deepa Malik – Cricketer

Which of the above is/are matched correctly?

- a) II only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

200) 'Child Vulnerability Map', a district-wise map depicting problems facing children in the country, was released by the WCD Ministry in January 2017. It has been prepared by which NGO?

- a) Childline India

- b) Askhay Patra Foundation
- c) Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- d) Child Rights and You

The Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrated the National Girl Child Day at a special function in New Delhi on January 24, 2017. The theme of the program was Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. The National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 was also released followed on the occasion by WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi. Special addresses were given by eminent speakers including Deepa Malik (Silver medalist at Rio Paralympics), Avani Chaturvedi (is among the first 3 women fighter pilots inducted in the Indian Air Force in June 2016), Arunima Sinha (1st women amputee to climb Mount Everest) and Shanno (former street girl and advisor of Balaknama newspaper by street children). In another initiative, a district-wise map depicting problems facing children in the country was released. Called 'Child Vulnerability Map', prepared by NGO Childline India Foundation, it covers 409 of total 678 districts in the country and shows prevalence of various issues affecting children therein.

201) The country's first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) were launched at Dahod and _____ on January 25, 2017.

- a) Nagpur
- b) Kanpur
- c) Pune
- d) Mysore

In order to extend passport services to citizens on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have now agreed to utilize the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) for delivering passport related services to the citizens of our country. The pilot projects for this joint venture between MEA and DOP was inaugurated on January 25, 2017 at the HPO at Mysore in Karnataka and at Dahod in Gujarat.

202) Consider the following statements on trains conferred UNESCO World Heritage Site Status in India – Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway and Kalka Shimla Railway.

- I. Nilgiri Mountain Railway was the first to receive this status
- II. Kalka Shimla Railway was the last to receive this status
- III. Railways and UNSECO signed agreement to develop Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in January 2017

Which of the above is/are matched correctly?

- a) II only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is all set to receive a major conservation boost with the Indian Railways on January 20, 2017 signing a fund-in-trust agreement worth \$5,33,332 to enable UNESCO develop a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) and a framework for an effective management system for it. DHR was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. While the CCMP for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway had actually commenced in April, 2016, once successful, it would be replicated in Nilgiri Mountain Railway and Kalka Shimla Railway too. While Nilgiri Mountain Railway was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005, Kalka Shimla Railway was given the same status in 2008. The three together are called UNESCO's 'Mountain Railways of India World Heritage Site.'

203) The Supreme Court on January 23, 2017 constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the allegations of abuse of authority committed by former CBI Director Ranjit Sinha in which of the following?

- a) 2G scam
- b) Coal scam
- c) Adarsh scam
- d) Commonwealth Games scam

The Supreme Court on January 23, 2017 constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the allegations of abuse of authority committed by former CBI Director Ranjit Sinha to scuttle investigation and enquiries in coal block allocation cases. A bench, comprising Justices Madan B Lokur, Kurian Joseph and A K Sikri, observed that a prima facie case has definitely been made out for probe into the abuse of authority by Sinha.

204) Who among the following is the author of 'Veerappan: Chasing the Brigand'?

- a) Milan Vaishnav
- b) Vera Hildebrand
- c) K. Vijay Kumar
- d) Ashok Banker

Recent book releases: 'When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics' by Milan Vaishnav, 'Women At War' by Vera Hildebrand, 'Veerappan: Chasing the Brigand' by K. Vijay Kumar, 'Ashoka: Lion of Maurya' by Ashok Banker, 'The Tartan Turban: In Search of Alexander Gardner' by John Keay and 'Beauty is a Wound' by Eka Kurniawan

205) Who amongst the following was appointed as the CEO of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) by the government in January 2017?

- a) Satya Paul
- b) Sandeep Khosla
- c) Rina Dhaka
- d) Anshu Sinha

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on January 24, 2017 appointed Anshu Sinha as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises for a period upto 29.01.2019.

206) Pakistan Military Authorities handed over Chandu Babulal Chavan to Indian Authorities at Wagah Crossing Point on January 21, 2017. He belonged to which of the following?

- a) SSB
- b) Rashtriya Rifles
- c) Assam Rifles
- d) BSF

Pakistan Military Authorities handed over Sepoy Chandu Babulal Chavan to Indian Authorities at Wagah Crossing Point on January 21, 2017. The Rashtriya Rifles soldier had crossed over to Pak Occupied Kashmir from own Krishna Ghati sector on September 29, 2016 just hours after surgical strike across Line of Control.

207) Renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri died in Mumbai on January 22, 2017. His real name was:

- a) Wasim Rana
- b) Sukhwinder Negi
- c) Vipin Purohit
- d) Jaswant Rai

Renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri died in Mumbai on January 22, 2017. Naqsh was born as Jaswant Rai in the town of Lyallpur in Punjab (now in Pakistan).

208) The iconic Burj Khalifa building was displayed in the tri-colour on January 25-26, 2017. The building is in:

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Dubai

As a goodwill gesture to mark the historic visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest on the 68th Republic Day, the iconic Burj Khalifa in Dubai was displayed in the tri-colour on January 25-26, 2017. Burj Khalifa is the tallest building in the world and is a major tourist attraction.

209) Which of the following hosted the G-20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in January 2017?

- a) Bonn
- b) Berlin
- c) Frankfurt
- d) Dresden

Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Radha Mohan Singh on January 22, 2017 addressed the G-20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting at Berlin, Germany.

210) India contributed \$100,000 for the UN Haiti ____ Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund in January 2017.

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Pneumonia
- c) Avian Flu
- d) Cholera

India contributed \$100,000 to a UN trust fund designed to support Haiti in recovering from the ravages of the 2010 Cholera epidemic and building improved sanitation and health systems in the country. First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Ashish Sinha handed over \$100,000 cheque for the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund in Jan 2017.

211) Alexander M. Kadakin passed away on January 26, 2017 at the age of 67. He was Russia's _____

- a) Defence Minister
- b) Foreign Minister
- c) Head of Central Bank
- d) Ambassador to India

Russian Ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin passed away in New Delhi on January 26, 2017. He was 67. Kadakin was serving as the Ambassador since 2009.

212) Which of the following is the communications satellite launched by Japan on January 24, 2017 to promote sharing of military information?

- a) Osumi-2
- b) Selene-2
- c) Nozomi-2
- d) Kirameki-2

Japan on January 24, 2017 launched a new communications satellite designed to promote the sharing of military information. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. launched the X-band Kirameki-2 satellite aboard the H-2A Launch Vehicle from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima prefecture. It is the first satellite launched by Japan's Ministry of Defence, which shoulders the mission to upgrade the Self-Defence Forces' (SDF) communications network.

213) Which of the following is the surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSM) of 2200 km range that was test fired by Pakistan in January 2017?

- a) Abdali
- b) Ghazni
- c) Ghauri
- d) Ababeel

Pakistan on January 24, 2017 successfully conducted the first test flight of the radar-evading 'Ababeel' surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSM) capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 2,200 kms, bringing many Indian cities within its range.

214) Who among the following was named as the new Prime Minister of Mauritius in January 2017?

- a) Pravind Jugnauth
- b) Rashid Beebeejaun
- c) Navin Ramgoolam
- d) Dinesh Ramjuttun

Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth resigned in capital Port Louis on January 23, 2017. The 86-year-old veteran politician will be succeeded by his son Pravind Jugnauth, the current Minister of Finance and also leader of the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), the largest party in the governing coalition. Mauritius is a multi-ethnic archipelago nation of 1.2 million people off the east coast of Africa. It is the only Hindu-majority country in Africa. It was colonised by the Dutch in the 17th century, then the French and finally Britain before gaining independence in 1968.

215) The Survey of India said in January 2017 that it has decided to 're-measure' the height of Mount Everest. Who among the following is the Surveyor General of India?

- a) Prithvish Nag
- b) Vinay Kant Nagar
- c) Swarna Subba Rao

- c) Chandra Prakash Mehta
- d) Surinder Mohan Chadha

The height of Mount Everest will soon be “re-measured” by the Survey of India to determine whether the world’s tallest peak has really shrunk following a devastating earthquake in Nepal two years ago. An expedition from the Survey of India would depart for Nepal in two months to conduct the exercise. Mount Everest officially stands at 8,848 metres (29,028 feet) above sea level. The project, for which required sanctions have been obtained, would help the future scientific studies as well, Surveyor General of India Swarna Subba Rao said in Hyderabad on January 24, 2017.

216) Who among the following singers won 2017 Padma Vibhushan award?

- a) Yesudas
- b) Vani Jairam
- c) P. Susheela
- d) S. Janaki

Kattassery Joseph Yesudas won the National Award for the Best Male Playback Singer seven times, 5 Filmfare Awards and the State Award for the Best Playback Singer 43 times, which consists of awards by the state governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and West Bengal. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1975, the Padma Bhushan in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2017 by the Government of India for his contributions towards the arts.

217) Which of the following is the NGO founded by 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev?

- a) Janaagraha
- b) Isha Foundation
- c) Navsarjan Trust
- d) Nimmagadda Foundation

218) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a winner of which of the following awards?

- a) Gandhi Peace Prize
- b) Right Livelihood Award
- c) Ramon Magsaysay Prize
- d) Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar

Isha Foundation is a non-profit, spiritual organization founded in 1992 by 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. It is based at the Isha Yoga Center near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and at the Isha Institute of Inner Sciences at McMinnville, Tennessee in the United States. He was conferred with the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar by the Government of India in June 2010.

219) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sharad Pawar served in which of the following positions at the centre in 1993-95?

- a) Home Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Human Resource Development Minister
- d) Defence Minister

220) Consider the following about 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sharad Pawar.

- I. Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra
- II. Currently Lok Sabha Member from Maharashtra
- III. Served as Union Cabinet Minister in 2009-2014

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar is currently a Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra. He was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for three terms: July 1980-Aug. 1981, Dec. 1983-Jan. 1985 and March 1985-Dec. 1986. He was Union Cabinet Minister of Defence in 1993-95 and Union Cabinet Minister of Agriculture; Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in May 2009- Jan. 2014. He served his sixth term in fourteenth Lok Sabha from 23 May 2004 to May 2009. The NCP was formed on 25 May 1999, by Sharad Pawar, P. A. Sangma, and Tariq Anwar after they were expelled from the Indian National Congress (INC).

221) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Murlu Manohar Joshi served in which of the following positions at the centre in 1999-2005?

- a) Home Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Human Resource Development Minister
- d) Defence Minister

222) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Murlu Manohar Joshi is the Lok Sabha member from:

- a) Allahabad
- b) Agra
- c) Lucknow
- d) Kanpur

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee and current BJP Lok Sabha member from Kanpur Murlu Manohar Joshi served as Minister of Human Resource Development in May 1998 – May 2004 and Minister of Science and Technology in May 1999 – May 2005.

223) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Udupi Ramachandra Rao is a former head of which of the following organisations?

- a) Atomic Energy Commission
- b) Indian Institute of science
- c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Udupi Ramachandra Rao, popularly known as U. R. Rao, was the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from 1984 to 1994. Rao was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976.

224) Consider the following about 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Purno Agitok Sangma.

- I. Former Chief Minister of Meghalaya
- II. Was Lok Sabha member when he died in 2016
- III. Had served as Minister at the Centre

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III

225) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Purno Agitok Sangma served as Lok Sabha Speaker from:

- a) 1992-94
- b) 1996-98
- c) 2000-02
- d) 2004-06

226) Consider the following about 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee and former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno Agitok Sangma.

- I. First from opposition to become Speaker
- II. First from Scheduled Tribe to become Speaker
- III. Youngest to become Speaker

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Purno Agitok Sangma passed away in New Delhi on March 4, 2016. 68 year old Sangma was sitting member of Lok Sabha from Tura Constituency in Meghalaya. He was elected to the Lower House nine times. In 1977, he was elected to the 6th Lok Sabha from Tura and remained a member of the lower house until 15th Lok Sabha, except for the 9th Lok Sabha. He became Minister of State for Commerce and Civil Supplies in the Rajiv Gandhi government in the 1980s. From 1988 to 1990, he served as Meghalaya Chief Minister. He served as a Minister of State for Coal (independent charge) in the Narasimha Rao government in the 1990s. On May 23, 1996 Sangma was

elected Lok Sabha Speaker. This marked many firsts — of being unanimously elected Speaker, of being the first Speaker from the Opposition, the first from a Scheduled Tribe as well as the first Christian and at 49 the youngest ever in the post. He served as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998.

227) Who among the following musicians is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees?

- a) L. Subramaniam
- b) Shivkumar Sharma
- c) Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
- d) Kuzhalmannam Ramakrishnan

228) Tehemton Udwadia was conferred Padma Bhushan in 2017 for achievements in the field of:

- a) Literature & Education
- b) Social Work
- c) Civil Service
- d) Medicine

229) Who among the following citizens of Thailand is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees?

- a) Thaksin Shinawatra
- b) Bhumibol Adulyadej
- c) Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
- d) Samak Sundaravej

230) Who among the following is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees in 'Others-Yoga' category?

- a) Swami Satyananda Saraswati
- b) Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati
- c) Swami Niranjanananda Saraswati
- d) Swami Ganapathi Sachchidananda

231) Who among the following is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees in 'Others- Spiritualism' category?

- a) Mahaprajna Maharaj
- b) Tarun Sagar Maharaj
- c) Vidyananda Maharaj
- d) Ratnasundar Maharaj

2017 Padma Bhushan awardees: Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Art-Music), Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi (Literature & Education), Tehemton Udwadia (Medicine), Ratnasundar Maharaj (Others-Spiritualism), Swami Niranjanananda Saraswati (Others-Yoga), Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner-Literature & Education), Late Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous-Literature & Education: Journalism)

232) 2017 Padma Shri awardee Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO) has been honoured for his work in which field?

- a) Law
- b) Music
- c) Medicine
- d) Information Technology

Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO) was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Literature & Education'. He is a professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

233) Who among the following is the Nepalese social activist awarded 2017 Padma Shri for social work?

- a) Indira Ranamagar
- b) Anuradha Koirala
- c) Pushpa Basnet
- d) Durga Ghimire

2017 Padma Shri awardee Anuradha Koirala is a Nepalese social activist and the founder and director of Maiti Nepal – a non-profit organization in Nepal, dedicated to helping victims of sex trafficking.

234) 2017 Padma Shri awardee (posthumously) Suniti Solomon is known for her work in which field of medicine?

- a) AIDS
- b) Malaria

- c) Leprosy
- d) Blindness

2017 Padma Shri awardee (posthumously) Suniti Solomon was a physician and microbiologist who pioneered AIDS research and prevention in India after having diagnosed the first Indian AIDS cases in Chennai in 1985. She died on July 28, 2015 in Chennai.

235) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Social Work' has been honoured for having planted over one crore saplings spanning over the last five decades?

- a) Bipin Ganatra
- b) Karimul Hak
- c) Girish Bhardwaj
- d) Daripalli Ramaiah

2017 Padma Shri awardee Daripalli Ramaiah has planted over one crore saplings spanning over the last five decades. Ramaiah, known as 'Chettla Ramaiah' in his home district Khammam in Telangana, moves around on his cycle with seeds in his pocket and plants them wherever he sees barren land.

236) Imrat Khan has won 2017 Padma Shri award in 'Art-Music' for his expertise in which of the following instruments?

- a) Flute
- b) Sarod
- c) Veena
- d) Surbahar

Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO) was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Art-Music'. Khan, who lives in St Louis, Missouri, is the younger brother of late Sitar maestro Vilayat Khan, and is considered one of the world's greatest player of the surbahar, a deep-toned, sitar like instrument developed by his great grandfather, Ustad Sahabdad Khan.

237) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Social Work' has been honoured for building steel bridges in rural areas?

- a) Bipin Ganatra
- b) Karimul Hak
- c) Girish Bhardwaj
- d) Daripalli Ramaiah

2017 Padma Shri awardee Girish Bharadwaj is known for building steel bridges in rural areas. Till date, he has built 128 bridges. Most of them are in Karnataka (91) and in Kerala, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Girish Bharadwaj has built three bridges in his native Sullia taluk.

238) Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Trade & Industry' for his achievements in which industry?

- a) Hotels
- b) Textiles
- c) Banking
- d) Information technology

Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Trade & Industry'. He is the Chairman of Hyderabad-based IT company Cyient and is also a former Chairman of NASSCOM.

239) 2017 Padma Shri awardee Vikas Gowda has won gold medal for India at which of the following events?

- a) Asian Games
- b) Olympic Games
- c) Paralympic Games
- d) Commonwealth Games

240) 2017 Padma Shri awardee Deepa Malik has won medal for India at which of the following events?

- a) Asian Games
- b) Olympic Games
- c) Paralympic Games
- d) South Asian Games

8 sportspersons are among 2017 Padma Shri awardees: Virat Kohli, Shekar Naik (blind cricketer), Vikas Gowda, Deepa Malik, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Dipa Karmakar, P R Sreejesh and Sakshi Malik. Deepa Malik on September 12, 2016 created history by becoming the first-ever woman from the country to win a medal at the Paralympics when she bagged a

silver in the shotput F-53 event. Vikas Gowda won gold for India in Men's Discus throw event at the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Glasgow. In Asian Games, he has won silver in 2014 at Incheon and bronze at 2010 in Guangzhou.

241) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Social Work' has been honoured for saving many lives during fires?

- a) Bipin Ganatra
- b) Karimul Hak
- c) Girish Bhardwaj
- d) Daripalli Ramaiah

2017 Padma Shri awardee Bipin Ganatra was 12 year old in 1982, when he lost his elder brother after he succumbed to burn injuries he received in a fire. Since then Ganatra has been on a mission: save as many lives as possible from fire. As West Bengal's unofficial firefighter, Ganatra will receive a India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri, from the President for his services. Ganatra lives in a small house on 27, Devendra Mullick Street, Kolkata. He sleeps on the floor and tracks the news on the TV.

242) Chintakandi Mallesham was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering' for her achievements in which field?

- a) Hotels
- b) Textiles
- c) Medicine
- d) Construction

Chintakandi Mallesham, a handloom weaver from Bhuvanagiri Yadadri district in Telangana, won the 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science and Engineering' category. Mallesham invented Lakshmi Asu machine for the benefit of weavers to weave sarees easily.

243) Chandrakant Pithawa has won 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering' for his work at:

- a) Defence Research and Development Organization
- b) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
- c) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation

Dr Chandrakant Pithawa has won 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering'. Pithawa is a retired Distinguished Scientist and former Director of Electronics and Instrumentation group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. Pithawa is from Madhya Pradesh and is settled in Hyderabad.

244) 2017 Padma Shri awardee for 'Civil Service' T.K. Viswanathan is serving as:

- a) Rajya Sabha Secretary General
- b) Lok Sabha Secretary General
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Foreign Secretary

Former Union Law Secretary T.K. Viswanathan is the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha. The 2017 Padma Shri awardee was appointed to this position in 2010.

245) Jitendra Nath Goswami has won 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering' for his work in the field of:

- a) Space
- b) Agriculture
- c) Pharmaceuticals
- d) Atomic energy

2017 Padma Shri awardee Jitendra Nath Goswami is an eminent scientist who was associated with the 'Mangalyaan' mission to Mars where he was the principal scientist, and played a major role in the success of the country's first Mars mission.

246) Who among the following Celebrity chefs is among the 2017 Padma Shri awardees?

- a) Tarla Dalal
- b) Sanjeev Kapoor
- c) Atul Kochhar
- d) Madhur Jaffrey

247) Who among the following is the woman Kalaripayattu exponent in news for winning 2017 Padma Shri in 'Other-Martial Arts'?

- a) Lalithambika Amma
- b) Meenakshi Amma
- c) Balamani Amma
- d) Sathyavathi Amma

Meenakshi Amma, a 75 year old exponent of Kalaripayattu from Kerala, was awarded 2017 Padma Shri for 'Others-Martial Art'.

248) Who among the following performed kidney transplant surgery on Union Minister Sushma Swaraj recently? He is among 2017 Padma Shri awardees.

- a) Dr. Will John
- b) Dr. Mohammed Abdul Waheed
- c) Dr. Madan Madhav Godbole
- d) Dr Mukut Minz

Dr Mukut Minz, who led the kidney transplant surgery on Union Minister Sushma Swaraj recently, is among the 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Medicine'.

249) 2017 Padma Shri awardee for 'Civil Service' Kanwal Sibal has served in which of the following positions?

- a) Rajya Sabha Secretary General
- b) Lok Sabha Secretary General
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Foreign Secretary

2017 Padma Shri awardee for 'Civil Service' Kanwal Sibal entered the Indian Foreign Service in 1966 and retired as Foreign Secretary in 2003.

250) Who among the following is among the two Kirti Chakra winners at the Independence Day Gallantry Awards announced on January 25, 2017?

- a) Captain Jaidev
- b) Subedar Ajay Vardhan (posthumous)
- c) Naib Subedar Rajesh Kumar (posthumous)
- d) Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar (posthumous)

The President has approved award of 398 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of the 68th Republic Day Celebrations. According to a press note issued by the Ministry of Defence this includes two Kirti Chakras, 12 Shaurya Chakras, three Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 91 Sena Medal (Gallantry), two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), four Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry), 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, five Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 49 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 14 Yudh Seva Medal, four Bar to Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 36 Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 14 Vayu Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), four Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 119 Vishisht Seva Medal. Kirti Chakra awardees: 5047749K LANCE HAVILDAR PREM BAHADUR RESMI MAGAR, THIRD BATTALION OF THE FIRST GORKHA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS): ARMY; IC-63798F MAJOR ROHIT SURI, 4TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES): ARMY

251) Who among the following was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra, the highest peacetime gallantry award of the country, on January 26, 2017?

- a) Major Gaurav Thakur
- b) Havildar Hangpan Dada
- c) Rifleman Ran Bahadur Gurung
- d) Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami

President Pranab Mukherjee on January 26, 2017 posthumously conferred the Ashok Chakra on Havildar Hangpan Dada of the Rashtriya Rifles, who laid down his life after single-handedly killing three terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in 2016. The highest peacetime gallantry award for valour and courageous action was accepted by Dada's widow Chasen Lowang. The award had been announced in August 2016.

252) Which of the following did not have a single awardee in honours for police and paramilitary personnel on January 25, 2017?

- a) Police Medals for Gallantry
- b) Police Medal for Meritorious Service
- c) Presidents Police Medals for Gallantry
- d) President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service

"777 personnel have been awarded police medals on the occasion of the Republic Day this year. **Police Medals for Gallantry** (PMG) have been awarded to 100 personnel, **President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service** to 80 personnel and **Police Medal for Meritorious Service** to 597 personnel," an official release stated on January 25, 2017. There have been no **Presidents Police Medals for Gallantry** (PPMG) awarded this year. The gallantry tally is led by Jammu and Kashmir Police with 32 Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) followed by the country's largest paramilitary CRPF with 16 medals, Andhra Pradesh 12, the Border Security Force five medals, Chhattisgarh seven and one to Sashastra Seema Bal.

253) Who among the following won the Shram Ratna Award at the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for 2015 announced in January 2017?

- a) Subrata Kumar
- b) Abhijit Das Gupta
- c) Bijay Kishore Mishra
- d) None of the above

254) Prime Minister's Shram Awards for 2015 were announced in January 2017. Highest number of awards were given in which category?

- a) Shram Ratna
- b) Shram Shree/Shram Devi
- c) Shram Bhushan
- d) Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana

The Government on January 24, 2017 announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2015 to be awarded to 56 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performances, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.

This year, no nomination was found suitable for the prestigious **Shram Ratna** Award. Four nominations for the **Shram Bhushan** Award, twenty four nominations for **Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana** and twenty eight nominations for **Shram Shree/Shram Devi** Awards have been selected. Even though, the total number of Shram Awards is 33, the number of workers receiving the Awards is 56 (Including 3 women), as some of the Awards have been shared by workers or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker. These include 40 workers from the public sector and 16 workers from the private sector.

Shram Bhushan carries a cash award of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a 'Sanad'. **Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana** Award carries a cash award of Rs. 60,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Shram Shree/Shram Devi Award carries a cash award of Rs. 40,000/- and a 'Sanad'.

255) Who among the following among the five winners of the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak announced in January 2017?

- a) Nand Ram
- b) Bibhuti Roy
- c) Balram Kumar
- d) Vadmitra Choudhary

The President of India on January 25, 2017 approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2016 on 36 persons which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 05, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 08 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 23 persons; 07 awards are posthumous. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak recipients: Roluahpuii (Posthumous), Mizoram; Shishir Kumar Yadavannavr (Posthumous), Karnataka; Vadmitra Choudhary (Posthumous), Uttar Pradesh; Rakesh Kumar CN (Posthumous), Karnataka; Suresh NB (Posthumous), Kerala

256) Who among the following was declared the winner of the Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Award for Poetry 2017 at the Jaipur Literature Festival in January 2017?

- a) Mrigesh Barua
- b) Jayanta Mahapatra
- c) Ratheeshan Nambolan
- d) Dharmendra Kumar Yadav

Jayanta Mahapatra, a physicist and poet, was declared the winner of the Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Award for Poetry 2017 at the Jaipur Literature Festival in Jaipur on January 21, 2017.

257) The Chief Ministers' Committee on Digital Payments submitted its interim report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 24, 2017. Who among the following is the Chairperson of this committee?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) Akhilesh Yadav
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

Give tax incentive and subsidies to boost digital transactions, but levy a banking cash transaction tax on cash transactions of Rs 50,000 and above, a chief ministers' committee on digital payment said in its interim report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 24, 2017. The Committee, headed Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu

Naidu, also recommended abolition of merchant discount rate (MDR) to make digital payments cheaper than cash. The panel also suggested that there should be no retrospective taxation on merchants doing digital transactions.

258) According to RBI's guidelines, contactless cards don't require entering of PIN numbers for transactions of _____ or less.

- a) Rs. 500
- b) Rs. 1000
- c) Rs. 1500
- d) Rs. 2000

259) Which of the following is the technology used in processing of contactless card transactions?

- a) Note Field Contact
- b) Near Field Communication
- c) Network Field Contact
- d) National Field Communication

Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a Contactless Credit Card on January 21, 2017. This new credit card, which has been named PNB Wave N Pay: Contactless Card, was launched by Usha Ananthasubramanian, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, PNB in the capital. This card could be used by just waving it across the terminal and the transaction will be through. There is no need to enter any PIN for transactions up to Rs 2,000. The cardholder has full charge back rights on the misuse, a PNB statement said. This contactless credit card has been launched on Visa Platinum platform.

Contactless cards work on Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, which employs radio transmission to ascertain contact when the cards are tapped or waved near a terminal. These enable customers to make payments by waving or tapping the cards instead of swiping them. After this, one needs to enter one's PIN to complete the transaction. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s guidelines allow banks to process contactless transactions below Rs 2,000 without a PIN.

RBI rules specify that customers can use contactless cards in the traditional way — by swiping or dipping — if they so desire. Contactless cards increase the ease and convenience of transactions. Moreover, the speed at which the transaction can be carried out is almost double that of traditional cards. Banks claim these cards are very secure because unlike the cards in use now, these do not have to be handed over to the merchant and so is always in one's sight.

260) Consider the following statements on BSE which was in news for its initial public offering (IPO) in January 2017.

- I. Its shares will list on NSE
 - II. IPO was oversubscribed by more than 50 times
 - III. BSE's IPO is the first one by a stock exchange in India
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III

Stock exchange major BSE's initial public offering (IPO) was oversubscribed by 51.22 times on January 25, 2017, the third and final day of the Rs 1,243.43 crore offering. It is the first stock exchange in India to launch an IPO. Established on July 9, 1875, BSE is the country's biggest bourse in terms of listed companies (5,868 firms) on its platform. But the exchange's own shares will trade on the rival National Stock Exchange (NSE).

261) The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee submitted its report to the Finance Minister on January 23, 2017. Who among the following is the Chairman?

- a) Y. V. Reddy
- b) N. K. Singh
- c) D. Subbarao
- d) Sumit Bose

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee headed by N.K. Singh, former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary and former Member of Parliament presented its Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on January 23, 2017.

262) The government has decided to implement General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) from April 1, 2017. GAAR was introduced for the first time in which year's union budget?

- a) 2011-12
- b) 2012-13
- c) 2013-14

d) 2014-15

Addressing investors' concerns ahead of GAAR implementation from April 1, the Central Board of Direct Taxes on January 27, 2017 said it will not interplay with their right to choose a method of transaction and won't apply if routing of funds through a jurisdiction is "based on non-tax commercial considerations". General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) was part of the 2012-13 Budget speech of the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to check tax evasion and avoidance. However, its implementation was repeatedly postponed because of the apprehensions expressed by foreign investors.

263) What is India's rank out of 176 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released in January 2017?

- a) 69th
- b) 79th
- c) 89th
- d) 99th

264) Which are the most corrupt and least corrupt countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released in January 2017?

- a) Denmark, Somalia
- b) Germany, Myanmar
- c) Sweden, Nigeria
- d) Finland, Mongolia

265) Anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International is based in:

- a) Berlin
- b) Bucharest
- c) Budapest
- d) Bujumbura

India has been ranked 79th among 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index 2016 released by the Berlin-based Transparency International organisation. Its score marginally improved from 38 in 2015 to 40 in 2016. India had a score of 36 in 2012.

The organisation has used the World Bank data, the world economic forum and other institutions to rank countries by perceived levels of corruption in public sector. The score runs from zero to 100, from highly corrupt to 100. Belarus, Brazil, & China shared the same ranks as India.

The list was topped by New Zealand and Denmark with a score of 90 each. Higher-ranked countries tend to have higher degrees of press freedom, access to information about public expenditure, stronger standards of integrity for public officials, and independent judicial systems.

Somalia was ranked the most corrupt country with a score of 10. Other countries with lower rankings were South Sudan, North Korea, Syria, and Yemen. The lower-ranked countries in the index were plagued by untrustworthy and badly functioning public institutions like the police and judiciary. (January 27, 2017)

266) The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, observed on January 27, 2016, refers to events in which of the following wars?

- a) Crimean War
- b) Yom Kippur War
- c) First World War
- d) Second World War

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust was observed on January 27, 2017. During the Second World War, six million Jews were systematically rounded up and exterminated.

267) 51st birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai was celebrated on January 28, 2017. Which bank was founded by him?

- a) Punjab & Sind Bank
- b) Indian Bank
- c) Allahabad Bank
- d) Punjab National Bank

151st birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai was celebrated on January 28, 2017. A stalwart of the freedom struggle, Lala Lajpat Rai ranks among India's most outstanding leaders. He was popularly known as 'Punjab Kesari' or 'The Lion of Punjab'. Born on 28th January 1865 at a small village of Dhudike in district Ferozepur, Punjab, he was at the forefront of

the protest against Simon Commission and was injured in a lathi-charge by British police, resulting in his death on November 17, 1928. He also founded the Punjab National Bank.

268) What is the rate of return guaranteed under the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2017?

- a) 7%
- b) 7.5%
- c) 8%
- d) 8.5%

269) The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 is open to citizens of age _____ and above.

- a) 55 years
- b) 60 years
- c) 65 years
- d) 70 years

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 24, 2017 gave its post-facto approval for launching of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 (VPBY 2017). It is a part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security. The scheme will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) during the current financial year to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions. The scheme will provide an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly/quarterly/half-yearly and annual basis. The differential return, i.e., the difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne Government as subsidy on an annual basis. VPBY-2017 is proposed to be open for subscription for a period of one year from the date of launch.

270) Who among the following is the Chairman of the one-member Committee for formulating National MSME Policy? It submitted its report in January 2017.

- a) Amitabh Kundu
- b) Vikas Malhotra
- c) Prabhat Kumar
- d) Rajiv Ranjan

Dr. Prabhat Kumar, former Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the one-member Committee for formulating National MSME Policy presented its report to Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, in New Delhi on January 27, 2017. The Committee had been constituted by the Ministry of MSME in December 2015 to help in formulating National MSME Policy. The country does not have an MSME policy till date.

271) Yogesh Aggarwal was arrested by CBI in connection with 2015 loan default case involving Kingfisher Airlines. He had approved the loan as Chairman of which bank?

- a) Canara Bank
- b) Indian Bank
- c) Allahabad Bank
- d) IDBI Bank

Kingfisher Airlines allegedly diverted Rs 263 crore from Rs 900 crore IDBI loan for "personal use" against norms and regulations, CBI said in its charge sheet filed before a special court in Mumbai on January 24, 2017. The agency has named former liquor baron Vijay Mallya, Kingfisher Airlines and nine others, including the then IDBI Chairman Yogesh Aggarwal, who were arrested on January 23 in connection with the 2015 loan default case, in the charge sheet.

272) Who among the following Chief Ministers announced free coaching for wards of defence personnel for all competitive exams on January 26, 2017?

- a) Raman Singh
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on January 26, 2017 announced to provide free coaching facilities for the wards of defence personnel and paramilitary forces to prepare for all competitive exams.

273) . Which of the following did not have its Statehood Day on January 21, 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Tripura

45th Statehood Day of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya was celebrated on January 21, 2017.

274) V. Shanmuganathan resigned as the Governor of Meghalaya and _____ in January 2017.

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

President accepted the resignation of V. Shanmuganathan as Governor of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh on January 27, 2017.

275) Dawki is the first Integrated Check Post (ICP) in which state? Foundation stone for it was laid near the Indo-Bangladesh border on January 24, 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

Union Minister Kiren Rijju on January 24, 2017 laid the foundation stone of Meghalaya's first Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Dawki in West Jaintia Hills district near the Indo-Bangladesh border. Developed by the Land Ports Authority of India, the ICP would be built at an estimated cost of Rs 92.34 crore.

276) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched the 'Suchita Yojana' under which automated sanitary napkin vending machines are being installed in government schools in January 2017?

- a) Raman Singh
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh on January 24, 2017 launched 'Suchita Yojana' in Raipur under which automated sanitary napkin vending machines are being installed in government schools in the state to encourage personal and menstrual hygiene among girls. Eco-friendly incinerators will also be installed in schools for safe and environment friendly disposal of used napkins. Initially, 7200 napkins will be made available free of cost. Later, it will be provided at the nominal cost of Rs 2 per napkin. These machines will be set up inside girls' washroom in the schools..

277) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched the 'Gramin Vikas ke liye Tarun (GRAVIT) – Shikshit se Saksham ki Ore' programme for youth participation in Panchayati Raj institutions in January 2017?

- a) Raman Singh
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Vasundhara Raje

The Haryana government has decided to prepare a team of about 60,000 youth under GRAVIT Yojana to ensure benefits of schemes reach every person in villages. The state government has ensured election of only educated persons as representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to ensure development and empowerment of villages, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said at the 'Gramin Vikas ke liye Tarun (GRAVIT)- Shikshit se Saksham ki Ore' programme in Rohtak on January 23, 2017. He also launched training programmes for GRAVIT volunteers, three-month certificate course for PRI representatives and released the course curriculum.

278) Which district of Gujarat saw the creation of a new Guinness World Record of most number of people singing national anthem at an event in January 2017?

- a) Surat
- b) Anand
- c) Rajkot
- d) Vadodara

Over 3.5 lakh people on January 21, 2017 set a new world record by singing the national anthem at an event at Kagvad in Rajkot district of Gujarat. The occasion was installation of idol of goddess Khodiyar at a newly-built Khodal Dham temple in the town. "Over 3.5 lakh people sang the anthem together at the idol installation ritual in the presence of observers from Guinness World Records," said Hansraj Gajera, a member of Khodal Dham temple trust. Earlier, 2,54,537

people had sung the national anthem in Bangladesh in 2014 and set a record. That record was broken at Rajkot, according to Gajera. "We received certificate of record from Guinness World Records officials," he added.

279) Hema Sardesai on January 25, 2017 resigned as the special icon for 2017 State Legislative Assembly election in which of the following?

- a) Goa
- b) Manipur
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Punjab

Popular pop singer from Goa, Hema Sardesai on January 25, 2017 resigned as the special icon for 2017 State Legislative Assembly election. Social activist Aires Rodrigues in his complaint before Chief Electoral Officer had accused the singer of campaigning for Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in the past (previous elections).

280) Which of the following launched 'Dulari Kanya' scheme in January 2017 to check infant mortality?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

Arunachal Pradesh launched 'Dulari Kanya', a special scheme to check infant mortality in the state on January 26, 2017 in Itanagar. Under the scheme, the government will deposit Rs 20,000 in the bank account of a girl child, born in any government hospital. It would be paid along with the accrued interest after she attains 18 years of her age. The objective is not only arrest infant mortality but also keep a track of all pregnant mothers so that they avail of pre-natal and ante-natal care in the government health centres and go for institutional deliveries.

281) Who among the following was appointed Chairperson of the Target Olympic Podium Committee, which selects Olympic medal prospect Indian athletes for availing government funds for training, in January 2017?

- a) Milkha Singh
- b) Pallela Gopichand
- c) MC Mary Kom
- d) Abhinav Bindra

Beijing Olympics gold-medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra was on January 27, 2017 appointed chairman of the re-constituted Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Committee, which also has yesteryear sprint star PT Usha and badminton great Prakash Padukone among others. Bindra was part of the previous Committee but quit to focus on his preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics. The two other sportspersons in the 10-member panel are shooter Anjali Bhagwat and woman weightlifter Karnam Malleswari, the 2000 Sydney Olympics bronze-medallist.

282) Rest of India defeated Gujarat to win Irani Cup cricket at which of the following stadiums in January 2017?

- a) Holkar Stadium, Indore
- b) Barabati Stadium, Cuttack
- c) Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai
- d) HPCA Stadium, Dharamsala

Wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha smashed his maiden double century while Cheteshwar Pujara notched his 37th first-class century as Rest of India defeated Gujarat by six wickets to retain Irani Trophy at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on January 24, 2017. Brief scores: Gujarat 1st innings: 358 (Chirag Gandhi-169; Siddharth Kaul 5/86, Pankaj Singh 4/104); Rest of India 1st innings: 226 (Cheteshwar Pujara-86; Chintan Gaja 4/60, Hardik Patel 3/79); Gujarat 2nd innings: 246 (Priyank Panchal 73, Chirag Gandhi 70; Shahbaz Nadeem 4/64, Siddharth Kaul 3/70); Rest of India 2nd innings: 379/4 (Cheteshwar Pujara 116, Wriddhiman Saha 203; Hardik Patel 2/104)

283) . Launched in New Delhi in January 2017, 'Khelegi toh Khilegi' is a programme for girls between the age of 10 to 15 years in which sport?

- a) Cricket
- b) Hockey
- c) Football
- d) Volleyball

On the occasion of the National Girl Child Day, Nurturing Excellence in Sports Trust (NEST) along with National Yuva Cooperative Society (NYCS) on January 24, 2017 launched 'Khelegi toh Khilegi', a pan-India football based programme for girls between the age of 10 to 15 years. The first event was held amid much fanfare at Thyagaraj Stadium in New

Delhi where over 700 girls took part from across Delhi NCR. The programme was flagged off by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and MP Meenakshi Lekhi.

284) Cooch Behar Trophy was given to the winner of National Junior Championship in which sport in January 2012?

- a) Cricket
- b) Hockey
- c) Football
- d) Volleyball

Bengal Under-19 side defeated Delhi in the Cooch Behar Trophy final in New Delhi on January 22, 2017. Bengal emerged winner by virtue of a 79-run first-innings lead.

285) Which gold medal won by Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt at the Beijing 2008 was withdrawn by the International Olympic Committee in January 2017?

- a) 100 m
- b) 200 m
- c) 4X100 m
- d) All the above

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt was on January 25, 2017 stripped off one of the nine Olympic gold medals won at the 2008 Beijing Games after his team-mate Nesta Carter tested positive for a banned substance. Carter was part of the Jamaican quartet that won the 4x100m in the Beijing Olympics. The decision taken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which follows the retesting of hundreds of samples from the Beijing event, means that Bolt, as Carter's teammate can no longer claim to have done the "triple-treble" - gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

286) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in January 2017?

- a) Chen Long
- b) Parupalli Kashyap
- c) Kento Momota
- d) Ng Ka Long

287) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in January 2017?

- a) P. V. Sindhu
- b) Saina Nehwal
- c) Jia Yifan
- d) Li Xuerei

:
India's Saina Nehwal came out with a spectacular performance on January 22, 2017 as she trounced Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in straight games to clinch the Women's Singles title at the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in Sarawak. Other winners were: **Men's Singles:** Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong, Indonesia's Berry Angriawan/Hardianto in **Men's Doubles**, Thailand's Jongkolphan Kititharakul/Rawinda Prajongjai in **Women's Doubles** and Malaysia's Tan Kian Meng/Lai Pei Jing in **Mixed Doubles**.

288) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the Australian Open Tennis in January 2017?

- a) Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis
- b) Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova
- c) Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova
- d) Andrea Hlavackova & Lucie Hradecka

Second seeds Bethanie Mattek-Sands of USA and Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic won the Australian Open Women's Doubles title in Melbourne on January 27, 2017. They beat American-Czech pair of Andrea Hlavackova, also from the Czech Republic, and China's Peng Shuai 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-3

289) Which African country is hosting a Festival of India from January 26 to February 28, 2017?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Namibia
- c) South Africa

d) Senegal

A Festival of India is being organized in Senegal from 26 January – 28 February, 2017. The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music and Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi. The events will be held in the capital Dakar.

290) India has signed MoU on January 31, 2017 with which European country for receiving technical assistance to enhance the level of Indian railway passengers' safety?

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

India and Italy have entered into an agreement whereby the European country will provide technical assistance to enhance the level of Indian railway passengers' safety. The Ministry of Railways entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on January 31, 2017 with the Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane (FS Italian Railways).

291) India and which of the following European nations has founded a Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to accelerate life-saving research and development for epidemics?

- a) Germany
- b) Italy
- c) France
- d) Norway

India and Norway have founded a Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to accelerate life-saving research and development for epidemics, government said on February 3, 2017. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health Faggan Singh Kulaste said the WHO had published a document 'An R&D blueprint for action to prevent epidemics- funding and coordination models for preparedness and response' and asked member countries, including India, to develop a research and development blueprint during epidemics.

292) ASEAN and India celebrated 25 years of Sectoral Dialogue Partnership on January 28, 2017. ASEAN Chair for 2017 is held by:

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Singapore

293) Consider the following statements regarding ASEAN.

- I. It is headquartered in Jakarta
 - II. It has 10 countries as Members
 - III. Le Luong Minh is its Secretary General
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

The year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership. It was on January 28, 1992 at the Fourth ASEAN Summit in Singapore that a decision to establish a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership between ASEAN and India was made. To mark this historic occasion, congratulatory messages were exchanged on January 28, 2017 between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Philippines and ASEAN Chair for 2017. Congratulatory messages were also exchanged between Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs and Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General. Headquartered in Jakarta, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a political and economic organisation of 10 Southeast Asian countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

294) Which of the following is the missile tested by Iran on January 29, 2017?

- a) Fars
- b) Shiraz
- c) Bushehr
- d) Khorramshahr

The U.S. imposed sanctions on more than two dozen Iranian entities on February 3, 2017. Earlier Tehran dismissed President Donald Trump's warnings over its latest missile test as baseless and provocative. The UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which calls on Tehran to not test missiles capable of delivering a nuclear weapon. The ballistic missile launch was the first by Iran since Trump became president. Iran's missile test occurred on January 29, 2017 at a well-known site outside Semnan, about 225 km east of Tehran. The Khorramshahr medium-range ballistic missile flew 600 miles before exploding.

295) An Indian Naval Air Enclave was inaugurated in which of the following coastal cities on February 1, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Kochi

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command inaugurated the Indian Naval Air Enclave in suburban Santacruz in Mumbai on February 1, 2017.

296) An Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) was inaugurated in which of the following coastal cities on February 3, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Kochi

An Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, in Mumbai on February 3, 2017.

297) What is the portal for online Consular Services Management System of the Ministry of External Affairs for Indian students studying abroad called?

- a) Rahat
- b) Madad
- c) Sampark
- d) Hamdard

The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated a process for registration of Indian students studying abroad in various countries to compile data so that the government is able to advise them in the hour of need. The Students Registration Module on the Indian students studying in various countries has been placed within the ministry's MADAD portal (the Consular Services Management System), a state government release said in Guwahati on February 2, 2017.

298) Who among the following is the Director of National School of Drama?

- a) Vijaya Mehta
- b) Girish Karnad
- c) Ratan Thiyam
- d) Waman Kendre

299) Which of the following events was organised by the National School of Drama in New Delhi from February 1 to 21, 2017?

- a) Bharat Kala Mahotsav
- b) Bharat Rang Mahotsav
- c) Bharat Natya Mahotsav
- d) Bharat Sangeet Mahotsav

Offering a potpourri of plays from India as well as other countries, the 19th edition of National School of Drama's Bharat Rang Mahotsav began in New Delhi on February 1, 2017. The annual theatre extravaganza, slated to run through February 1-21, will see 14 foreign productions and participation of 12 countries, National School of Drama (NSD) Director Waman Kendre said.

300) Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 2017 was observed as which of the following in India?

- a) Anti-Polio Day
- b) Anti-Leprosy Day
- c) Anti-Hunger Day
- d) Anti-Blindness Day

January 30, 2017 was observed as the Anti-Leprosy Day in India. The day is observed every year in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi who died on this day in 1948, to remember his selfless efforts and care for the people affected with Leprosy. On the occasion, the 'Spash' Leprosy awareness campaign was organised in Gramsabhas across the country. In a message on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for collective efforts to eliminate leprosy from the country. He recalled that the National Leprosy Eradication Programme was launched way back in 1955.

301) National _____ Day was observed on January 29, 2017.

- a) Digital
- b) Literacy
- c) Immunization
- d) Integration

President Pranab Mukherjee launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2017 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old, at the Rahstrapati Bhawan, in the presence of the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare J P Nadda and Ministers of State (Health) Faggan Singh Kulaste and Anupriya Patel, on January 28, 2017. National Immunization Day was observed on January 29.

302) A film condition assessment project was launched at National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune by the government on January 28, 2017. This has been done under which of the following?

- a) National Film History Mission
- b) National Film Heritage Mission
- c) National Film Awareness Mission
- d) National Film Digitisation Mission

The information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry on January 28, 2017 launched a film condition assessment project under which almost 1.32 lakh film reels at National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune will be assessed and preserved for future use, as per global standards. The project marks the beginning of National Film Heritage Mission—an initiative by the government of India for the preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration of rich cinematic heritage of the country. NFAI is the nodal agency for the implementation of this project.

303) A resource book on Child Rights and Child Protection was issues released by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in January 2017. This has been done in partnership with which of the following?

- a) FAO
- b) UNDP
- c) UNICEF
- d) UNESCO

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in a unique initiative has partnered with UNICEF India to publish a Resource Book that will serve as a ready reference for all the Stakeholders dealing with child rights and child protection issues. The book which was released recently by Supreme Court Judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur clearly defines the roles of the Commissions with their responsibilities for catalysing systematic changes for advancement of child rights. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on January 31, 2017.

304) Who among the following is the author of 'Adiyogi: The Source of Yoga' released in February 2017?

- a) Dalai Lama
- b) Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev
- c) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- d) Baba Ramdev

305) Who among the following is the author of the forthcoming book 'The Perils of Being Moderately Famous'?

- a) Priyanka Chopra
- b) Radhika Apte
- c) Vidya Balan
- d) Soha Ali Khan

306) Who among the following is the author of the forthcoming book 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness'?

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy

d) Jhumpa Lahiri

307) Joginder Singh, who died aged 77 years in New Delhi on February 3, 2017, was the former head of which of the following?

- a) Central Bureau of Investigation
- b) National Investigation Agency
- c) Research & Analysis Wing
- d) Enforcement Directorate

Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Joginder Singh died aged 77 years in New Delhi on February 3, 2017. The 1961 batch IPS officer of Karnataka cadre was chosen to head CBI in 1996 when H D Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister.

308) Former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away in New Delhi at the age of 78 on February 1, 2017. He belonged to which party?

- a) Congress
- b) Communist Party of India
- c) Indian Union Muslim League
- d) Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen

309) Former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away in New Delhi at the age of 78 on February 1, 2017. He represented which of the following constituencies in Lok Sabha?

- a) Alathur
- b) Palakkad
- c) Wayanad
- d) Malappuram

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) national president and former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away in New Delhi at the age of 78 on February 1, 2017. Ahamed was a sitting Lok Sabha MP from Malappuram in Kerala. Ahamed was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1967, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1987. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009. During May 2004 – May 2009, he served as the Minister of State for External Affairs. He assumed charge again as Minister of State of External Affairs in January 2011.

310) Who among the following took charge as the 25th Director General of the Border Roads (DGBR) in February 2017?

- a) Lt Gen PC Bhardwaj
- b) Lt Gen Ketan Parnaik
- c) Gen Sunil Kumar Singh
- d) Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava

Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava took over as the 25th Director General of the Border Roads (DGBR) in New Delhi on February 1, 2017.

311) Who among the following was appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir (Bihar) in January 2017?

- a) Ram Bahadur Rai
- b) Yogesh Kumar Chawla
- c) Vijay Pandurang Bhatkar
- d) Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi

Vijay Pandurang Bhatkar, a technocrat who is considered the father of the Indian Supercomputer, has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir, in Bihar. President Pranab Mukherjee, in his capacity as Visitor to Nalanda University, named Bhatkar for the post with effect from January 25, 2017.

312) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees declined to accept it in February 2017?

- a) Imrat Khan
- b) Mohan Reddy
- c) Anant Agarwal
- d) Mohammed Abdul Waheed

US-based 82-year old Sitar and Surbahar player Ustad Imrat Khan has turned down the Padma Shri award as he believes it comes "too late" and is not "parallel" to his "worldwide reputation and contributions". Imrat, 82, said he has mixed feelings about getting a Padma Shri when his "juniors" have already received the Padma Bhushan.

313) A report titled 'Development Advocate Pakistan' has held Pakistan responsible for its negligence in conducting a sound analysis of water issues with India. Which of the following launched the report in February 2017?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) UNDP
- c) UNICEF
- d) UNESCO

A report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has held Pakistan responsible for its negligence in conducting a sound analysis of water issues with India. The report released on February 1, 2017 is titled 'Development Advocate Pakistan'. It also says that a delay on the part of Islamabad in presenting the case to the Indus Water Commission or the World Bank caused issues to linger on.

314) Which Middle Eastern nation is observing 2017 with "A Growing Partnership" as the motto to mark 25 years of its diplomatic relations with New Delhi?

- a) Lebanon
- b) Syria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Israel

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anticipated visit to Israel this year, the Middle Eastern nation said that to mark 25 years of its diplomatic relations with New Delhi, it is going to observe 2017 with "A Growing Partnership" as the motto. This was stated by Israeli Ambassador to India Daniel Carmon in New Delhi on January 29, 2017. It was on January 29, 1992, that India established diplomatic relations with Israel -- 44 years after David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel.

315) What was the theme of the World Wetlands Day observed on February 2, 2017?

- a) Wetlands For Our Future
- b) Wetlands Take Care of Water
- c) Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction
- d) Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth

316) The World Wetlands Day is observed on February 2 year to mark the adoption of Ramsar Convention in 1971. Ramsar is a city in:

- a) Iraq
- b) Iran
- c) Jordan
- d) Indonesia

World Wetlands Day was celebrated on February 2, 2017 with 'Wetlands for disaster risk reduction' as its theme for 2017. This theme has been selected to raise awareness on the vital roles of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events on communities and in helping to build resilience. The Day is celebrated on February 2 each year to mark the Day the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the Iranian City of Ramsar in 1971.

317) Which of the following claims the Sahrawi Arab Republic as its own territory?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco
- d) Tunisia

318) Which of the following became a member of the African Union after a gap of 33 years in January 2017?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco
- d) Tunisia

The Addis Ababa-based African Union decided on January 31, 2017 to allow Morocco back in the fold after a 33-year absence, despite stiff resistance from some member states over the status of Western Sahara. After a tense debate, member states decided by consensus to leave the question of the disputed territory of Western Sahara for another day, and resolve it with Morocco "back in the family." "From the moment that Morocco did not impose conditions ... We take their word for it and accept that Morocco be admitted to the African Union," said Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, foreign minister of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which claims sovereignty over the entire territory of Western Sahara. Morocco quit the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1984 after the bloc admitted the former Western Sahara as a separate member.

319) Which of the following began on January 29, 2017 according to the Chinese lunar calendar?

- a) Year of the Ox
- b) Year of the Dragon
- c) Year of the Rooster
- d) Year of the Rabbit

Thousands gathered at Beijing's major temples on January 29, 2017, the first day of the Lunar New Year. This year will be the Year of the Rooster.

320) Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced that will step down after 37 years in power in February 2017. He is the President of:

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco
- d) Tunisia

Veteran Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced in capital Luanda on February 3, 2017 that he will not run in August elections, signalling the end to 37 years in power and naming his defence minister as the candidate to succeed him. The autocratic 74-year-old has been the oil-rich country's president since September 1979. Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975. Kwanza is its currency.

321) Who among the following was crowned Miss Universe in Manila in January 2017?

- a) Olivia Jordan
- b) Iris Mittenaere
- c) Ariadna Gutiérrez
- d) Monika Radulovic

322) Who among the following represented India at the Miss Universe pageant in Manila in February 2017?

- a) Srinidhi Shetty
- b) Pranati Rai Prakash
- c) Aprajita Sharma
- d) Roshmitha Harimurthy

Iris Mittenaere from France was crowned the new Miss Universe at the 65th of the pageant in Manila on January 30, 2017. India's Roshmitha Harimurthy failed to advance to the top 13 of the contest.

323) Who among the following was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa on January 30, 2017?

- a) Mba Mokuy
- b) Amina Mohamed
- c) Abdoulaye Bathily
- d) Moussa Faki Mahamat

Chad's Foreign Affairs Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in a vote held at the bloc's headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on January 30, 2017. The 56-year-old Mahamat succeeds South Africa's Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the first woman to lead the bloc of 54 states, who did not seek a second term in office after completing a four-year term.

324) Emmanuelle Riva died at the age of 89 in Paris on January 28, 2017. She was a well-known for winning which of the following?

- a) Pulitzer Prize
- b) Sakharov Prize
- c) Olympic gold medal
- d) BAFTA Award

French actress Emmanuelle Riva died in Paris on January 28, 2017 at the age of 89. She won the BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in 2013 for her performance in 'Amour'.

325) John Hurt died at 77 in UK on January 25, 2017. He was a well-known for winning which of the following?

- a) Booker Prize
- b) Nobel Physics Prize
- c) Golden Globe Award

d) Abel Mathematics Prize

Legendary British actor John Hurt died at 77 on January 25, 2017 in UK. Hurt's portrayal of imprisoned heroin addict Max in 1978's "Midnight Express" netted won him Golden Globe for Best Supporting Best Actor.

326) Which of the following was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent among the Services in the Republic Day Parade in January 2017?

- a) Gorkha Rifles
- b) Bihar Regiment
- c) Dogra Regiment
- d) Madras Engineer Group

327) Which of the following was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent in the category of paramilitary forces in the Republic Day Parade in January 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

328) .Which of the following won the Best Tableaux honour in the Republic Day Parade in January 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

The results of different competitive presentations in the Republic Day Parade – 2017 in New Delhi were announced by the Ministry of Defence on December 28, 2017. Among the Services category, Madras Engineer Group has been adjudged the Best Marching Contingent. In the category of Para-Military Forces and other auxiliary marching contingents, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) contingent has been adjudged the Best Marching Contingent. In the category of tableaux representing states, first position went to Arunachal Pradesh tableau. In the category of tableaux representing Union Ministries/Departments, the first prize has been awarded to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

329) The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started operations with the launch of pilot branches in two cities on January 30, 2017. Which of the following is among the two?

- a) Patna
- b) Ranchi
- c) Varanasi
- d) Jamshedpur

330) The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started operations with the launch of pilot branches in two cities on January 30, 2017. Which are there accounts offered by it?

- a) Saral, Sahaj, Sulabh
- b) Saral, Safal, Sugam
- c) Swayam, Safal, Saral
- d) Sulabh, Safal, Swayam

331) Consider the following statements on India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) which started operations on January 30, 2017.

- I. Charge on cash withdrawal
- II. No minimum balance requirement
- III. Can't offer loans

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

332) Which of the following is helping the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in setting up pilot branches?

- a) Bank of India
- b) Indian Bank

- c) Allahabad Bank
- d) Punjab National Bank

333) The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started operations with the launch of pilot branches in two cities on January 30, 2017. What is the minimum age for opening account?

- a) 8 years
- b) 10 years
- c) 12 years
- d) 14 years

- The government on January 30, 2017 launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a basic financial services facility, as a pilot in Raipur and Ranchi. Payments banks accept limited deposits and offer payment services but do not offer loans, unlike commercial banks.

- As mandated by RBI, Payment Banks can provide basic financial services, including payments of all sorts, including social security and utility bill payments, remittance services, current and saving accounts with a balance of up to Rs. 1 lakh; distribution of insurance, mutual funds and pension products, and acting as business correspondent to other banks for credit products.

- IPPB will offer three distinct accounts to its customers: Safal, the regular account; Sugam, a basic savings bank deposit account (BSBDA); and Saral, BSBDA-Small. While the Safal account is packed with features, Saral is aimed at people with limited banking experience. All three bank account options will request its customers to make a Rs100 initial minimum deposit, with no minimum balance requirements. Both Safal and Sugam need KYC (know your customer) details for verification and minimum age of 10 years, but Saral can be opened by anyone above the age of 10 years without KYC.

- Interest rates have been fixed as 4.5% if the quarterly average balance is up to Rs25,000, 5% if it is between Rs25,000 and Rs50,000, and 5.5% if above Rs50,000.

- There are no charges on cash withdrawals.

Public sector Punjab National Bank (PNB) on February 3, 2017 said it will help India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) set up pilot branches. India Post Payments Bank and PNB have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to achieve strategic depth in financial inclusion (FI), PNB said in a statement.

334) The Reserve Bank on February 2, 2017 reduced the minimum required credit rating relaxed for commercial paper (CP) issuances to A3. Consider the following statements regarding CP.

- I. CP is an unsecured money market
- II. CP is issued in the form of a promissory note
- III. Minimum maturity of CP is 15 days

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

335) Consider the following statements regarding Commercial Paper (CP).

- I. Maximum maturity of CP is one year
- II. CP can be issued at a discount to face value
- III. Minimum denomination of CP is Rs. 5 lakh

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III

In its bid to widen the bond market, the Reserve Bank on February 2, 2017 relaxed commercial paper (CP) issuances by lowering the minimum required credit rating to A3 from A2 as well as the ticket size from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 6 lakh. CP shall be issued in minimum denomination of Rs 5 lakh and multiples of Rs 1 lakh.

Facts about Commercial Papers:

- Commercial Paper (CP) is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note.
- CP is a source of short-term funding requirement for Corporates, Primary Dealers (PDs) and All-India Financial Institutions.
- CP may be issued to and held by individuals, banking companies, other corporate bodies (registered or incorporated in India) and unincorporated bodies, Non-Resident Indians and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).
- CP can be issued for maturities between a minimum of 7 days and a maximum of up to one year from the date of issue.
- CP can be issued at a discount to face value.
- Issuers of CPs are allowed to buyback these instruments before maturity but they cannot be bought back before a minimum period of seven days from the date of issue.
- CP can be issued in denominations of Rs. 5 lakh or multiples thereof. Amount invested by a single investor should not be less than Rs.5 lakh (face value).

336) ETCD refers to:

- a) Exchange Traded Currency Debt
- b) Exchange Traded Corporate Debt
- c) Exchange Traded Country Derivatives
- d) Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives

RBI on February 2, 2017 decided to allow Non Resident Indians (NRIs) access to Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD) market to hedge currency risk arising out of their investments in India.

337) Who among the following was appointed as whole-time Member in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in February 2017 along with Mukulita Vijaywargiya and Navrang Saini?

- a) Ravindra H. Dholakia
- b) T.S.R. Subramanian
- c) Suman Saxena
- d) G.N. Bajpai

Former Deputy CAG Suman Saxena and two others have been appointed as whole-time members in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Besides Saxena, Mukulita Vijaywargiya and Navrang Saini have also been appointed as the new members. Vijaywargiya, an officer of Indian Legal Service, is working as Additional Secretary in Ministry of Law and Justice. Saini, who belongs to Indian Corporate Law Service, is Director General in Ministry of Corporate Affairs. They have been appointed to the board for five years or till completion of 65 years of age, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said on February 3, 2017.

338) Consider the following statements regarding BSE which was listed on NSE following an IPO.

- I. Ashishkumar Chauhan is BSE CEO
- II. BSE is world's largest exchange by market capitalisation
- III. BSE is world's largest exchange by number of listed companies

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only

Following the initial public offer (IPO) of Asia's oldest stock exchange BSE, its stock opened for trading on rival NSE with a gap-up of 34 per cent at Rs. 1,085 a share on February 3, 2017. Speaking at the listing ceremony at National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Mumbai, BSE CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan promised that the exchange would stay focussed on a high level of compliance even after listing. BSE is the world's largest exchange by number of listed companies. Shares of nearly 3,000 companies trade on BSE, which was earlier known as the Bombay Stock Exchange. It is the world's 10th largest exchange by market capitalisation.

339) Union Budget 2017-18 has reduced the tax rate on Rs. 2-5 lakh income slab for those below sixty years of age to which of the following?

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

340) Union Budget 2017-18 has introduced a surcharge of _____ on income between 50 lakh to 1 crore for individuals.

- a) 2.5%
- b) 5%
- c) 7.5%
- d) 10%

• Union Budget 2017-18: For General Public (Below 60 years of age): Income upto Rs. 2.5 lakhs is exempted from tax. Tax on income between Rs. 2.5-5 lakhs has been reduced from 10% to 5%. Tax on Rs. 5-10 lakh income remains 20%. Similarly tax on income above Rs. 10 lakh remains at 30%. For

• Senior Citizens (60 to 80 years of age): Income upto Rs. 3 lakhs is exempted from tax. Tax on income between Rs. 3-5 lakhs is 5%. Tax on Rs. 5-10 lakh income is 20%. Tax on income above Rs. 10 lakh is 30%.

• For Very Senior Citizens (More than 80 years of age): Income upto Rs. 5 lakhs is exempted from tax. Tax on Rs. 5-10 lakh income is 20%. Tax on income above Rs. 10 lakh is 30%. 10%

• Surcharge has been introduced on all individuals with income between 50 lakh to 1 Crore. Surcharge for incomes > Rs 1 crore will remain at 15% to continue.

341) . What is the allocation for recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks (PSB) in 2017-18 in Union Budget?

- a) Rs. 10000 crore
- b) Rs. 15000 crore
- c) Rs. 20000 crore
- d) Rs. 25000 crore

In line with the 'Indradhanush' roadmap, Union Budget 2017-18 has provided an amount of Rs. 10,000 crore for recapitalisation of Banks in 2017-18 and additional allocation will be provided, as may be required.

342) Union Budget 2017-18 has banned cash transactions above what amount? Violations will invite 100% penalty.

- a) Rs 1 lakh
- b) Rs 2 lakh
- c) Rs 3 lakh
- d) Rs 4 lakh

Union Budget 2017-18 has banned cash transactions above Rs 3 lakh. 100% penalty will be levied on any such transactions detected by the tax department.

343) Long-term capital gains tax on immovable property will apply after how many years as per Union Budget 2017-18? It has been reduced from 3 years in 2016-17.

- a) 2 years 6 months
- b) 2 years 3 months
- c) 2 years
- d) 1 year 6 months

According to Union Budget 2017-18, long-term capital gains tax on immovable property will apply after 2 years, instead of 3 years now. Also the Base year indexation for long-term capital gains tax has been shifted from April 1, 1981 to April 1, 2001.

344) Union Budget 2017-18 has banned political parties from accepting cash donations above what amount?

- a) Rs. 2000
- b) Rs. 3000
- c) Rs. 4000

d) Rs. 5000

According to Union Budget 2017-18, political parties have been barred from accepting cash donation beyond Rs 2,000 per individual. They can receive donations above Rs. 2,000 via cheques, electronic mode; electoral bonds to be issued by RBI.

345) What is the reduced tax rate for companies with an annual turnover up to Rs. 50 crore as per Union Budget 2017-18?

- a) 5%
- b) 10%
- c) 15%
- d) 25%

According to Union Budget 2017-18, tax rate for companies with an annual turnover up to Rs. 50 crore has been reduced to 25%.

346) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of which of the following to provide telemedicine, education and skills through digital technology?

- a) Digi Gram
- b) Digi Gaon
- c) Digi Rajya
- d) Digi Parishad

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of a Digi Gaon' initiative to provide telemedicine, education and skills through digital technology.

347) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of which of the following at a cost of Rs. 4,000 crore to provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth?

- a) SHAKTI
- b) SAARTHI
- c) SANKALP
- d) SWAYAM

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of programme SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion Programme) at a cost of Rs. 4,000 crore to provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth.

348) Union Budget 2017-18 has set a target of limiting fiscal deficit in 2017-18 to _____ of GDP.

- a) 2.4%
- b) 2.6%
- c) 2.8%
- d) 3.2%

Union Budget 2017-18: Revenue Deficit target at 1.9% of GDP in 2017-18, Fiscal deficit pegged at 3.2% of GDP in 2017-18, 3% in 2018-19

349) . According to the Union Budget 2017-18 which of the following will be abolished?

- a) Enforcement Directorate
- b) Competition Commission of India
- c) Securities Appellate Tribunal
- d) Foreign Investment Promotion Board

As per Union Budget 2017-18, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) will be abolished and a new framework will be created. The FIPB offered a single window clearance for applications on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India that are under the approval route. The sectors under automatic route did not require any prior approval from the FIPB and are subject to only sectoral laws.

350) According to Union Budget 2017-18 contributions to which of the following relief funds will be exempt from tax?

- I. Prime Minister's Relief Fund
- II. Chief Minister's Relief Fund
- III. Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only

- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III

The government on February 1, 2017 announced extension of tax exemption on contributions to Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund. At present, there is tax exemption on funds given to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). In the Union Budget 2017-18, Jaitley said Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) and Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund (LGRF) are of the same nature as the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund at the level of state or the union territory. This amendment to I-T Act will take effect retrospectively from April 1, 1998 and will apply from assessment year 1998-88 and subsequent years.

- 351)** The Union Budget 2015-16 has raised the target for agricultural credit for banks in 2015-16 to _____.
- a) Rs. 9.25 lakh crore
 - b) Rs. 9.5 lakh crore
 - c) Rs. 9.75 lakh crore
 - d) Rs. 10 lakh crore

The target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of 10 lakh crores in Union Budget 2017-18.

- 352)** Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of a Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund with a corpus of Rs 8,000 crores over 3 years. This fund will be managed by which of the following?
- a) ICAR
 - b) NAFED
 - c) SIDBI
 - d) NABARD

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of a Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund in NABARD with a corpus of Rs 8,000 crores over 3 years. He said that issuance of Soil Health Cards has gathered momentum, even as the Government has decided to set-up new mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country.

- 353)** The two new sites for the setting up of Strategic Crude Oil Reserves have been proposed in Union Budget 2017-18. These are in Rajasthan and:
- a) Goa
 - b) Kerala
 - c) Odisha
 - d) Haryana

For strengthening the country's energy sector, the Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of Strategic Crude Oil Reserves. In the first phase, 3 such Reserve facilities have been set up and in the second phase, it is proposed to set up caverns at 2 more locations, namely, Chandikhole in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan. This will take the country's strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT.

- 354)** Union Budget 2017-18 has made the scheme for profit-linked income tax exemption for promoters of affordable housing scheme more attractive. Housing units with carpet area upto _____ in non-metro cities will come under this scheme.
- a) 60 square metres
 - b) 75 square metres
 - c) 90 square metres
 - d) 105 square metres

Union Budget has made the scheme for profit-linked income tax exemption for promoters of affordable housing scheme announced in 2016-17 more attractive, a number of changes have been proposed for 2017-18. Instead of counting the built-up area of 30 and 60 square metres, it will be the carpet area of 30 and 60 square metres of the houses that will be counted under the scheme. The 30 square metres limit will apply only in case of municipal limits of 4 metropolitan cities while for the rest of the country including in the peripheral areas of metros, limit of 60 square metres will apply. The completion period of the building of the houses after commencement under the Scheme is being extended from the present 3 years to 5 years.

- 355)** Union Budget 2017-18 reduced the time period for revising a tax return to how many months?

- a) 4 months
- b) 6 months
- c) 8 months
- d) 12 months

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to reduce the time period for revising a tax return to 12 months from completion of financial year. The Minister also proposed to reduce the time for completion of scrutiny assessments from 21 months to 18 months for Assessment Year 2018-19 and further to 12 months for Assessment Year 2019-20 and thereafter.

356) What is the new presumptive income tax rate for small businesspersons in respect of turnover which is received by non-cash means? This will be applicable to businessmen whose annual turnover is upto Rs. 2 crore.

- a) 3%
- b) 4%
- c) 5%
- d) 6%

According to Union Budget 2017-18, presumptive income tax for small and medium businesses whose turnover is up to Rs 2 crore will be reduced from the present 8% of their turnover which is counted as presumptive income to 6% in respect of turnover which is received by non-cash means. This benefit will be applicable for transactions undertaken in 2016-17 also.

357) Union Budget 2017-18 has reduced the limit of cash donation that can be received by a Charitable Trust to:

- a) Rs. 2000
- b) Rs. 3000
- c) Rs. 4000
- d) Rs. 5000

According to Union Budget 2017-18, cash expenditure allowable as deduction, both for revenue as well as capital expenditure, will be limited to Rs 10,000. Similarly, the limit of cash donation which can be received by a Charitable Trust is being reduced from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2000.

358) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to leverage information technology to launch SWAYAM Platform with at least 350 online courses. SWAYAM stands for Study Webs of ____ Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

- a) Active
- b) Applied
- c) Adapted
- d) Augmented

According to Union Budget 2017-18, information technology will be leveraged to launch SWAYAM Platform with at least 350 online courses. This will enable students to virtually attend the courses taught by the best faculty; access high quality reading resources, participate in discussion forums; take tests and earn academic grades. Access to SWAYAM would be widened by linkage with DTH channels, dedicated to education. SWAYAM is Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

359) According to Union Budget 2017-18, the government has prepared an action plan to eliminate several diseases. Which of the following will be last one to be eliminated by 2017?

- a) Leprosy
- b) Measles
- c) Filariasis
- d) Tuberculosis

According to Union Budget 2017-18, the government has prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018 and Measles by 2020. Elimination of tuberculosis by 2025 is also targeted. Similarly, action plan has been prepared to reduce IMR from 39 in 2014 to 28 by 2019 and MMR from 167 in 2011-13 to 100 by 2018-2020. 1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres will be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres.

360) The Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the States of Gujarat and:

- a) Odisha
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Jharkhand

d) Karnataka

The Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the States of Jharkhand and Gujarat.

361) Which of the following will be set up at village level in the Anganwadi Centres to provide rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition? Union Budget 2017-18 has allocated Rs. 5000 crore.

- a) Mahila Shakti Kendras
- b) Mahila Saathi Kendras
- c) Mahila Sankalp Kendras
- d) Mahila Swayam Kendras

According to Union Budget 2017-18, Rs 500 crore will be provided for setting up Mahila Shakti Kendras at village level in the Anganwadi Centres. This will provide one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.

362) 24. Union Budget 2017-18 has provided Rs.2200 crore for the next phase of STRIVE programme. STRIVE refers to Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value _____.

- a) Education
- b) Enterprise
- c) Engineering
- d) Enhancement

The Government will launch the next phase of Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) in 2017-18 at a cost of Rs.2200 crore. STRIVE will focus on improving the quality and market relevance of vocational training provided in it is and strengthen the apprenticeship programmes through industry cluster approach

363) According to Union Budget 2017-18, business entities opting for presumptive income scheme will be exempted from audit if their annual turnover is _____ or less.

- a) Rs. 1 crore
- b) Rs. 2 crore
- c) Rs. 3 crore
- d) Rs. 4 crore

The threshold limit for audit of business entities opting for presumptive income scheme is being increased from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore. Threshold maintenance of books for individuals and HUF is being increased from turnover of Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakhs or income from Rs. 1.2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh.

364) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to cut basic customs duty on which of the following from 5% to 2.5%?

- a) LNG
- b) CNG
- c) LPG
- d) Crude oil

Considering the wide range of use of LNG as fuel as well as feed stock for petro-chemicals sector, Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to reduce the basic customs duty on LNG from 5% to 2.5%.

365) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the creation of which of the following for railway passengers' safety with a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore over a period of 5 years?

- a) Rashtriya Rail Sarathi Kosh
- b) Rashtriya Rail Sanchay Kosh
- c) Rashtriya Rail Suraksha Kosh
- d) Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh

For passenger safety, Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the creation of a 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' with a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years, to be funded by seed capital from the Government, Railways' own revenues and other sources. The Government will lay down clear cut guidelines and timeline for implementing various safety works to be funded from this 'Kosh'. Unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge lines will be eliminated by 2020.

366) Which of the following has been allocated Rs. 10,000 crore in Union Budget 2017-18 for providing high speed broadband connectivity to 1.5 lakh gram panchayats by the end of 2017-18?

- a) Sanchar Net

- b) Bharat Net
- c) Swaraj Net
- d) Desh Net

Union Budget 2017-18 has increased the allocation for Bharat Net Project to Rs.10,000 crores in 2017-18. By the end of 2017-18, high speed broadband connectivity on optical fiber will be available in more than 1,50,000 gram panchayats, with wifi hot spots and access to digital services at low tariffs.

367) NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and which industry body launched the “India Innovation Index” that will rank states on Innovations on February 2, 2017?

- a) FICCI
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII
- d) PHDCCI

To make India an innovation-driven economy, NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on February 2, 2017 launched the “India Innovation Index” that will rank states on Innovations through country’s first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian states on innovation and regularly update it in real time.

368) 30. Which of the following was launched by Income Tax department on January 31, 2017 to seek explanations from account holders whose accounts saw huge cash deposits during demonetisation period (Nov 9-Dec 30)?

- a) Operation My Money
- b) Operation Fair Money
- c) Operation Clean Money
- d) Operation Verify Money

Launching the ‘Swachh Dhan Abhiyan’ or ‘Operation Clean Money’ on January 31, 2017, the government said it had identified 18 lakh persons who deposited amounts of Rs.5 lakh or more between November 9 and December 30 but whose income profiles did not match the amounts deposited. Following up on their efforts to unearth unaccounted money, the income tax (I-T) authorities are scrutinising these accounts and have asked taxpayers to revert to their queries in 10 days. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Sushil Chandra said that the account-holders whose deposits did not match their incomes, as per data with the department, would be alerted on their e-filing portals. “We will be seeking answers about the source of income,” Chandra said.

369) Which of the following is the tagline of National Capital Region Transport Corporation announced in February 2017?

- a) Gati Se Vikas
- b) Gati Se Tarakki
- c) Gati Se Unnati
- d) Gati Se Pragati

National Capital Region Transport Corporation, mandated with the responsibility of executing the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in National Capital Region, has got a Logo and Tagline highlighting the vision of ‘Gati Se Pragati’ (Progress with Speed). The Logo and Tagline, selected through a contest on MyGov.com were released by the Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on February 2, 2017.

370) Regarding taxation of foreign firms operating in India, POEM refers to:

- a) Place of Effective Management
- b) Platform of Effective Management
- c) Planning of Effective Management
- d) Presence of Effective Management

Rules for anti-tax avoidance and place of effective management will be implemented from April 1, the government said on February 2, 2017. While Place of Effective Management (POEM) requires foreign firms to pay taxes in India if the effective control of business lies within the country, General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) seeks to prevent companies from routing transactions through other countries to avoid taxes.

371) What is the new gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for 2015-16 as per revised data disclosed by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in February 2017?

- a) 7.3 per cent
- b) 7.5 per cent
- c) 7.7 per cent
- d) 7.9 per cent

Government has marginally revised upwards gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2015-16 to 7.9 per cent from the earlier estimate of 7.6 per cent after factoring in latest data on agriculture and industrial production. "Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for 2015-16 and 2014-15 stands at Rs 113.58 lakh crore and Rs 105.23 lakh crore, respectively, showing growth of 7.9 per cent during 2015-16 and 7.2 per cent during 2014-15," stated the Central Statistics Office (CSO) while releasing the revised data on January 31, 2017.

372) What was India's holding of US government securities on November end 2016?

- a) \$88.7 billion
- b) \$98.7 billion
- c) \$108.7 billion
- d) \$118.7 billion

India sharply trimmed exposure to US government securities, lowering the holding to \$118.7 billion in November 2016. Asian economic majors Japan and China continued to be the two top holders of US government securities. While Japan's holding touched \$1.11 trillion, China was tad lower at \$1.05 trillion. This was disclosed in the latest data compiled by the US Treasury Department on January 27, 2017.

373) Who among the following was appointed as the Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance in February 2017?

- a) Anil Virmani
- b) Sanjeev Sanyal
- c) Shankar Acharya
- d) Rakesh Mohan

The government on February 3, 2017 appointed noted economist Sanjeev Sanyal as the Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance. Sanyal has authored several books, including Land of the Seven Rivers: A Brief History of India's Geography, The Indian Renaissance: India's Rise After a Thousand Year's of Decline and The Incredible History of India's Geography.

374) Which of the following banks launched the 'Cash Ki Aadat Badlo' campaign to encourage digital transactions in February 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) State Bank of India

SBI aims to help India create a cashless society across the nation. Hence the concept of #CashKiAadatBadlo was launched in February 2017 to promote the ease of cashless transactions via various facilities of SBI and thus to make cashless transactions a habit for every SBI account holder. The campaign #CashKiAadatBadlo is being led by three TVCs. The three 20-seconder films showcase SBI's various digital/ cashless products namely State Bank Buddy- a mobile wallet, State Bank Debit Card, and SBI Pay.

375) Who among the following was selected as its new MD & CEO by the board of NSE in February 2017?

- a) Ravi Narain
- b) Vikram Limaye
- c) Abhay Havaladar
- d) Dinesh Kanabar

The board of directors of NSE selected Vikram Limaye as its MD & CEO on February 3, 2017. Currently, Vikram Limaye is the MD & CEO of IDFC. Former CEO Chitra Ramkrishna had resigned in November 2016.

376) S.C. Bajpai took charge as the new Chairman of which of the following in January 2017?

- a) Antrix Corporation
- d) Nuclear Corporation of India Ltd
- c) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
- d) Ordnance Factory Board

S.C. Bajpai was appointed as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in Kolkata on January 31, 2017. Bajpai was Additional DGOF and Member at OFB.

377) Which of the following was world's top-selling automaker in 2016 with sales of 10.3 million?

- a) Volkswagen
- b) Toyota
- c) Ford
- d) General Motors

Toyota lost its crown as the world's top-selling automaker in 2016, company figures showed on January 30, 2017, with the Japanese giant overtaken by Volkswagen. The German automaker had sales of 10.3 million. VW group also includes the brands Audi, Porsche and Skoda. Toyota sold 10.175 million vehicles worldwide in 2016.

378) Collision between MT Dawn Kanchipuram and which of the following caused huge oil spill off Chennai coast on January 28, 2017?

- a) MT BW Tulip
- b) MT BW Maple
- c) MT BW Orchid
- d) MT BW Jasmine

Indian Coast Guard said on February 3, 2017 that over 80 percent of the clean-up operation of the Chennai oil spill had been completed. The spill occurred when ship MT BW Maple (UK flag), an LPG tanker, rammed the petroleum tanker MT Dawn Kanchipuram (Indian flag) just two nautical miles off the Kamarajar Port at Ennore near Chennai at 4 AM on January 28, 2017.

379) . Which temple in Telangana is India's nomination for UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2017?

- a) Ramappa Temple
- b) Bhadrakali Temple
- c) Keesaragutta Temple
- d) Yadagirigutta Temple

Ramappa temple in Telangana is country's nomination for the world heritage site which has been sent to UNESCO by Centre, the state government said in Hyderabad on February 3, 2017. Every country sends one historical site as its nomination to UNESCO every year. The UNESCO will process the nomination and send a team of experts to Ramappa temple to examine the site and will take a decision on the matter subsequently.

380) Who among the following was appointed as the new Commissioner of Delhi Police in January 2017?

- a) S. C. Mathur
- b) Deepak Mishra
- c) Amulya Patnaik
- d) Amulya Kumar Patnaik

The Government on January 30, 2017 appointed Amulya Kumar Patnaik as Commissioner of Delhi Police, a post that fell vacant after Alok Kumar Verma was made CBI Chief. Patnaik is currently Special Commissioner (Administration) and is a recipient of the President's Police medal for distinguished service and the Police medal for meritorious service.

381) Which state launched 'Har Gaon Pedon Ki Chhaon' scheme in February 2017 to create at least one environmentally significant grove in each village?

- a) Haryana
- b) Bihar
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

To create at least one environmentally significant grove in each village during its 'Golden Jubilee' year, the Haryana government plans to implement the 'Har Gaon Pedon Ki Chhaon' scheme, under which plantation of 100 indigenous plants would be undertaken across the state. The scheme would be implemented from February-March, a spokesman of the Forests Department said in Chandigarh on January 30, 2017. Haryana is celebrating its Golden Jubilee year from

November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. The state was carved out as a separate entity 50 years ago on November 1, 1966.

382) Viren Rasquinha is among the three sportspersons in the eight-member Task Force set up by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry January 30, 2017 to draw up an action plan for the next three Olympic Games. He was former captain of India's team in which sport?

- a) Hockey
- b) Football
- c) Basketball
- d) Kabaddi

2008 Beijing Olympics Shooting gold medal winner Abhinav Bindra, national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand and former Indian hockey captain Viren Rasquinha are the three sportspersons in the eight-member Task Force set up by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry January 30, 2017 to draw up an action plan for the next three Olympic Games. The other five members of the task force are School Sports Promotion Board head Om Pathak, hockey coach S Baldev Singh, who runs an academy in Shahabad, G L Khanna (Professor and Dean of Exercise and Physiology at Manav Rachna International University at Faridabad), journalist Rajesh Kalra and Sports Authority of Gujarat Director General Sandeep Pradhan.

383) Who among the following authors is in the four-member committee of administrators set up by the Supreme Court to manage the affairs of the BCCI on January 30, 2017?

- a) Mahesh Rangarajan
- b) Ramachandra Guha
- c) Ranjit Hoskote
- d) Rajat Kanta Ray

The Supreme Court on January 30, 2017 appointed a four-member committee of administrators headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai to run the affairs of the BCCI and implement court-approved recommendations of the Justice R M Lodha panel on reforms in the cash-rich cricket body. Other three members of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) are famous cricket historian Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye, Managing Director of Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and former Indian women cricket captain Diana Edulji, who would interact with Rahul Johri, CEO of BCCI, for supervision and functioning of the BCCI.

384) . Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Andy Murray
- b) Rafael Nadal
- c) Roger Federer
- d) Andy Roddick

385) . Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Serena Williams
- b) Victoria Azarenka
- c) Angelique Kerber
- d) Elena Vesnina

386) . Who among the following won the Men's Doubles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares
- b) Henri Kontinen and John Peers
- c) Michael Llodra and Nicolas Mahut
- d) Robin Haase and Igor Sijsling

387) . Who among the following won the Mixed Doubles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Jean-Julien Rojer and Anna-Lena Groenefeld
- b) Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic
- c) Frantisek Cermak and Lucie Hradecka
- d) Abigail Speers and Juan Sebastian Cabal

Roger Federer and Serena Williams won the Men's and Women's Singles titles respectively at the Australian Open tennis tournament organised at Melbourne from January 16 to 29, 2017. American tennis legend Serena Williams defeated her

elder sister Venus in the final to win Women's Singles title. Federer defeated Spain's Rafael Nadal. Mixed Doubles title was won by Abigail Speers of the US and Juan Sebastian Cabal of Colombia who defeated India's Sania Mirza and Ivan Dodig of Croatia in the final. Men's Doubles title was won by Henri Kontinen of Finland and John Peers of Australia. Women's Doubles title was won by Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) and Lucie Šafářová (Czech Republic).

388) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Lucknow in January 2017?

- a) Parupalli Kashyap
- b) Sameer Verma
- c) Kento Momota
- d) Kidambi Srikanth

389) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Lucknow in January 2017?

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Gregoria Mariska
- c) Yihan Wang
- d) P. V. Sindhu

P.V. Sindhu and Sameer Verma won the Men's and Singles titles at the \$120,000 Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Lucknow on January 29, 2017. The results (all finals): Men's Singles: Sameer Verma beat B. Sai Praneeth 21-19, 21-16. Women's Singles: P.V. Sindhu beat Gregoria Mariska (Indonesia) 21-13, 21-13. Men's Doubles: Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (Denmark) beat Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han (Chinese Taipei) 21-14, 21-15. Women's Doubles: Kamila Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen (Denmark) beat Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy 21-16, 21-18. Mixed Doubles: Pranav Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy beat B. Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa 22-20, 21-10.

390) Who among the following won the Tata Steel Chess title at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands in January 2017?

- a) Vassily Ivanchuk
- b) Wesley So
- c) Levon Aronian
- d) Hikaru Nakamura

United States' Wesley So won the 79th edition of the Tata Steel Chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands, on January 29, 2017. Five-time champion Magnus Carlsen from Norway, who won the tournament in 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2016, ended with 8 points in the second place.

391) Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand was in news in February 2017 for achieving World No. 1 junior ranking in which sport?

- a) Squash
- b) Tennis
- c) Table Tennis
- d) Badminton

Young shuttler Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand on February 2, 2017 achieved the World No. 1 ranking in the latest BWF World junior ranking. The 15-year-old prodigy, who hails from Almora district in Uttarakhand, has been training under the watchful eyes of 1980 All England champion Prakash Padukone at his Badminton Academy in Bangalore since he was 10.

392) Consider the following.

- I. All India Radio
- II. FM Radio stations
- III. Community Radio stations

Which of the above are allowed to broadcast news and current affairs bulletins?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

Giving news broadcast rights to private FM radio operators and community radio stations run by NGOs will be an open invitation for anti-national and radical elements located “within the country” to propagate their vested interests and agenda to the masses, the government told the Supreme Court in February 2017. An affidavit filed by the Centre in the Supreme Court favoured news on radio to continue to be the “exclusive preserve” of the national broadcaster Prasar Bharati’s All India Radio (AIR). The government was responding to the Supreme Court on the prohibition on FM radio stations and community radios from airing their own news and current affairs bulletins.

393) What was the voter turnout in Goa Assembly elections held on February 4, 2017?

- a) 43%
- b) 53%
- c) 63%
- d) 83%

Punjab and Goa on February 4, 2017 voted heavily with an estimated 70% and a record-breaking 83% turnout as the first round of assembly elections in five states concluded by and large peacefully, Election Commission said on February 6, 2017. In the 2012 assembly elections, Goa had recorded 81.8% voting while in Punjab nearly 79 per cent electors had cast their votes.

394) The Air Wing of which paramilitary force was in news for the induction of its own pilots and crew for the first time on February 9, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

The Air Wing of Border Security Force (BSF) added a new chapter with the induction of its own pilots and crew on February 9, 2017. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijju became the first dignitary to be flown by “all BSF” aircrew, aboard the MI-17 V5 helicopter from Guwahati. Since its establishment in 1969, the Aviation Wing of MHA under BSF is touching new milestones with each passing day. Based at Safdarjung Airport in New Delhi, its span has now expanded to Ranchi & Guwahati.

395) ‘The Golden House’ is the forthcoming novel of who among the following authors?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Ruskin Bond
- c) Aravind Adiga
- d) Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie’s new novel “The Golden House” will be released in September. This was announced by the publishers on February 7, 2017.

396) Minister of State Jitendra Singh delivered the 47th Memorial Lecture dedicated to who among the following former Prime Ministers in New Delhi on February 9, 2017?

- a) Morarji Desai
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- d) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Minister of State Jitendra Singh delivered the 47th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on February 9, 2017.

397) An International Seminar on “Counter- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strategy” was organised by the National Security Guard (NSG) at which of the following on February 8-9, 2017?

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida
- c) Gurugram
- d) Manesar

398) Who among the following was named as the next Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG) in September 2016?

- a) Rajinder Khanna
- b) Dineshwar Sharma
- c) Surender Singh
- d) Sudhir Pratap Singh

399) Which of the following is the motto of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- a) Swift and Secure
- b) Strike far, strike sure
- c) No Return Without Conquest
- d) Omnipresent Omnipotent Defense

400) Which of the following is the annual magazine of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- a) Bombshell
- b) Explosion
- c) Tectonic
- d) Tremor

401) . The National Security Guard (NSG) was established in which year?

- a) 1974
- b) 1984
- c) 1994
- d) 2004

- A two-day 17th International Seminar on “Counter- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strategy” was organized by the National Security Guard (NSG) in Manesar (Haryana) on February 8-9, 2017.

- On February 8, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, unveiled the NSG annual magazine ‘The Bombshell’, which contains details of various IED explosions that occurred in various parts of the world in 2016.

- The National Security Guard (NSG) was set up in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

- NSG is a task-oriented Force and has two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG) comprising Army personnel and the Special Ranger Groups (SRG), comprising personnel drawn from the Central Para Military Forces/State Police Force.

- ‘Sarvatra Sarvottam Surakhsha’ (Omnipresent Omnipotent Defense) is the motto of NSG.

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet on September 26, 2016 named Sudhir Pratap Singh as the next Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG).

402) Which of the following hosted National Maritime Foundation’s annual Maritime Power Conference on February 9-10, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Kochi

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) conducted its Annual Maritime Power Conference-2017 at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) Auditorium, Development Enclave, New Delhi, on February 9-10, 2017, with the theme ‘The Blue Economy: Concept, Constituents and Development’. The NMF was established in 2005 to provide a common platform for discourse between maritime-related institutions, organisations and disciplines, within the country and abroad. The Foundation conducts independent academic research and provides policy-relevant recommendations to advance nation’s maritime goals.

50 days extra work under MNREGA for drought-hit AP, TN

403) The Rural Development Ministry has decided to provide how many days of additional work to rural job card holders under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in drought-hit Tamil Nadu?

- a) 10 days
- b) 25 days
- c) 40 days

d) 50 days

The Rural Development Ministry on February 8, 2017 said it has allowed additional employment of 50 days over and above 100 days given under MNREGA in notified drought-affected districts of Andhra Pradesh and entire Tamil Nadu. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), a flagship programme is a demand-driven employment scheme. Not less than 100 days of employment are provided to registered workers upon receipt of their demand. It provides supplementary means of livelihood to people in rural areas, primarily during lean periods.

404) The 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) approved by the Cabinet in February 2017 has set a target of making 6 crore rural households digitally literate by:

- a) March 2017
- b) March 2018
- c) March 2019
- d) March 2020

The Cabinet on February 8, 2017 approved 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) with an outlay of Rs 2,351.38 crore to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019.

405) National Deworming initiative was launched by Health and Family Welfare Ministry in February 2017. Which tablet was given to school children under this initiative?

- a) Fluconazole
- b) Metronidazole
- c) Imidazole
- d) Albendazole

406) The National Deworming Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) February 8
- b) February 9
- c) February 10
- d) February 11

In one of the country's largest single-day public health initiatives, an estimated 34 crore children were administered deworming tablets on February 10, 2017 to reduce worm infestation that can stifle physical and intellectual growth. On National Deworming Day, the Health Ministry for the first time also covered private schools. It also set up 210 monitoring centres across the country to tackle adverse reactions of the tablet like stomach ache and vomiting. India has the highest burden of worm infections in the world, with the World Health Organization estimating in 2014 that over 22 crore Indian children aged between 1 and 14 years are at risk. The Government has clarified that the safety of Albendazole tablet administered for deworming has been certified by technical experts including WHO.

407) Braille Atlas was launched by NATMO in February 2017. NATMO is National Atlas and _____ Mapping Organisation.

- a) Topical
- b) Thematic
- c) Territorial
- d) Topographic

The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the Special Edition of "Atlas for Visually Impaired (India)" in English Braille in New Delhi on February 10, 2017. This Braille Atlas has been prepared by National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) under Department of Science & Technology.

408) The 'Fairy Queen', the oldest surviving functional steam engine in the world, was in news for resuming operation in February 2017. Its journey was from Delhi to which of the following?

- a) Bhiwani
- b) Rewari
- c) Mewat
- d) Alwar

The 'Fairy Queen', the oldest surviving functional steam engine in the world is once again ready in this season to haul a heritage train from National Capital Delhi to Rewari, Haryana after a gap of 5 years. This train will run between Delhi Cantt Station and Rewari on February 11 for a single day trip. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Railways on February 10, 2017. The locomotive was constructed in England in 1855 and reached Calcutta, in the same year.

409) The ___ biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 was organised in Bengaluru in February 2017.

- a) 10th
- b) 11th
- c) 12th
- d) 13th

The 11th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru from 14th to 18th February 2017. Aero India which began in 1996, has carved a niche for itself as a premium aerospace and aviation exhibition in the international arena and has become one of the most sought after exhibitions in the Asian region in terms of participation from across the globe. The event is being organized and conducted by the Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO).

410) 20. Meeting of GICNT was organised in February 2017. GICNT is Global Initiative to ____ Nuclear Terrorism.

- a) Curb
- b) Check
- c) Contest
- d) Combat

The 2017 edition of the Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) concluded in New Delhi on February 10, 2017. 152 delegates from 41 GICNT Partner countries participated in the three-day event.

411) Government's investment clearance committee approved Rs.18,000 Ken-Betwa river linking project on February 10, 2017. The project covers districts in Madhya Pradesh and which neighbouring state?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh

412) . Which of the following will be affected by the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project?

- a) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- b) Panna Tiger Reserve
- c) Satpura Tiger Reserve
- d) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

The investment clearance committee, comprising officials from NITI Aayog and Union Water Resources Ministry, for Ken-Betwa river linking on February 10, 2017 gave the nod for the Rs 18,000-crore national project envisaged to address drinking water and irrigation requirements of the parched Bundelkhand region. The first-of-its-kind project covers parts of Madhya Pradesh and poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. A total of 10 villages consisting of 1,585 families are likely to be affected by this project. About 9,000 hectares area would be submerged, out of which 4,141 hectares is forestland in Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

413) Nationwide vaccination campaign for Measles and which of the following was launched by the government from Bengaluru on February 5, 2017?

- a) Ebola
- b) Rubella
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Tuberculosis

414) Which of the following has supplied vaccines for the nationwide vaccination campaign for Measles launched by the government from Bengaluru on February 5, 2017?

- a) Cipla
- b) Biocon

c) Shantha Biotech

d) Serum Institute of India

To protect children from major childhood diseases measles and rubella, the government on February 5, 2017 launched a nationwide vaccination campaign from Bangalore. Under the campaign, children aged between nine months and 15 will be administered the measles-rubella vaccine (MR-VAC). The vaccine is being made by the Serum Institute of India. Measles and Rubella are only preventable through vaccination. There is no specific treatment for the diseases.

415) Who among the following former RBI Governors is the author of the forthcoming book 'Advice and Dissent: My Life in Policy Making'?

a) Bimal Jalan

b) Y. V. Reddy

c) D. Subbarao

d) C. Rangarajan

416) Who among the following is the author of 'Murder in Mahim' released recently?

a) Jeet Thayil

b) Anees Salim

c) Pankaj Mishra

d) Jerry Pinto

417) UNODC selected Satinder Sartaaj for 'Blue Heart Campaign' in February 2017. UNODC is United Nations Office on _____

a) Drugs and Crime

b) Desert and Climate

c) Data and Communication

d) Defence and Counter-terrorism

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has chosen Indian Folk singer Satinder Sartaaj for 'Blue Heart Campaign', awareness project against human trafficking. (February 2017)

418) 28. Enforcement Directorate functions under which of the following central ministries?

a) Ministry of Finance

b) Ministry of Home Affairs

c) Ministry of External Affairs

d) Ministry of Culture and Tourism

419) Karnal Singh was appointed as Director of the Enforcement Directorate in February 2017. He is the first from which of the following services to have been selected for this post?

a) Indian Police Service

b) Indian Forest Service

c) Indian Foreign Service

d) Indian Engineering Service

The government on February 8, 2017 appointed IPS Officer Karnal Singh as Director of the Enforcement Directorate. Singh is an Indian Police Service officer of the 1984 batch belonging to the AGMUT cadre. He will hold the post for two years from the date of assumption of charge. Singh is the first IPS officer to head the Directorate, which functions under the Union Finance Ministry. The agency has the mandate to investigate cases of money laundering and foreign exchange rule violations.

420) . Nirmal Shekar, who died in Chennai on February 1 at 60, was well known as:

a) Surgeon

b) Playwright

c) Sports journalist

d) Photojournalist

Nirmal Shekar, former Sports Editor of The Hindu and former editor of Sportstar, passed away in Chennai on February 1, 2017. He was 60. After his retirement, he remained a columnist with The Hindu. His last published piece was on January 28.

421) T.N.A. Perumal, who died in Bengaluru on February 8 at 84, was well known as:

- a) Surgeon
- b) Playwright
- c) Sports journalist
- d) Wildlife Photographer

T.N.A. Perumal, award-winning wildlife photographer, passed away in Bengaluru on February 8, 2018 at the age of 84.

422) . Rabin Sengupta, who died in Agartala on February 7 at 87, was well known as:

- a) Surgeon
- b) Playwright
- c) Sports journalist
- d) Photojournalist

Photojournalist Rabin Sengupta, one of the few Indian journalists who extensively covered the 1971 Bangladesh war, died in Agartala on February 7, 2017. He was 87 and was honoured with the Liberation War Award in 2012.

423) . Which of the following is/are correct expansions of Japanese agencies involved in boosting economic cooperation with India?

- I. METI – Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry
- II. JETRO – Japan Engineering Trade Organization
- III. JICA - Japan Investment Credit Agency

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only

In a bid to attract global talent, from India and other nations, Japan has said it will soon introduce a new Green Card programme —billed as the fastest such system in the world — and expedite the granting of permanent residency to highly skilled foreign professionals. This was stated by Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), at a press conference co-organised with industry body CII in New Delhi, on February 7, 2017. Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are also working in this direction.

424) Chinese prisoner of war Wang Qi, who visited his native country after five decades in February 2017, had settled in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

- a) Balaghat
- b) Mandla
- c) Seoni
- d) Satna

Wang Qi, a Chinese prisoner of war who settled in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district after his release from jail and raised a family after marrying an Indian, visited his native country after five decades in February 2017. Wang, now 77, was caught for entering the Indian territory shortly after the Sino-India War of 1962. He was later released from jail.

425) Which of the following is the five-day multi-nation naval exercise organised by Pakistan in February 2017?

- a) Rahat-17
- b) Aman-17
- c) Fatah-17
- d) Waqt-17

Pakistan hosted warships from 36 countries, including Russia, China and the US, in the Arabian Sea for a five-day naval exercise beginning on February 10, 2017. Codenamed Aman-17, the exercise was held in the north Arabian Sea. The exercise is themed 'Together for peace'.

426) Which of the following celebrated 38th anniversary of 1979 revolution on February 11, 2017?

- a) UAE
- b) Iran
- c) Jordan
- d) Pakistan

Iranians began a nationwide celebration to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the 1979 revolution with massive rallies across the country on February 10, 2017. The rallies commemorate 11th February 1979, when followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ousted the US-backed Shah Reza Pahlavi.

427) What is the theme of the BRICS Summit scheduled to be hosted by China in September 2017?

- a) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Secure Future
- b) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Closer Future
- c) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Shared Future
- d) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future

428) Which of the following will host the BRICS Summit in 2017?

- a) Harbin
- b) Xiamen
- c) Chengdu
- d) Shanghai

China on February 10, 2017 released the theme of the 2017 BRICS Summit which is scheduled to begin in September. The summit will be held under the theme "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future". The 2016 summit was hosted by India at Goa. The 2017 summit will take place in Xiamen which is located in east China's Fujian Province.

429) Which of the following capitals hosted the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in February 2017?

- a) Lima
- b) Bogota
- c) Caracas
- d) Havana

430) The "Peace Summit Award" was presented to Richard Branson at the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in February 2017. Branson is the founder of which airline?

- a) Lufthansa
- b) Delta Air Lines
- c) British Airways
- d) Virgin Atlantic Airways

The 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates was organised in the Colombian capital of Bogota from February 2-5, 2017, with a call to fight the ills afflicting humanity. The "Peace Summit Award" was presented to Virgin Atlantic airline's founder Richard Branson. His "Virgin Unite" organisation seeks to create non-profit initiatives to help the world "eliminate wars and conflicts through practical solutions". It is the first time the summit was held in Latin America. Earlier venues have been Barcelona (2015), Rome (2014), Warsaw (2013), Chicago (2012), Hiroshima (2010), Berlin (2009), Paris (2008) and Rome (1999 to 2007).

431) Which state hosted a National Women's Parliament (NWP) in February 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh

A National Women's Parliament (NWP) was organised at Pavitra Sangamam on the outskirts of Vijayawada in Amaravati (AP) capital region from February 10 to 12, 2017. The main theme was 'Empowering Women-Strengthening Democracy'. Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly organised the event with support of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Inter-Parliamentary Union, among others.

432) Which state's Finance Minister announced a new legislation in February 2017 to deduct the salary of government employees who failed to take care of their elderly parents?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

The BJP-led government in Assam placed its first full Budget in the Assembly in February 8, 2017. Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also announced a new legislation to deduct the salary of government employees who failed to take care of their elderly parents. "Employees working in the government, state PSUs and companies will be expected to take care of their elderly parents in a desirable manner. In case of non-compliance, the proposed legislation would mandate that a certain portion of the salary of such employees would be deducted to be given to their respective parents," Sarma said.

433) Which of the following became the first state to turn its public grain distribution (PDS) system entirely cashless in February 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

Gujarat has turned its public grain distribution (PDS) system entirely cashless across the state, becoming the first in the country to do so. With this, over 37.5 million people will now be able to pay cashless using their Aadhaar cards. In mid-January, the department of consumer affairs, food and public distribution of India had organised a meeting with state food ministers, to install cashless system in PDS by end of March. However, Gujarat became the first state in India to do so by installing cashless systems in all its 17,250 centres, much ahead of the March deadline. (February 8, 2017).

434) Which state launched a programme to distribute fortified meals in all schools in tie up with Tata Trusts in February 2017?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Tripura

The Tripura govt. in collaboration with TATA Trust has launched a programme to distribute fortified meals in all schools. Under the programme, the government will try to provide fortified meals to students in order to counter disorders like stunting, overweight and anaemia - the major causes of maternal and child deaths said Tripura Education Minister Tapan Chakraborty after launching the programme in Agartala on February 10, 2017.

435) Which state has launched Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana in February 2017 to double farm income in the next five years?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal on February 5, 2017 launched the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana, a flagship scheme that is aimed at strengthening rural economy and to double farm income in the next five years, in Guwahati.

436) Which state is setting up Kamal Clubs in every Gram Panchayat to unearth sporting talents and promote arts and culture?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das said on February 5, 2017 that the state would give two per cent reservation to sports persons in government jobs and nutritious food to them. Das said efforts were also being taken to give nutritious

food to the sports persons, an official release said in Ranchi. He said to promote football, Kamal Clubs are being set up, and for this the government would give kits to players and competitions would be held at block, district and state levels. In May 2016, the state government had approved a approval for setting up Kamal Clubs in every Gram Panchayat to unearth sporting talents and promote arts and culture.

437) Union Sports Minister launched Mission 11 million to promote which sport in schools in February 2017?

- a) Hockey
- b) Football
- c) Swimming
- d) Wrestling

The Mission 11 million, a football initiative aimed towards taking the game to 12,000 schools in 37 cities across the country was set rolling by the Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel and the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Praful Patel at the Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on February 10, 2017.

438) Kheleo was unveiled as the official mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup in February 2017. It is a:

- a) Lion
- b) Tiger
- c) Panther
- d) Leopard

The official mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017, 'Kheleo', was unveiled in New Delhi on February 10, 2017 by Sports Minister Vijay Goel and AIFF President Praful Patel. The clouded leopard is an endangered wild cat whose habitat extends from the Himalayan foothills to mainland Southeast Asia. The tournament will be played from October 6 to 28, 2017.

439) Which of the following will host the Himalayan Region Games in April 2017 as per an announcement made by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

- a) Itanagar
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Gangtok

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on February 9, 2017 announced that the Himalayan Region Games will be held in Guwahati from April 21 to April 30, 2017.

440) Which country topped the medals tally at the 37th Asian Track Cycling Championships organised in New Delhi in February 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Vietnam
- d) South Korea

The 37th Asian Track Cycling Championships concluded in New Delhi on February 10, 2017. India won two bronze medals to finish 11th in the medals tally that was topped by South Korea with 9 gold, 13 silver and 8 bronze medals.

441) Which of the following was celebrated by Britain's monarch Queen Elizabeth II in February 2017?

- a) Golden Jubilee
- b) Sapphire Jubilee
- c) Diamond Jubilee
- d) Platinum Jubilee

90-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, the world's longest reigning sovereign, on February 6, 2017 became the first British monarch to reach her Sapphire Jubilee, with 65 years on the throne.

442) Who among the following was elected as the President of Somalia in February 2017?

- a) Mansour al-Issawi

- b) Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud
- c) Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke
- d) Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo

443) What is the currency of Somalia?

- a) Somali shilling
- b) Somali dollar
- c) Somali pound
- d) Somali rand

Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo was elected the new president of Somalia in capital Mogadishu on February 9, 2017.

444) Who among the following was sworn in as the new President of Haiti in February 2017?

- a) Jovenel Moise
- b) Garry Conille
- c) Robert Harting
- d) Bernard Gousse

445) Which of the following is the capital of Haiti?

- a) Port Louis
- b) Port Moresby
- c) Port of Spain
- d) Port-au-Prince

446) What is the currency of Haiti?

- a) Gourde
- b) Quetzal
- c) Nuevo sol
- d) Lempira

Jovenel Moise was sworn in as Haiti's new president in the capital, Port-au-Prince on February 7, 2017.

447) Peter Mansfield, who won the Nobel Prize for _____ in 2003, died at the age of 82 on February 8, 2017.

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Physiology or Medicine

Peter Mansfield, who died on February 8, 2017 at 83, was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Paul Lauterbur for discoveries concerning Magnetic Resonance Imaging. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993.

448) India-born Anish Kapoor received the \$1 million Genesis Prize in Jerusalem on February 6, 2017. He is a well known:

- a) Astronomer
- b) Diplomat
- c) Novelist
- d) Sculptor

Renowned Indian-origin British sculptor Anish Kapoor, who has emerged as a champion of Syrian refugees' rights, won Israel's prestigious USD one million Genesis Prize for his commitment to Jewish values in Jerusalem on February 6, 2017.

449) Which of the following won the annual Visitor's Award for the 'Best University' by the President in February 2017?

- a) Delhi University
- b) University of Pune
- c) Jadavpur University

d) Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was announced as the winner of the third "Visitor's Award", presented annually by the President to the "best" central university. (February 7, 2017)

450) Who among the following Indian journalists was declared as winner of the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award 2016 for Excellence in Journalism in February 2017?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Harish Khare
- c) Prannoy Roy
- d) Karan Thapar

Senior journalist and television commentator Karan Thapar will be conferred the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award 2016 for excellence in journalism. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh, a gold medal and a special trophy. Thapar is the president of ITV, a production house that makes programmes for the BBC, Doordarshan and Channel News Asia. He is currently associated with India Today. (February 10, 2017).

451) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review on February 8, 2017.

- I. Repo rate: 6.25%
- II. Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%
- III. Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

452) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review on February 8, 2017.

- I. Bank Rate: 6.75%
- II. Cash Reserve Ratio: 4%
- III. Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 20.25%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I and III only

453) What is the new growth forecast for 2016-17 made by the RBI in its bi-monthly monetary policy review on February 8, 2017?

- a) 6.9%
- b) 7.1%
- c) 7.3%
- d) 7.5%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.25% in its monetary policy review on February 8, 2017. **Key figures** – Repo rate: 6.25%, Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%, Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%, Bank Rate: 6.75%, Cash Reserve Ratio: 4% and Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 21.25%. For 2016-17, GDP growth target has been lowered to 6.9% from earlier target of 7.1%. Cash withdrawal limits are to be eased in two stages. In first stage, weekly cash withdrawal limits on savings account will be raised from Rs. 24,000 to Rs 50,000 from Feb 20, 2017. In the second stage, cash withdrawal limits to be removed from March 13, 2017.

454) The Reserve Bank on February 8, 2017 announced the setting up of which of the following in next fiscal to deal with non-compliance of various regulations of the central bank?

- a) Compliance Department
- b) Regulatory Department
- c) Observance Department
- d) Enforcement Department

The Reserve Bank on February 8, 2017 said it will set up a separate Enforcement Department beginning next fiscal to deal with non-compliance of various regulations of the central bank. "With a view to developing a sound framework and process for enforcement action, it has been decided to establish a separate Enforcement Department," RBI said in a statement. Necessary steps have been initiated in this regard and the new department will start functioning from April 1, it said.

455) The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill was passed by Parliament in February 2017. It makes holding of more than ____ scrapped notes of Rs 500/1000 denomination punishable with a fine.

- a) 5
- b) 10
- c) 15
- d) 20

The Lok Sabha on February 7, 2017 passed a bill which makes holding of more than 10 old notes of Rs 500/1000 denomination punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 10,000. The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill will extinguish the government's liability towards scrapped notes and also eliminate the possibility of their being used as parallel currency. The Bill also provides for a minimum fine Rs 50,000 for false declaration by persons who were abroad during the demonetisation period (November 9-December 30, 2016) and given time to deposit the scrapped notes with RBI till March 31.

456) Parliament passed The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017 in February 2017. Which of the following statements is correct?

- a) Government will provide incentive to workers who agree to receive salaries by cheque/direct transfer
- b) Employers will decide whether to pay salaries through cheque/direct transfer or cash
- c) Workers can demand advance salary once a year from their employers
- d) Workers will have a say in deciding the mode of receiving salaries

Parliament on February 8, 2017 passed a bill seeking to enable the Centre and state governments to specify industrial units which will have to pay wages only either through cheques or by transferring into bank accounts. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017, which was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha, also enables the employers to pay wages to workers through cheque or by transferring into their bank account without their written authorisation. They can also continue to pay it in cash if they want. Lok Sabha had passed the bill on January 31. Workers earning up to Rs. 18,000 a month will be covered under the Bill.

457) . 'Shell Company' refers to which of the following?

- a) A company that exports its entire production
- b) A company that is not listed on stock exchanges
- c) A company owned by Non-Resident Indians but managed by Indians
- d) A company which does not have business operations or significant assets

A task force comprising members of various regulatory Ministries and enforcement agencies has been set up on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions for a major crackdown on shell companies, which are used for large-scale money laundering and tax evasion. About 560 beneficiaries, who laundered Rs. 3,900 crore, and 54 chartered accountants, who were involved in the racket, have already been identified. This was stated in a press note by Finance Ministry on February 10, 2017. The agencies will invoke the stringent Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act against the shell companies, freeze their accounts and strike off the names of dormant companies. Disciplinary action will be initiated against professionals abetting the companies and entry operators, who are used to launder unaccounted-for incomes into the banking system for projecting them as white money.

458) Which of the following prices of foodgrains supplied under the National Food Security Act is/are correct?

- I. Wheat: Rs. 3/kg
 - II. Rice: 2/kg
 - III. Coarse grains: Rs. 1/kg
- a) I only
 - b) I & II only
 - c) II & III only
 - d) I, II & III

459) What is the maximum quantity of foodgrains a BPL household not coming under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana can buy under the National Food Security Act in month?

- a) 15 kg
- b) 20 kg
- c) 25 kg
- d) 30 kg

460) What is the maximum quantity of foodgrains a BPL household coming under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana can buy under the National Food Security Act in month?

- a) 15 kg
- b) 20 kg
- c) 25 kg
- d) 35 kg

• After cooking gas LPG, the government on February 9, 2017 made Aadhaar mandatory for availing subsidised foodgrains from the ration shops under the food security law. The government has given time to those not having the biometric-based unique identification number to apply for Aadhaar by June 30.

• Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which has been completely rolled out across the country in November 2016, each eligible person from Below Poverty Line (BPL) category is entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains. A maximum of five members (25 kg) of a household is given.

• Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households receive 35 kg of foodgrains per family a month.

• Rice, wheat and coarse grains are priced at Rs 3, Rs 2 and Rs. 1 per kg respectively. The price of foodgrains is the same for AAY and Non-Antyodaya Anna Yojana households

461) Station Redevelopment Programme was launched by the Railways in February 2017. The developer who rebuilds railway station will have to maintain it for how many years?

- a) 5 years
- b) 15 years
- c) 25 years
- d) 35 years

462) Station Redevelopment Programme was launched by the Railways in February 2017. The developer who rebuilds railway station will get leasing rights for commercial properties developed at these stations for how many years?

- a) 5 years
- b) 15 years
- c) 25 years
- d) 45 years

• Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on February 8, 2017 unveiled the first phase of the Station Redevelopment Programme as part of which tenders are being floated for 23 of a total of 400 stations set to get a facelift.

• The financial model for redevelopment work across stations has been devised in a way that the government doesn't incur any expenditure as the developer would be rebuilding the railway stations and maintaining it for 15 years.

• In return, the developer would be granted 45 years' leasing rights for the commercial properties developed at these stations. These properties could be malls, hotels, hospitals, among others.

• The stations are being awarded to private developers under the so-called Swiss challenge method, which involves inviting a proposal online and allowing rival bidders to beat that proposal.

463) The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is allowed to invest up to what share of its incremental corpus in equity and related instruments?

- a) 5%
- b) 10%
- c) 15%
- d) 20%

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will increase its equity investments to 15% of its incremental corpus in the next fiscal year, from 10% at present, Union Labour and Employment Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said in New Delhi on February 9, 2017. Although the EPFO is permitted to invest up to 15% of its incremental corpus in equity and related instruments, it began by investing 5% in ETFs in August 2015 and increased it further to 10% in 2016.

464) India was ranked _____ out of 45 global economies on the International Intellectual Property Index in February 2017 by the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC).

- a) 3rd
- b) 13th
- c) 23rd
- d) 43rd

India continues to languish near the bottom in an international intellectual property index, ranking 43rd out of 45 global economies, according to 'The Roots of Innovation' report by the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC). (February 2017)

465) February 12 to 18, 2017 was observed as _____ in India.

- a) National Productivity Week
- b) National Innovation Week
- c) National Nutrition Week
- d) Oil Conservation Week

National Productivity Council, an autonomous body under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, was established on 12th February, 1958. 12th-18th February is celebrated as the 'National Productivity Week' every year. The theme chosen for this year's observance is "From Waste to Profits-through Reduce, Recycle and Reuse".

466) 'R' in TAMRA portal launched by the Ministry of Mines in February 2017 stands for which of the following?

- a) Revenue
- b) Resource
- c) Regulation
- d) Renewable

With an objective to enhance transparency and accountability as a part of the Ease of Doing Business in the Mining sector, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal will launch TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) portal and Mobile Application in New Delhi on February 10. Ministers of Mining and senior officers from 12 mineral rich States would also be connected through videoconferencing. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Mines of February 8, 2017.

467) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in February 2017?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Ravi Narain
- c) Akshay Sinha
- d) Dinesh Prabhu

Senior Finance Ministry official Ajay Tyagi was on February 10, 2017 appointed as chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He will succeed Upendra Kumar Sinha, whose extended tenure ends on March 1.

468) Karnataka High Court ordered winding up of United Breweries (Holding) Ltd in February 2017. Who among the following is its promoter?

- a) Vijay Mallya
- b) Subrata Roy
- c) Nitin Kasliwal
- d) Naveen Jindal

Beginning a formal process, India on February 9, 2017 sought extradition of absconding tycoon Vijay Mallya from the United Kingdom. On February 7, the Karnataka High Court ordered winding up of United Breweries (Holding) Ltd, the 102-year-old parent company of the UB Group. The order followed UBL's failure to pay back banks and individual creditors as per guarantees extended to the now defunct Kingfisher Airlines Ltd. (KFA).

469) Which of the following contributed Rs. 1 crore to the CRPF Welfare Fund in February 2017 under its #KarSalaam initiative dedicated to Indian soldiers?

- a) Facebook
- b) Google
- c) Apple
- d) LG

LG Electronics India Managing Director, Kim Ki Wan, handed over a cheque for Rs. 1 crore to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on February 9, 2017 as contribution for the CRPF Welfare Fund. The contribution is part of the #KarSalaam initiative, dedicated to Indian soldiers, launched by the LG prior to the Republic Day in January 2017.

470) Which of the following launched the Aprilia scooter priced Rs 70,288 in February 2017?

- a) TVS Motors
- b) Honda
- c) Mahindra2Wheelers
- d) Piaggio

Italy's Piaggio Group on February 9, 2017 launched its second crossover sport-scooter in India under the Aprilia brand, the SR150 RACE priced at Rs 70,288 (ex-showroom Mumbai).

471) Which Indian steel company is selling its Specialty Steel business in UK to Liberty House Group for 100 million pound?

- a) SAIL
- b) Ispat Steel
- c) Jindal Steel
- d) Tata Steel

Global giant Tata Steel on February 9, 2017 said it has inked a pact to sell its Specialty Steel business that employs 1,700 people to Liberty House Group for 100 million pound (about Rs 840 crore).

472) Who among the following was appointed as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India in February 2017?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Ravi Narain
- c) Akshay Sinha
- d) Hemant Bhargava

Hemant Bhargava was on February 10, 2017 appointed as Managing Director of state-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. His term will end on July 31, 2019. The top LIC management consists of the chairman and three managing directors.

473) Which of the following acquired Ambassador brand from Hindustan Motors in February 2017?

- a) Ford
- b) Peugeot
- c) Hyundai
- d) Nissan Renault

CK Birla controlled Hindustan Motors Ltd — maker of the iconic Ambassador car — has sold the 'Ambassador' brand to French carmaker Peugeot, according to a notification to the bourses on February 10, 2017

474) Which of the following launched the 'Digital Apnao Vyapar Badhao' campaign with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to promote adoption of digital payments by traders in February 2017?

- a) Paytm
- b) Visa
- c) MasterCard
- d) CCAvenue

Traders' body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and MasterCard on February 6, 2017 launched a campaign to create awareness among traders on adoption of digital payments to grow business. As part of the 'Digital Apnao Vyapar Badhao' campaign, 500 camps across 30 cities will be held over 90 days to merchants and traders to get on-board digital platform.

475) Consider the following statements regarding Small Finance Banks.

- I. They are subject to all prudential norms and regulations of RBI as applicable to existing commercial banks
- II. They cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities
- III. They cannot become Business Correspondent (BC) of another bank

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) II only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) I, II and III

476) Small Finance Banks have to follow the requirement of opening at least _____ of branches in unbanked rural centres (population up to 9,999 as per the latest census).

- a) 10 per cent
- b) 15 per cent
- c) 20 per cent
- d) 25 per cent

477) At least _____ of the loan portfolio a Small Finance Bank should constitute loans and advances of upto Rs.25 lakh.

- a) 40 per cent
- b) 50 per cent
- c) 60 per cent
- d) 70 per cent

478) A Small Finance Bank is required to extend _____ of its Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by RBI.

- a) 45 per cent
- b) 55 per cent
- c) 65 per cent
- d) 75 per cent

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank on February 6, 2017 officially started its services with five pilot branches from Bengaluru. "With a customer base of 35 lakh people, we are now focusing on the under-served. We want to grow as a major player in retail banking in next five years," said Samit Ghosh, MD and CEO, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, at the launch. Ujjivan Financial Services, a non-banking financial company, is the holding company of the small finance bank. RBI guidelines for Small Finance Banks are as follows:

- The small finance bank shall primarily undertake basic banking activities of acceptance of deposits and lending to unserved and underserved sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities
- The small finance bank will be required to use the words "Small Finance Bank" in its name in order to differentiate it from other banks.
- The small finance banks will be given scheduled bank status once they commence their operations, and found suitable under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The small finance bank cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.
- The annual branch expansion plans of the small finance banks for the initial five years would need prior approval of RBI. The annual branch expansion plans should be in compliance with the requirement of opening at least 25 per cent of its branches in unbanked rural centres (population upto 9,999 as per the latest census).
- The small finance bank will be subject to all prudential norms and regulations of RBI as applicable to existing commercial banks including requirement of maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). No forbearance would be provided for complying with the statutory provisions.
- The minimum paid-up equity capital for small finance banks shall be Rs. 100 crore.
- The small finance bank will be required to extend 75 per cent of its Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by RBI.
- The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to single and group obligators cannot be more than 10 per cent and 15 per cent of its capital funds, respectively. Further, in order to ensure that the bank extends loans primarily to small borrowers, at least 50 per cent of its loan portfolio should constitute loans and advances of upto Rs.25 lakh.
- The small finance bank cannot be a Business Correspondent (BC) for another bank. However, it can have its own BC network.

479) Which of the following has launched co-branded debit card with IFFCO in February 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) Bank of Baroda

Bank of Baroda (BoB) and IFFCO have joined hands to promote digital drive of the government by way of providing co-branded debit card with in-built overdraft facilities to farmers. BoB is promoting cashless transactions and as such, intends to have arrangement with IFFCO for issuance of co-branded cards to the farmers, a joint statement said on February 7, 2017.

480) Which of the following would host the proposed Marine Police Training Institute announced by the Home Ministry in February 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) Karnataka

The Government will set up a National Marine Police Training Institute (MPTI) at Pindara Village, District Devbhoomi Dwarka in Gujarat, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijju informed Lok Sabha in a written reply on February 8, 2017. The task for establishment of MPTI has been entrusted with Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D).

481) Who among the following won two matches for India in the Asian Oceania Group 1 Davis Cup tie against New Zealand in February 2017?

- a) Sumit Nagal
- b) Vishnu Vardhan
- c) Leander Paes
- d) Ramkumar Ramanathan

India defeated New Zealand 4-1 in Asian Oceania Group 1 Davis Cup tie in Pune on February 5, 2017. **February 3:** Yuki Bhambri beat Finn Tearney 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the first singles while Ramkumar Ramanathan won 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 over Jose Statham in the second singles match to give India 2-0 lead on the first day. **February 4:** New Zealand reduced India's lead to 2-1 when Leander Paes and Vishnu Vardhan lost the third rubber to Artem Sitak and Michael Venus 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, (8-6), 6-3. **February 5:** Ramkumar Ramanathan and Yuki Bhambri won their respective reverse singles matches to hand India 4-1 win in best of five tie. Ramanathan outplayed Finn Tearney 7-5, 6-1, 6-0 while Bhambri edged past Jose Statham 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

482) Which of the following will host the country's first Center of Excellence for Para Sports? Foundation was laid in February 2017.

- a) Gandhinagar
- b) Jaipur
- c) Mumbai
- d) Hyderabad

Sports Minister Vijay Goel laid the foundation stone of the Center of Excellence for Para Sports in Gandhinagar on February 5, 2017 at an estimated budget of over Rs 50 crores. It will be the first training facility in the country dedicated to para athletes.

483) Who is the commander of the Indian Navy's INSV Tarini inducted in Goa on February 18, 2017?

- a) Vijaya Devi
- b) Payal Gupta
- c) Vartika Joshi
- d) Pratibha Jamwal

484) Indian Navy's INSV Tarini was inducted in Goa on February 18, 2017. Designed in the Netherlands, it has been built at:

- a) Bharti Shipyard
- b) Adani Shipyard
- c) Cochin Shipyard
- d) Aquarius Shipyard

The Indian Navy's second ocean-going sailboat INSV Tarini was inducted in Goa on February 18, 2017. INSV Tarini is slated to be the platform for the first Indian circumnavigation by an all-women crew of the Indian Navy. Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi will command the six-member crew that will attempt the circumnavigation. The other crew members are Lieutenant Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lieutenant Aishwarya Boddapati, Lieutenant Patarapalli Swathi, Lieutenant Vijaya Devi and Lieutenant Payal Gupta. Designed in the Netherlands, INSV Tarini is a sloop built by Aquarius Shipyard Pvt Ltd at Divar, Goa. The boat draws her origin from the famous Tara-Tarini temple of Orissa's Ganjam district. The word Tarini means boat and is also a Sanskrit word for saviour.

485) The foundation stone of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was laid at ____ on February 17, 2017.

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi
- d) Kochi

The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju laid the foundation stone of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in New Delhi on February 17, 2017.

486) Which of the following hosted the 2-day South Asian Speakers' Summit on 'Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' in February 2017?

- a) Delhi
- b) Rajkot
- c) Indore
- d) Nagpur

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the two-day South Asian Speakers' Summit on 'Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' in Indore on February 18, 2017. Pakistan did not take part in the summit.

487) Five new Supreme Court judges were sworn in on February 17, 2017. What is the sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court including the CJI?

- a) 29
- b) 30
- c) 31
- d) 32

Five new Supreme Court judges were on February 17, 2017 sworn in, taking the apex court's strength to 28, including the Chief Justice of India. Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Navin Sinha, Mohan M Shantanagoudar, Deepak Gupta and S Abdul Nazeer were administered the oath of office by CJI J S Khehar in New Delhi. The sanctioned strength of judges in the apex court is 31, including the CJI.

488) CDSCO is Central ____ Standards Control Organisation.

- a) Debt
- b) Drugs
- c) Digital
- d) Defence

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on February 17, 2017 said the National Regulatory Authority of India (NRA) and affiliated institutions meet the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool requirements for a functional vaccine regulatory system. Some of the affiliated institutions include the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Central Drugs Laboratory. The decision was arrived at after a WHO-led team of international experts conducted a comprehensive review -- performed every couple of years -- from February 13 to 17.

489) The Supreme Court on February 16, 2017 ordered Google, Microsoft and Yahoo to delete online pre-natal sex determination advertisements. This has been done under the the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act of ____.

- a) 1990
- b) 1994
- c) 1998
- d) 2002

The Supreme Court on February 16, 2017 ordered Google, Microsoft and Yahoo to immediately set up their own in-house expert bodies to keep tabs on and delete online pre-natal sex determination advertisements. The court said the intent of the order was to make these search engines "responsive to Indian law." Section 22 of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act of 1994 prohibits advertisements relating to pre-natal determination of sex and imposes punishment.

490) . V. K. Saxena is the Chairman of:

- a) National Textile Corporation
- b) Apparel Exports Promotion Council
- c) India Trade Promotion Organisation
- d) Khadi and Village Industries Commission

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on February 15, 2017 announced to set up five 'Khadi Villages' each in all the states to make the rural population self reliant in order to stop their migration into cities. KVIC Chairman Vinay Kumar Saxena made this announcement in Ahmedabad. Under this project, interested villagers will be given charkhas (spinning wheels), looms and other equipments required to set up small scale industries, such as candles, incense sticks, honeybee cultivation, bakery, etc.

491) The International Day of Women and Girls in _____ was observed on February 11, 2017.

- a) Defence
- b) Science
- c) Industry
- d) Engineering

The second International Day of Women and Girls in Science was observed on February 11. "On this International Day, I urge commitment to end bias, greater investments in science, technology, engineering and math education for all women

and girls as well as opportunities for their careers and longer-term professional advancement so that all can benefit from their ground-breaking future contributions,” said UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, in his message.

492) International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM) was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) January 30
- b) February 2
- c) February 4
- d) February 6

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was observed on February, 2017. 2017 Theme: “Building a solid and interactive bridge between Africa and the world to accelerate ending FGM by 2030.” “Sustainable development demands full human rights for all women and girls. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises an end to this practice by 2030,” said UN Secretary-General in his message.

493) Pandit Dharmasheel Chaturvedi passed away in Varanasi on February 11, 2017. He was well-known as:

- a) Scientist
- b) Journalist
- c) Painter
- d) Dancer

Pandit Dharmasheel Chaturvedi, an eminent thinker, writer & journalist passed away in Varanasi on February 11, 2017.

494) India and _____ are the two Asian countries in the nine-country ‘Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health’ announced by the WHO in February 2017.

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

India is among nine countries that will be part of a global health network focused on improving the quality of care for new mothers and babies and strengthen national efforts to end preventable deaths of pregnant women and newborns by 2030. The nine countries are India, Bangladesh, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. Through the new ‘Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health’, supported by World Health Organisation (WHO), UN International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other partners, the countries will work to improve the quality of care mothers and babies receive in their health facilities, a statement from WHO said on February 15, 2017.

495) DRDO Chairman S. Christopher announced plans to increase the range of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile to 450 km in February 2017. What is its current range?

- a) 260 km
- b) 290 km
- c) 320 km
- d) 350 km

496) Who among the following is CEO and MD of BrahMos Aerospace?

- a) Devendra Jha
- b) Sudhir Mishra
- c) Damodar Gupta
- d) A Sivathanu Pillai

497) For missiles capable of carrying payload above 500 kg, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) bans transfer of technology to non-member countries if the range exceeds:

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

India will increase the range of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile to 450 km from the present 290 km, and a test is likely around March 10, DRDO Chairman S. Christopher said in Bengaluru on February 15, 2017. This comes after India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016. The MTCR is an informal and voluntary partnership of countries to prevent the proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying above 500 kg payload for more than 300 km. This prohibits member countries to give such technology to countries outside the club. BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia.

498) Which country witnessed the maximum bombings in the world in 2016, according to a report by the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC) released in February 2017?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India
- c) Iraq
- d) Syria

India witnessed the maximum bombings in the world in 2016, even more than war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a report by the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC) released in February 2017. NBDC functions as the nodal post-blasts investigation department under the National Security Guard (NSG). The report did sound a word of caution on the global data, saying the centre obtained these figures from "open source". "This does not reflect the exact number and details of the incident," the NSG's NBDC said in its annual compilation of such incidents called 'Bombshell'.

499) An indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) christened _____ was handed over to the IAF on February 14, 2017.

- a) Drishti
- b) Nayan
- c) Kiran
- d) Netra

500) The indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) handed over to the IAF on February 14, 2017 is mounted on an aircraft manufactured by:

- a) Dassault
- b) Boeing
- c) Embraer
- d) Bombardier

501) Which of the following is the Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) procured for the Indian Air Force from Israel?

- a) Sprint
- b) Goliath
- c) Phalcon
- d) Albatross

An indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) christened 'Netra' was handed over to the IAF on February 14, 2017 at the 'Aero India 2017' in Bengaluru, ushering India into an elite club of nations that have developed such technology on their own. The United States, Russia and Israel are the other countries which have developed the technology for the system. The handover of the system -- mounted on a Brazilian Embraer-145 jet -- by the DRDO to the Indian Air Force (IAF) was done in the presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, DRDO chief S. Christopher and Defence Minister's Scientific Adviser G. Satheesh Reddy. The IAF is already using the Israeli Phalcon AWACS on the Russian IL-76 heavy-lift aircraft to detect aerial threats from jets or missiles even from a distance of 400 km away.

502) Which of the following is Indian Navy's survey vessel that has gone green by installing a solar power system on board?

- a) INS Nirdeshak
- b) INS Anveshak
- c) INS Nireekshak
- d) INS Sarvekshak

Indian Navy's survey vessel INS Sarvekshak has gone green by installing a solar power system on board. According to the Navy, the system equipped on the ship is 100 per cent reliable for power source. It can be used for communication equipment, battery charging and general lightings onboard round the clock with battery outputs during night. (Feb 12, 2017)

503) Which paramilitary force organised its first band display and retreat ceremony at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi on February 11, 2017?

- a) Border Security Force
- b) National Security Guard
- c) Indo-Tibetan Police Force
- d) Central Reserve Police Force

The Border Security Force (BSF) on February 11, 2017 organised its first band display and retreat ceremony, marking the beginning of a series of ceremonies at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi. Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. It has been decided to organise a band display as well as retreat ceremony on Saturday at National Police Memorial site. It is a monthly event for all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

504) 'Science Express Climate Action Special' was flagged off from New Delhi on February 17, 2017. Its seven-month journey will conclude at which of the following stations on September 8?

- a) Gandhinagar
- b) Jaipur
- c) Mumbai
- d) Hyderabad

505) 'Science Express Climate Action Special' was flagged off from New Delhi on February 17, 2017. It will cover how many stations across the country?

- a) 108
- b) 88
- c) 68
- d) 48

A 'Science Express' train was flagged off from New Delhi on February 17, 2017 on a seven-month journey that will cover 68 stations across the country to spread awareness about climate change. Named 'Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS)', with the collaborative efforts of ministries of Railways, Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Science & Technology, the 16-coach train will travel to Tripura and to the north bank of the Brahmaputra for the first time. Exhibits of eight coaches of the train are devoted to information, caste studies and materials related to various aspects of climate change. The train will stop at each station for students and others to visit the exhibitions in coaches. The train will end its journey at Gandhinagar station on September 8. This unique mobile exhibition was first launched in October 2007 by DST. Since then it has travelled across India eight times.

506) Who among the following is the brand ambassador of 'Compost Banao, Compost Apnao' campaign of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'?

- a) Ajay Devgn
- b) Amitabh Bachchan
- c) Anupam Kher
- d) Boman Irani

Union Ministry of Urban Development has launched its new publicity campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission aimed at encouraging people to convert kitchen waste into compost for scientific processing of municipal solid. Named as 'Compost Banao, Compost Apnao', the campaign has Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador. Stating this in Chandigarh on February 17, 2017, Joint Secretary of Urban Development Ministry Praveen Prakash said that the Centre has been stepping up efforts to encourage conversion of biodegradable waste into compost, for use as fertilizer, and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites. The campaign is produced by the ministry with the help of NFDC

507) India's only active volcano is in which state/UT? It erupted for about four hours in January 2017, say scientists attached to the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).

- a) Andaman and Nicobar
- b) Odisha
- c) Daman and Diu
- d) Lakshadweep

India's only active volcano, the Barren Islands volcano, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, erupted for about four hours in January 2017, say scientists attached to the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). This was stated in a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau on February 17, 2017, quoting an account of the NIO research team which was in the vicinity of the volcano on January 23, 2017.

508) Which paramilitary force announced the setting up of Patanjali Ayurved stores on its campuses across the country? The first such 'shop' was inaugurated at its camp in New Delhi on February 15, 2017.

- a) Border Security Force
- b) National Security Guard
- c) Indo-Tibetan Police Force
- d) Central Reserve Police Force

After yoga skills, BSF troops will use products prepared by Baba Ramdev-promoted 'Patanjali' FMCG brand as the border guarding force is set to open over a dozen such stores on its campuses across the country. The first such 'shop' was inaugurated at the BSF camp in New Delhi on February 15, 2017. The BSF Wives Welfare Association (BWWA) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with "Patanjali Ayurved Limited, Haridwar, for sale of items of Patanjali through BWWA Patanjali shops spread across various BSF locations all over India." A BSF statement said the MoU had a provision for discounts on sale to the country's largest border guarding force personnel and their families.

509) The Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) launched in February 2017 revealed that only 5% Indian women have sole control over choosing their husband. The survey is an initiative of the University of Maryland and which Indian institution?

- a) CMIE

- b) NCAER
- c) NCW
- d) TISS

The Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted by the University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 2004-2005 and 2011-2012, was released in February 2017. The survey revealed that 4.99 per cent of women in India had sole control over choosing their husbands, while 79.8 per cent of women needed permission to visit a health centre, according to the 2012 survey, showing little change since a survey in 2005, when 5 per cent reported having sole control over choosing their husband, and 74.2 per cent reported needing permission to visit a health centre.

510) 'The Clothing of Books' is a recently released book authored by:

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Jhumpa Lahiri

511) Who among the following was appointed as Chairman of National Commission for Schedule Tribes in February 2017?

- a) Nand Kumar Sai
- b) Ramvihar Netam
- c) Satyanarayan Jatiya
- d) Bhushan Lal Jangde

BJP veteran and tribal leader from Chhattisgarh, Nand Kumar Sai, has been appointed as Chairman of National Commission for Schedule Tribes. Sai will take oath on February 28 at New Delhi.

512) T. V. Parasuram died on February 14, 2017 at the age of 93. He was well-known as:

- a) Scientist
- b) Playwright
- c) Politician
- d) Journalist

Veteran journalist T V Parasuram, a former correspondent of the Press Trust of India (PTI), died in Washington on February 14, 2017. He was 93. Parasuram has authored two books, 'A Medal for Kashmir', and 'Jewish Heritage in India'.

513) Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Vikas Swarup, was appointed as India's next High Commissioner to which of the following in February 2017?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) Pakistan

514) Which of the following books has been authored by Indian diplomat Vikas Swarup?

- a) White Tiger
- b) Narcopolis
- c) The Museum of Innocence
- d) Six Suspects

Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Vikas Swarup, was on February 16, 2017 appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Canada. Swarup has been serving as the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs since April 2015. An officer of the 1986 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Swarup has previously served in Turkey, the United States, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Japan. Swarup has authored three well-received books – 'Q & A', 'Six Suspects' and 'The Accidental Apprentice'. "Q & A" was made into "Slumdog Millionaire", which won eight Academy Awards in 2009, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

515) The shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar was in news in February 2017. It is in which province of Pakistan?

- a) Sindh
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

More than 40 people were killed after a blast took place in the premises of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar's shrine in Sehwan town of Sindh province of Pakistan on February 16, 2017. The explosion took place within the premises of the shrine at the spot where the dhamaal (Sufi ritual) was being performed. The shrine is dedicated to Syed Muhammad Usman Marwandia, a 12th century Sufi who was born in Marwand, present day Afghanistan.

516) 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco observed in February 2017. The treaty prohibits nuclear weapons in:

- a) Africa
- b) Europe
- c) Australia
- d) South America

Nuclear disarmament can be achieved by “a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory”, said Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary (D&ISA) at the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in Mexico City on February 14, 2017. The Treaty of Tlatelolco is the conventional name given to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

517) Which of the following is the multi-nation military exercise organised in Thailand in February 2017?

- a) Viper Games
- b) Cobra Games
- c) Iguana Games
- d) Python Games

The US Pacific Command on February 14, 2017 inaugurated the Cobra Gold military exercises in Thailand. This year's edition of the Cobra Gold will have 29 countries including India attending as both participants and observers for the 11-day exercises.

518) UNSECO sponsored World Radio Day was observed on February 13, 2017. Who among the following is the Director-General of UNESCO?

- a) Helen Clarke
- b) Taleb Rifai
- c) Mary Robinson
- d) Irina Bokova

519) Which of the following is the theme of World Radio Day observed on February 13, 2017?

- a) Radio is All!
- b) Radio is Us!
- c) Radio is We!
- d) Radio is You!

The sixth World Radio Day was celebrated February 13, 2017. The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Assembly in 2011. The theme for its 2017 edition is “Radio is You!” In 2011, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 13 February as World Radio Day, the day UN Radio was established in 1946. “On World Radio Day, UNESCO calls on everyone to nurture the power of radio to foster the conversations and the listening we need for cooperation to tackle the challenges all humanity faces”, said Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion.

520) . Which city in Greece was in news in February 2017 for detection of a 250-kilogramme unexploded World War II bomb that was defused by soldiers?

- a) Corfu
- b) Patras
- c) Athens
- d) Thessaloniki

Greek soldiers on February 12, 2017 successfully defused a nearly 250-kilogramme unexploded World War II bomb in Thessaloniki, the country's second largest city, after evacuating tens of thousands of people from the area.

521) Who among the following in President Donald Trump's administration resigned in February 2017?

- a) Commerce Secretary
- b) National Security Adviser
- c) Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
- d) Secretary of State

President Donald Trump's embattled national security advisor Michael Flynn resigned on February 14, 2017 amid allegations that he secretly discussed US sanctions against Russia with its envoy before Trump's inauguration and then tried to cover up the conversations.

522) Which country's Vice President was declared as a major drug trafficker by the United States government in February 2017?

- a) Venezuela
- b) Peru
- c) Bolivia

d) Cuba

The United States has officially labelled Venezuela's hardline Vice President Tareck El Aissami a major drug trafficker, naming the veteran politician to its narcotics "kingpin" sanctions list. This was announced by the country's Treasury in Washington on February 13, 2017.

523) Who among the following was re-elected as President of Kyrgyzstan for a new seven-year term in February 2017?

- a) Kurmanbek Bakiyev
- b) Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow
- c) Omurbek Tekebayev
- d) Muhammetnazar Gapurow

Turkmenistan's reigning strongman Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov bagged a new seven-year term with nearly 98 per cent of a weakly contested vote, electoral officials said in capital Ashgabat on February 13, 2017.

524) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Germany in February 2017?

- a) Horst Kohler
- b) Roman Herzog
- c) Johannes Rau
- d) Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Ex-foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier was elected as the new President of Germany on February 12, 2017. The 61-year-old Steinmeier of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) received 931 of 1,239 valid votes. He will replace Joachim Gauck, 77.

525) Dick Bruna, who died aged 89 in the Dutch city of Utrecht on February 16, 2017, was well-known as:

- a) Chef
- b) Singer
- c) Illustrator
- d) Film Producer

Dutch artist and illustrator Dick Bruna, creator of beloved children's character Miffy the white rabbit, died aged 89 in the central Dutch city of Utrecht on February 16, 2017.

526) Al Jarreau, who died aged 76 in Los Angeles on February 13, 2017, was well-known as:

- a) Chef
- b) Singer
- c) Illustrator
- d) Film Producer

Grammy-winning jazz singer Al Jarreau died in Los Angeles at the age of 76 on February 13, 2017.

527) Which of the following was launched by PSLV-C37 along with 103 other satellites on February 15, 2017?

- a) Astrosat-2
- b) Cartosat-2
- c) Oceansat-2
- d) Meteosat-2

528) INS-1 and INS-2 were launched by PSLV-C37 along with 102 other satellites on February 15, 2017. 'N' in INS is:

- a) New
- b) Nano
- c) National
- d) Numerical

529) PSLV-C37 launched 104 satellites on February 15, 2017. Which country owned the most number of satellites?

- a) UAE
- b) France
- c) India
- d) Unites States

PSLV-C37, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites on February 15, 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. The total weight of all the 104 satellites carried on-board PSLV-C37 was 1378 kg. After separation, the 2 solar arrays of Cartosat-2 series satellite were deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bangalore took over the control of the satellite. Of the 103 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C37, two – ISRO Nano Satellite-1 (INS-1) weighing 8.4 kg and INS-2 weighing 9.7 kg – are technology demonstration satellites from India. The remaining

101 co-passenger satellites were international customer satellites from USA (96), The Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1), Israel (1), Kazakhstan (1) and UAE (1).

530) Which of the following announced plans in February 2017 to build the first city on Mars by 2117?

- a) UAE
- b) France
- c) India
- d) Israel

531) Which of the following hosted the World Government Summit from February 12 to 14, 2017?

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Dubai

The UAE has unveiled plans to build the first city on Mars by 2117 as the energy-rich country looks to transport people to the Red Planet over the next few decades. The announcement was made by the country's leadership on the sidelines of the World Government Summit organised in Dubai from February 12 to 14, 2017. A virtual presentation depicting a preliminary concept for the city on Mars was made during the announcement.

532) Who won the first prize in 'Central Government Hospitals' category at the Kayakalp awards of the Health Ministry in February 2017.

- a) AIIMS, Delhi
- b) PGIMER, Chandigarh
- c) JIPMER, Puducherry
- d) NIMHANS, Bangalore

A national felicitation ceremony of Kayakalp awardees (2016-17) was held in New Delhi on February 15, 2017 for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene in public health facilities. J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, gave away the awards to the winners under various categories. Under the Central Government Hospitals category, the first prize of Rs 5 Crore was given to the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong got the second prize of Rs 3 Crores and Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh received the third prize of Rs 1 Crore. He also felicitated the District Hospitals, PHCs and CHCs for winning the awards in their respective states and union territory.

533) Who among the following won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award in February 2017?

- a) Usain Bolt
- b) Rafael Nadal
- c) Valentino Rossi
- d) Novak Djokovic

534) Who among the following won the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award in February 2017?

- a) Kelly Slater
- b) Jessica Ennis
- c) Simone Biles
- d) Vivian Cheruiyot

Jamaica's Usain Bolt won the 'Sportsman of the Year' trophy for the record-equalling fourth time while gymnast Simone Biles clinched the top honour in the women's category at the Laureus World Awards in Monaco on February 15, 2017. Bolt had earlier won the award in 2009, 2010 and 2013. Olympic gymnastics champion Biles notched up the 'Sportswoman of the Year' trophy, courtesy her brilliant show at the Rio Games, where she finished with four golds and a bronze. Michael Phelps bagged the 'Comeback of the Year' award after returning to the swimming pool and scooping five more gold medals in Rio Olympics. Formula One champion Nico Rosberg claimed the Breakthrough of the year award. He ended runner-up in 2014 and 2015 but finally won the title in 2016.

535) Who among the following won the World Press Photo Award in February 2017 for his photo 'hatred of our times'?

- a) Mads Nissen
- b) Burhan Ozbilici
- c) Markus Schreiber
- d) Goran Tomasevic

Image of 'hatred of our times' has won the 2017 World Press Photo award. The shocking image of a Turkish policeman assassinating the Russian envoy to Turkey won the prestigious World Press Photo Award on February 13, 2017. Judges praised the courage and bravery of Burhan Ozbilici, a photographer for Associated Press, who stood his ground as 22-year-old policeman Mevlut Mert Altintas pumped nine bullets into ambassador Andrei Karlov at the opening of an Ankara

exhibition. The judges from World Press Photo Foundation in Amsterdam acknowledged they had had a tough job to choose the 2017 winner from more than 80,400 images submitted by 5,034 photographers from 125 countries.

536) Dev Patel won best supporting actor award at the 70th British Academy Film Awards in London in February 2017 for which movie?

- a) Lion
- b) I, Daniel Blake
- c) Arrival and Nocturnal Animals
- d) Manchester by the Sea

Director Damien Chazelle's musical "La La Land" continued its award dominance by taking five trophies, including the best film and best actress for Emma Stone, at the 70th British Academy Film Awards in London on February 12, 2017. British-Indian actor Dev Patel won best supporting actor award for "Lion". Casey Affleck was named best actor for "Manchester by the Sea" while its director Kenneth Lonergan won the award for best original screenplay. Viola Davis won the best supporting actress prize for "Fences". 'Spider Man' star Tom Holland won the EE Rising Star award, the only trophy that is voted by public.

537) Who among the following won Album of the Year, Record of the Year and Song of the Year at the 2017 Grammys in Los Angeles in February 2017?

- a) Adele
- b) Norah Jones
- c) Beyonce
- d) Lady Gaga

538) India's Sandeep Das is among the winners of Grammy in the World Music category in February 2017. He is well-known for which instrument?

- a) Sitar
- b) Tabla
- c) Sarangi
- d) Violin

British singer Adele won Album of the Year, Record of the Year and Song of the Year at the 2017 Grammys in Los Angeles on February 12, 2017. Adele won in all the five categories that she was nominated for including Best Pop Solo Performance and Best Pop Vocal Album. Beyonce won Best Urban Contemporary Album and Best Music Video awards. Indian tabla player Sandeep Das was part of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble "Sing Me Home" which won the Grammy in the World Music category that also included sitarist Anoushka Shankar's "Land of Gold".

539) Which of the following won the IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality award in February 2017 for its mid-day meal programme?

- a) ISKCON
- b) Akshay Patra Foundation
- c) Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- d) Child Rights and You

International Society for Krishna Consciousness's (ISKCON) food relief foundation 'Annamrita' has bagged the IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality award. 'Annamrita', which provides food to over 12 lakh students daily through its mid-day meal programme across India, has bagged the award in the NGO category for second time in a row.

540) The Reserve Bank on February 17, 2017 increased the quantum of loan against gold that could be granted by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to _____, provided the repayment period does not exceed 12 months.

- a) Rs 1.5 lakh
- b) Rs 2 lakh
- c) Rs 2.5 lakh
- d) Rs 3 lakh

The Reserve Bank on February 17, 2017 doubled the quantum of loan against gold that could be granted by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to Rs 2 lakh, provided the repayment period does not exceed 12 months. Earlier, the RRBs were permitted to grant gold loans up to Rs 1 lakh with bullet repayment option. Interest will be charged to the account at monthly rests but will become due for payment along with principal only at the end of 12 months from the date of sanction. Further, RRBs will have to maintain a Loan to Value (LTV) ratio of 75 per cent on the outstanding amount of loan including the interest on an ongoing basis, failing which the loan will be treated as a Non Performing Asset (NPA).

541) Which of the following unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is not correctly matched with its location?

- a) Bank Note Press: Dewas
- b) India Security Press: Mysore
- c) Currency Note Press: Nashik

d) Security Printing Press: Hyderabad

Union Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley gave away awards for excellence at the 11th Foundation Day celebrations of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) at the National Media Centre, New Delhi on February 17, 2017. The CMD Cup was awarded to the India Security Press, Nashik. **SPMCIL Units:** India Government Mint (Mumbai), India Government Mint (Kolkata), India Government Mint (Hyderabad), India Government Mint (Noida), Currency Note Press (Nashik), Bank Note Press (Dewas), India Security Press (Nashik), Security Printing Press (Hyderabad) and Security Paper Mill (Hoshangabad).

542) Which of the following was merged with the State Bank of India in 2008?

- a) State Bank of Saurashtra
- b) State Bank of Indore
- c) State Bank of Patiala
- d) All the above

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2017 approved the acquisition by the State Bank of India of its subsidiary banks namely State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.

- The Cabinet also approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956. The acquisition under Section 35 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 will result in the creation of a stronger merged entity.

- State Bank of India first merged State Bank of Saurashtra with itself in 2008. In 2010, State Bank of Indore was merged with it.

- With the merger of all the five associates, SBI is expected to become a lender of global proportions with an asset base of Rs 37 lakh crore, 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs. It will have over 50 crore customers.

- Out of the five subsidiary banks, three are listed: State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur and State Bank of Travancore.

543) Which of the following statements about Masala bonds is not correct?

- a) The exchange rate fluctuation risk is borne by the issuer
- b) They are issued by Indian entities only
- c) Overseas investors invest in them
- d) They raise funds in Indian currency

Reserve Bank on February 16, 2017 permitted multilateral financial institutions to invest in rupee denominated bonds popularly known as 'masala bonds' issued by Indian entities. "In order to provide more choices of investors to Indian entities issuing rupee denominated bonds abroad, it has been decided to also permit multilateral and regional financial institutions where India is a member country, to invest in these rupee denominated bonds," said a RBI notification.

Masala bonds are debt instruments issued by Indian corporates for raising money from overseas investors. Before masala bonds, corporates have had to rely on avenues such as external commercial borrowings or ECBs. The challenge with ECBs is the entity raising money is faced with a currency risk - they have to be raised and repaid in dollar terms. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers. So risk of currency fluctuation is borne by the buyer not the seller (issuer).

544) What is the foodgrain production in 2016-17 according to the second Advance Estimates of production of major crops released on February 15, 2017?

- a) 241.98 million tonnes
- b) 251.98 million tonnes
- c) 261.98 million tonnes
- d) 271.98 million tonnes

545) The second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 was released on February 15, 2017. Which of the following foodgrains' output has improved over 2015-16?

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Pulses
- d) All the above

546) The second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 was released on February 15, 2017. Which of the following crop's output has improved over 2015-16?

- a) Cotton
- b) Sugarcane
- c) Jute & Mesta

d) All the above

Production of foodgrains in 2016-17 has been estimated at a record 271.98 million tonnes in the second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on February 15, 2017. The estimate of 271.98 million tonnes for 2016-17 is higher by 20.41 million tonnes than the foodgrain production in 2015-16.

Estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is:

FOODGRAINS: 271.98 million tonnes (record)

- **Rice:** 108.86 million tonnes (record)
- **Wheat:** 96.64 million tonnes (record)
- **Coarse Cereals:** 44.34 million tonnes (record), Maize: 26.15 million tonnes (record)
- **Pulses:** 22.14 million tonnes (record) Gram: 9.12 million tonnes, Tur: 4.23 million tonnes (record), Urad: 2.89 million tonnes (record)
- **Oilseeds:** 33.60 million tonnes (record): Soyabean: 14.13 million tonnes Groundnut: 8.47 million tonnes Castorseed: 1.74 million tonnes

Production of Sugarcane is estimated at 309.98 million tonnes which is lower by 38.46 million tonnes than the last year's production of 348.45 million tonnes.

Despite lower area coverage during 2016-17, higher productivity of Cotton has resulted into higher production of 32.51 million bales (of 170 kg each) as compared to 30.01 million bales during 2015-16.

Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.06 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower than their production of 10.52 million bales during 2015-16.

547) First Advance Estimates of production of horticulture crops in 2016-17 was released on February 17, 2017. Which of the following's output is lower than 2015-16?

- a) Onion
- b) Potato
- c) Tomato
- d) All the above

548) What was the production of fruits in 2016-17 according to the first Advance Estimates released on February 17, 2017?

- a) 52 million tonnes
- b) 72 million tonnes
- c) 92 million tonnes
- d) 112 million tonnes

549) What was the production of vegetables in 2016-17 according to the first Advance Estimates released on February 17, 2017?

- a) 88.6 million tonnes
- b) 108.6 million tonnes
- c) 128.6 million tonnes
- d) 168.6 million tonnes

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Final Estimates: 2015-16 and First Advance Estimates of 2016-17, of area and production of horticulture crops on February 17, 2017.

Highlights: 2016-17 (First Advance Estimates)

- The horticulture production of the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 287 million tonnes which is marginally higher as compared to 2015-16.
- Production of fruits is estimated to be 92 million tonnes which is about 2% higher than the previous year.
- Production of vegetables is estimated to be around 168.6 million tonnes which is marginally lower by 0.3% than the previous year.
- Production of spices is estimated to be around 7 million tonnes which is almost same as previous year.
- Production of onion is estimated to be around 197 lakh tonnes which is 6% lower than the previous year.
- Production of potato is estimated to be around 439 lakh tonnes which is 1% higher than the previous year.
- Production of tomato is estimated to be around 189 lakh tonnes which is about 1 % higher than the previous year.

550) What was the teledensity in India at the end of December 2016 data released by TRAI in February 2017?

- a) 69.9
- b) 79.9
- c) 89.9
- d) 99.9

The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,123.96 million at the end of November 2016 to 1,151.78 million at the end of December 2016, data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said in New Delhi on February 17, 2017. The overall teledensity (number of telephone connections for every hundred individuals) increased to 89.90 at the end of December 2016.

551) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in January 2017?

- a) 1.25%
- b) 2.25%
- c) 3.25%
- d) 5.25%

552) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for January 2017?

- a) 2.17%
- b) 3.17%
- c) 4.17%
- d) 5.17%

• Soaring petrol and diesel prices fuelled Wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation to a 30-month high of 5.25 per cent in January 2017. It was -1.07% in January 2016. In December and November, it stood at 3.39 per cent and 3.38 per cent, respectively. As per Commerce Ministry data on February 14, 2017, prices of petrol, diesel, minerals and manufactured items like sugar and fibre witnessed a spurt.

• Impacted by note ban, Retail inflation, measured in terms of Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to 3.17 per cent in January 2017. It was 3.41 per cent in December and 5.69 per cent in January 2016.

553) Which of the following hosted the Indian Seed Congress organised by the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) in February 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chandigarh
- d) Bhopal

National Seed Association of India, (NSAI), the apex organization representing the Indian Seed Industry, organised the Indian Seed Congress – 2017 in Kolkata from February 12 to 14, 2017. The theme of Seed Congress was “Seed of Joy”. The event was inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh on February 12.

554) What is the new amount of immediate assistance to rescued bonded labourers? This was announced by Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya in February 2017.

- a) Rs. 20,000
- b) Rs. 40,000
- c) Rs. 60,000
- d) Rs. 80,000

Government has increased the amount of immediate assistance to rescued bonded labourers to Rs 20,000 from the existing Rs 5,000 under the District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund, Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said on February 14, 2017. “The scheme provides for immediate assistance to rescued person out of the District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at the disposal of the District Magistrate. The amount of immediate assistance has been enhanced from Rs 5,000 to 20,000 with effect from January 17, 2017,” Dattatreya said. Besides, the financial assistance has been increased from Rs 20,000 to 1 lakh per adult male beneficiary, Rs 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries.

555) Which of the following has topped Fortune’s annual list of the “World’s Most Admired Companies” released in February 2016?

- a) Starbucks
- b) Apple
- c) Southwest Airlines
- d) General Electric

556) Alphabet is the parent company of which of the following?

- a) Amazon
- b) Twitter
- c) Google
- d) Facebook

Fortune has announced its annual ‘World’s Most Admired Companies’ list, and Apple has topped for the tenth year in a row. Google’s parent company Alphabet is sixth in the latest list released in February 2017 while Facebook and Microsoft are jointly in ninth position. **Top 10:** 1. Apple (Computers) 2. Amazon.com (Internet Services & Retailing) 3. Starbucks (Food Services) 4. Berkshire Hathaway (Insurance: Property and Casualty) 5. Disney (Entertainment) 6. Alphabet

(Internet Services & Retailing) 7. General Electric (Industrial Machinery) 8. Southwest Airlines (Airlines) 9. Facebook (Internet Services & Retailing) 9. Microsoft (Computer Software)

557) 26. What was India's position in the Index of Economic Freedom unveiled by the Heritage Foundation in February 2017?

- a) 103rd
- b) 113th
- c) 123rd
- d) 143rd

558) Which of the following was ranked first in the Index of Economic Freedom unveiled by the Heritage Foundation in February 2017?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Hong Kong
- c) Switzerland
- d) Singapore

559) India has been classified under which category in the Index of Economic Freedom of the Heritage Foundation unveiled in February 2017?

- a) free
- b) mostly free
- c) moderately free
- d) mostly unfree

India ranked a dismal 143rd on the Index of Economic Freedom by American think-tank Heritage Foundation in its annual report released in February 2017. **Top 10:** 1. Hong Kong 2. Singapore 3. New Zealand 4. Switzerland 5. Australia 6. Estonia 7. Canada 8. United Arab Emirates 9. Ireland 10. Chile. **Countries have been put in five categories:** Free, Mostly Free, Moderately Free, Mostly Unfree and Repressed. Putting India in the category of "mostly unfree" economies, the think-tank said progress on market-oriented reforms has been "uneven". It said the state "maintains an extensive presence" in many areas through public-sector enterprises. "A restrictive and burdensome regulatory environment discourages the entrepreneurship that could provide broader private-sector growth." Also, India's overall score of 52.6 points is 3.6 points less than that of last year, when India ranked 123rd.

560) Which of the following became India's tenth scheduled airline to start functioning with Delhi-Kolkata-Durgapur flight from February 15?

- a) Fly Air
- b) Zoom Air
- c) Planet Air
- d) Bharat Air

India's latest private airline, Zoom Air, will start daily scheduled operations on the Delhi-Kolkata-Durgapur-Delhi sector from February 15. The airline becomes India's 10th scheduled carrier for domestic skies presently, with others being Air India, Air India Express, Jet Airways, Jetlite, Indigo, Spicejet, GoAir, Vistara and Air Asia India. Koustav M Dhar, CEO and Director of Zoom Air, said that his airline shall fill the gap of sectors that are less catered to, by other scheduled airlines.

561) Which digital payments firm has decided to merge with e-commerce company Infibeam?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) CCAvenue

E-commerce provider Infibeam will soon offer digital payment gateway services as the company has entered into an agreement with 15-year-old digital payment player CCAvenue for a merger into the former. Vishal Mehta is the founder and CEO of Infibeam. CCAvenue has over 1 lakh merchants with annual transactions exceeding Rs. 15,000 crore. (February 15, 2017)

562) Which bank organised its second Digital Innovation Summit in February 2017 and selected five ideas from startups in the areas of artificial intelligence, marketing, quality assurance and payments?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) IndusInd Bank

HDFC Bank on February 16, 2017 announced winners of second edition of its digital innovation summit by announcing winners are from artificial intelligence, augmented reality, Internet of things, secure payment solutions, and rural fintech domains. Five fintech start-ups from Israel, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi were selected in this round. While two winners are from Bengaluru, other three are based in Delhi, Mumbai, and in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, respectively. These start-ups

get a chance to deploy their innovations in the bank, after further evaluation on technical, business, security, and compliance parameters.

563) Which of the following has foreign companies announced partnership with India's Dynamatic Technologies Ltd. for serving the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) market in India in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot
- d) Israel Aerospace Industries

564) Which of the following has foreign companies announced partnership with India's Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for transfer of technology of its STARStreak missiles in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot
- d) Dassault Aviation

565) Which of the following foreign companies announced partnership with India's Deepti Electronics & Electro Optics Pvt. Ltd. (DELOPT) to enter the drone (UAV) business in India in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot
- d) Dassault Aviation

566) Which of the following foreign companies announced partnership with India's Reliance Aerostructure Limited for Rafale fighter jets in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot
- d) Dassault Aviation

The 11th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 was organised at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru from February 14 to 18, 2017. Highlights are as follows:

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Dynamatic Technologies Ltd (DTL) announced their cooperation to jointly address the needs of the Indian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) market.
- Thales and defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) signed an agreement to assess opportunities for transfer of technology of the flagship STARStreak missile capability to India.
- Saab subsidiary Saab Grintek Defence (SGD) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's (HAL) Avionics Division have signed a contract to deliver transfer of technology (ToT) between South Africa and India. The contract will see the transfer of technology for in-country maintenance of Saab's Integrated Defensive Aids Suite (IDAS) system in India.
- Public sector defence electronics major, Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL) launched remote controlled weapon station (RCWS) for the Indian Army's Arjun tanks. The RCWS is an improvised version of the manually operated air defence gun. It enables the soldier to aim and fire at aerial targets from the safe interiors of the battle tank.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's full scale mock-up of Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) was unveiled.
- The \$4-billion JK Organisation's defence arm, Deepti Electronics & Electro Optics Pvt. Ltd. (DELOPT), inked a pact with a Canadian drone maker Micropilot, marking a deeper entry into the drone (UAV) business in India.
- Reliance Aerostructure Limited has incorporated a joint venture (51:49) with Dassault Aviation to capture a major share of the offset business arising from the €7.87 billion deal for Rafale fighter jets.

567) Indian Navy announced partnership with which corporate group for procurement of Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) in February 2017?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T

A contract between Nova Integrated Systems Ltd and Indian Navy for procurement of Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) was concluded on February 17, 2017. This is the first contract concluded under the Buy and Make (Indian) Category, in line with the Government's 'Make in India' initiative. Nova Integrated Systems Ltd is a fully-owned subsidiary of Tata Group's Tata Advanced System Ltd.

568) Which Indian corporate group has signed a major contract with the U.S. Navy in February 2017 to provide repair and alteration services for ships of the Seventh Fleet?

- a) Tata

- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T

Anil Ambani group's Reliance Defence and Engineering has inked a major contract with the U.S. Navy to provide repair and alteration services for ships of the Seventh Fleet. This would be the first instance of an Indian company, either public or private, providing logistical support to the U.S. military within Indian territory. On February 13, 2017, the Anil Ambani group firm announced that Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra)-led Reliance Defence and Engineering (RDEL) had signed a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the U.S. Navy to maintain the vessels of its Seventh Fleet involving 100 vessels operating in the Indian Ocean. Currently, these vessels visit Singapore or Japan for such works.

569) Which Indian corporate group has signed a contract with Raytheon of USA for co-production of components of Stinger air defense missile in February 2017?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T

US-based Raytheon Company on February 17, 2017 said it has signed an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) to engage in co-production of Stinger air defense missile components. Raytheon Company is a technology and innovation firm specialising in defense, civil government and cyber security solutions headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts.

570) Which Indian corporate group has signed a contract with MBDA of Europe for co-production of anti-tank guided missiles in February 2017?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T

Larsen & Toubro has tied up with MBDA to develop missile systems through a joint venture company termed – L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd. MBDA is a European developer and manufacturer of missiles. It is held jointly by Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo, and has over 90 armed forces in its customer base. L&T MBDA, in which L&T will have a 51 per cent stake, is expected to be incorporated in the first half of 2017. The company will look to develop and supply fifth generation anti-tank guided missiles for coastal batteries and high-speed target drones. (February 13, 2017)

571) . Which of the following launched Jeep Wrangler Unlimited in India in February 2017?

- a) Volkswagen
- b) Toyota
- c) Ford
- d) Fiat Chrysler

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) on February 13, 2017 launched the petrol version of its popular SUV Jeep Wrangler Unlimited priced at Rs 56 lakh.

572) . Which of the following was launched by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in February 2017?

- a) Fly India Business Magazine
- b) Travel India Business Magazine
- c) Airlines India Business Magazine
- d) Airports India Business Magazine

Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju lauded the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the launch of Airports India Business Magazine (AIBM) in New Delhi on February 16, 2017. The magazine will have diverse and updated content, including in-depth reports, analyses as well as interviews with key players in the various segments of the civil aviation business. The 84-page quarterly magazine will be published by Paris-based Media India Group in association with the AAI.

573) Which of the following launched life insurance plan for low income families in February 2017?

- a) SBI Life
- b) HDFC Life
- c) Kotak Life
- d) Bajaj Allianz Life

HDFC life on February 15, 2017 launched Pragati, a traditional life insurance plan that has been specifically designed to empower low income families. Pragati makes life insurance easily accessible to every person who wishes to financially secure his family, the private life insurer said in a release.

574) Sandeep Jajodia was appointed as the new President which of the following industry chambers in February 2017?

- a) CII
- b) ICC
- c) FICCI
- d) ASSOCHAM

Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd. CMD Sandeep Jajodia has been appointed the new President of industry chamber Assocham. Balkrishan Goenka, Chairman, Welspun Group and Kiran Kumar Grandhi, vice-chairman of GMR Infrastructure Ltd, have taken over as senior vice-president and vice-president respectively. (February 13, 2017)

575) Which of the following elected Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey as its new President in February 2017?

- a) Indian Banks Association (IBA)
- b) Micro Finance Institutions Network (MFIN)
- c) Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
- d) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on February 12, 2017 elected Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey as president and Naveen N D Gupta as vice president. They have been elected for the year 2017-18. A statutory body, the affairs of ICAI are managed by a council in accordance with the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988. The council has 32 elected members and eight are nominated by the central government.

576) Jiro Taniguchi died on February 12, 2017 at the age of 69. He was known for creating:

- a) Songs
- b) Comics
- c) Puzzles

d) Apparel Jiro Taniguchi, a legend in Japan's comic art of manga, died in Tokyo on February 12, 2017 at the age of 69, leaving behind an international following for his exquisite line drawing of scenes from everyday life. In 2011, the French government awarded Taniguchi the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters -- one of the country's most prestigious prizes.

577) Raymond Smullyan died on February 6, 2017 at the age of 97. He was known for creating:

- a) Songs
- b) Comics
- c) Puzzles
- d) Apparel

Raymond Smullyan, whose merry, agile mind led him to be a musician, a magician, a mathematician and, most cunningly, a puzzle-creating logician, died on February 6 in Hudson, New York. He was 97. Smullyan was a serious mathematician, with the publications and the doctorate to prove it. But his greatest legacy may be the clever logic puzzles he devised, presenting them in numerous books or just in casual conversation.

578) . Who among the following was sworn as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on February 16, 2017?

- a) P. Thangamani
- b) K. Pandiarajan
- c) K.C. Karuppannan
- d) E. K. Palaniswami

Ending the political impasse in Tamil Nadu, Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao on February 16, 2017 administered the oath of office to All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the 13th Chief Minister along with a Council of 30 Ministers. On February 18, Palaniswami proved his majority in the State Assembly, winning 122 votes in favour and 11 against.

579) The Mokedatu Dam is proposed to be built on which river?

- a) Krishna
- b) Cauvery
- c) Shrivasti
- d) Godavari

Karnataka has decided to implement the Rs. 5,912 crore Mokedatu multi-purpose (drinking and power) project that involves building a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district. The contentious project has been opposed by Tamil Nadu on the grounds that it violates the Cauvery tribunal order. However, Karnataka has said that it aims to utilise excess water after releasing 192 tmcft to Tamil Nadu. A State Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on February 15, 2017, gave approval, in principle, for the project which envisages

construction of the balancing reservoir for storing water. The project would ease drinking water problems of Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts

580) . The traditional buffalo race Kambala is popular in which of the following states?

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

The Karnataka Government on February 13, 2017 passed an amendment bill in the state assembly to legalise the traditional buffalo race Kambala. Earlier in November 2016, the Karnataka High Court banned the sport through an interim order. The petition seeking the ban was filed by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

581) Projects by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on which river are the subject of the A.K. Bajaj Committee?

- a) Krishna
- b) Cauvery
- c) Shrivasti
- d) Godavari

The Andhra Pradesh Government has appraised the A.K. Bajaj Committee about the “defiant” attitude of Telangana in following the orders issued by the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). The expert committee, constituted by the Union government to prepare a manual on Operating Rules and Procedures in respect of common projects located on river Krishna for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, heard Andhra Pradesh’s version on February 14. The committee met officials of Telangana on February 13, 2017.

582) Which state signed MoU with UN Women to promote “gender-responsive governance” in February 2017?

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

Andhra Pradesh on February 11, 2017 signed a memorandum of understanding with UN Women to foster “gender-responsive governance” and enhance the state government’s capacity to accelerate efforts towards advancing gender equality and empowerment of women.

583) . Which state hosted the International Spice Conference in February 2017?

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

The second edition of the International Spice Conference was held at Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram district on February 12-14, 2017 by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF). The central theme of the conference was “21st Century Spic Industry-Disrupt or be Disrupted”.

584) The government announced plans to set up Food Legumes Research Platform (FLRP) in which of the following states in February 2017?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The government on February 15, 2017 approved setting up of Food Legumes Research Platform in Madhya Pradesh with satellite hubs in West Bengal and Rajasthan for meeting the emerging food security challenges. The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of Food Legumes Research Platform (FLRP) by International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) at Amlaha, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh with satellite hubs in West Bengal (for pulses) and Rajasthan (for natural resource management).

585) After Puttamraju Kandriga in Andhra Pradesh, a village in which district in Maharashtra was selected by Sachin Tendulkar for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna?

- a) Nagpur
- b) Satara
- c) Osmanabad
- d) Jalna

After transforming the lives of villagers in Puttamraju Kandriga in Andhra Pradesh, Indian cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar is now set to adopt Donja in Osmanabad (Maharashtra) under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna. Tendulkar has sanctioned over Rs 4 crore from his MPLAD fund for development of Donja. The amount will be spent on

development of a new school building, a water Supply scheme that would provide potable water to each household, concrete roads and a sewage line attached to the same. (February 14, 2017)

586) Which of the following was announced as 21st district of West Bengal on February 14, 2017? It is the state's least populated district with population less than 1 lakh.

- a) Nadia
- b) Bankura
- c) Jalpaiguri
- d) Kalimpong

A new district of Kalimpong was carved out of Darjeeling on February 14, 2017 by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Kalimpong will be the 21st district. Spreading over 1,056 square kilometers, Kalimpong is West Bengal's least populated district with a population under 50,000.

587) Lui-Ngai-Ni is the sowing festival celebrated in which state in February 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Tripura

The Lui-Ngai-Ni Festival was celebrated in Manipur in February 2017 to mark the onset of the seed sowing season. This year the event was celebrated under the theme- "Sowing on the good soil, reaping in abundance". The main highlights of Lui-Ngai Ni celebrations are- lighting of the sacred fire, blessing of the seeds to be sown for the season, traditional log drum beating, folk dances and songs and fire making.

588) Ravichandran Ashwin on February 12, 2017 became the fastest bowler to take 250 Test wickets in his 45th match. Whose record did he break?

- a) Malcolm Marshall
- b) Shane Warne
- c) Wasim Akram
- d) Dennis Lillee

India's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on February 12, 2017 became the fastest bowler to take 250 Test wickets during the Test against Bangladesh in Hyderabad. He achieved the milestone in 45 Test matches, surpassing Australian legend Dennis Lillee, who had reached the 250-wicket mark in 48 matches.

589) India won the Twenty20 World Cup for Blind on February 12, 2017. The final was played at:

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bangalore

India thrashed Pakistan by nine wickets in the final of the cricket Twenty20 World Cup for Blind at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore and retained the title on February 12, 2017.

590) Eastern Sporting Union won the Indian Women's League (IWL) football tournament in February 2017. The event was played in:

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Pune

Eastern Sporting Union were on February 14, 2017 crowned Champions of the inaugural edition of the Indian Women's League at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi as the Bembem Devi coached side defeated Rising Student's Club 3-0 to bag the coveted trophy. Strikes from Kamala Devi (32', 66') and Prameshwori Devi (57') led Eastern Sporting Union to an easy win over their opponents, in a final, which was largely dominated---both in possession and chances created---by ESU. Dimitrov wins tennis title in Sofia

591) Railways won the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya All India National Style _____ Championship in Sonapat on February 11, 2017.

- a) Hockey
- b) Football
- c) Archery
- d) Kabaddi

Haryana defeated Railways in final to win Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya All India National Style Kabaddi Championship in Sonapat on February 11, 2017.

592) . Which of the following is the Global Investor Summit organised in Ranchi on February 16-17, 2017?

- a) Vibrant Jharkhand
- b) Sunrise Jharkhand
- c) Advantage Jharkhand
- d) Momentum Jharkhand

Two-day Global Investor Summit 'Momentum Jharkhand' was organised in capital Ranchi on February 16-17, 2017.

593) Arjun Madathil Ramachandran and Ramchandran Shlok won the Men's Doubles title at Iran Fajr _____ Tournament in Tehran in February 2017?

- a) Squash
- b) Tennis
- c) Table Tennis
- d) Badminton

Young emerging Indian doubles pair of Arjun Madathil Ramachandran and Ramchandran Shlok notched up the men's doubles title at the 26th Iran Fajr Badminton Tournament in Tehran on February 12, 2017

594) The World Integrated Medicine Forum on 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products: National and Global Strategies' was organised in New Delhi on February 23-24, 2017. PCIM&H is _____ Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy.

- a) Public
- b) Primary
- c) Principal
- d) Pharmacopoeia

The World Integrated Medicine Forum on Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products: National and Global Strategies was organised in New Delhi on February 23-24, 2017. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the two-day event on February 23. MoU was signed between Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States (HPCUS) and Indian bodies – Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) on cooperation in the field of Homoeopathic Medicine. The event was organised by AYUSH Ministry and CCRH and supported by PCIMH & Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

595) Rotavirus vaccine is administered to children for protection against which of the following?

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Pneumonia
- c) Diarrhoea
- d) Swine flu

J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, announced the expansion of the Rotavirus vaccine under the Universal Immunization Programme in five additional states in a function at Agartala on February 18, 2017. The vaccine will prevent Rotavirus diarrhoea in children which accounts for approximately 40% of hospitalizations from diarrhoea in India. In March 2016, the Rotavirus vaccine was first introduced in four states namely Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Till date, about 38 lakh children have been vaccinated with Rotavirus vaccine in these four states. Now, the vaccine will be expanded to five more states of Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

596) The Health and Family Welfare Ministry launched the SAATHIYA Resource Kit for adolescents on February 20, 2017. This was done under which government programme?

- a) Rashtriya Jan Swasthya Karyakram
- b) Rashtriya Yuva Swasthya Karyakram
- c) Rashtriya Balak Swasthya Karyakram
- d) Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram

597) Which of the following is the mobile app on adolescent health launched by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry on February 20, 2017?

- a) Saathiya Saral
- b) Saathiya Salah
- c) Saathiya Sawal
- d) Saathiya Subah

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry launched the SAATHIYA Resource Kit including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App for adolescents in New Delhi on February 20, 2017 as part of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) program. One of the key features of the programme is introduction of the Peer Educators (Saathiyas) who will impart age appropriate knowledge on key adolescent health issues to their peer groups. In order to equip the Saathiyas in doing so,

the Health Ministry has launched the Saathiya Resource Kit (including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App). To address and cater to the health and development needs of the country's adolescents, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) in January 2014. RKSK identifies six strategic priorities for adolescents i.e. nutrition, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), substance misuse, injuries and violence (including gender-based violence) and mental health.

598) Which of the following is the naval frigate that had keeled on to her side during undocking near Mumbai on December 5, 2016? It was made upright in February 2017.

- a) INS Betwa
- b) INS Gomti
- c) INS Ganga
- d) INS Yamuna

INS Betwa, a P-16A Class frigate has been made upright by Naval Dockyard, Mumbai and the salvage firm M/s Resolve Marine, specially contracted for the operation. It may be recalled that, the ship which was undergoing major repairs, had keeled on to her side during her undocking on December 5, 2016. This was stated in a press note issued by the Defence Ministry on February 23.

599) Which of the following is the 20th and the last in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd? It was commissioned on February 18, 2017?

- a) ICGS Ajeya
- b) ICGS Ayush
- c) ICGS Atulya
- d) ICGS Arnvesh

Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS AYUSH was commissioned at Kochi on February 18, 2017. ICGS AYUSH is the 20th and the last in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

600) Which of the following hosted the 13th National Agricultural Science Congress organised from February 21 to 24, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Gandhinagar
- d) Bengaluru

About 2,000 agricultural scientists from across the country and some from outside participated in the 13th National Agricultural Science Congress held at the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru (UAS-B) from February 21 to 24, 2017. The congress, being held for the first time in Karnataka, is being jointly organised by the UAS-B, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

601) Which of the following organised a three-day international conference on 'Bharat Bodh' (the idea of Bharat) in New Delhi in February 2017 in association with Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal?

- a) AICTE
- b) UGC
- c) CBSE
- d) IGNOU

A three-day international conference on 'Bharat Bodh' - the idea of Bharat – was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal in New Delhi on February 23-25, 2017. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the event.

602) Who among the following is the author of 'Inside Chanakya's Mind: Aanvikshiki and the Art of Thinking' released in February 2017?

- a) Ashwin Sanghi
- b) Radhakrishnan Pillai
- c) Kiran Nagarkar
- d) Chetan Bhagat

603) Who among the following is the author of 'Suspected Poems' (translated by Pavan K. Varma) released in February 2017?

- a) Gulzar
- b) Sameer
- c) Ghazal Srinivas
- d) Javed Akhtar

604) Former diplomat Sujata Mehta and Air Marshal Ajit Shankarrao Bhonsle were in news for their appointment as Members of which of the following in February 2017?

- a) NHRC
- b) CBFC
- c) CCI
- d) UPSC

Former diplomat Sujata Mehta and Air Marshal Ajit Shankarrao Bhonsle were appointed as members in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in New Delhi on February 21, 2017.

605) Supreme Court Judge Abhay Manohar Sapre was appointed as Chairman of the Tribunal on sharing of which inter-state river's water in February 2017?

- a) Krishna
- b) Cauvery
- c) Shrivasti
- d) Godavari

Supreme Court Judge Abhay Manohar Sapre has been appointed as the chairman of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT). The post remained vacant after Justice B S Chauhan, currently the Law Commission chairman, resigned in March 2016. Sapre had assumed charge of Supreme Court Judge in 2014 and will retire on August 27, 2019. (February 21, 2017)

606) The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as the brand ambassador of which of the following in February 2016?

- a) Jan Dhan Yojana
- b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- c) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan
- d) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the Modi government's cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission. The 41-year-old actress will feature in TV and radio campaigns aimed at discouraging people from littering on roads. Shetty is the latest entrant in the list of the mission's ambassadors like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Shankar Mahadevan and Sachin Tendulkar. (February 23, 2017)

607) Altamas Kabir passed away in Kolkata on February 19, 2017 at the age of 68. He was well-known for his expertise in which field?

- a) Law
- b) Banking
- c) Medicine
- d) Agriculture

Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir passed away in Kolkata on February 19, 2017 at the age of 68. Justice Kabir held office from September 2012 till his retirement on July 2013. He was the 39th Chief Justice of India.

608) Ved Prakash Sharma died in Meerut on February 17, 2017 at the age of 62. He was a well-known:

- a) Painter
- b) Novelist
- c) Physicist
- d) Mathematician

Celebrated Hindi novelist Ved Prakash Sharma, who has 176 novels to his credit, died in Meerut on February 17, 2017 at the age of 62. Sharma had also written scripts for about half-a-dozen Hindi movies. His best-known novels included "Qaidi No 100" and "Vardi Wala Gunda".

609) India signed MoU for sustainable development of which city in Bangladesh on February 24, 2017?

- a) Chittagong
- b) Comilla
- c) Rajshahi
- d) Sylhet

India on February 24, 2017 agreed to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh for the sustainable development of Sylhet, a north-eastern Bangladeshi city. Under the MoU, three development projects would be taken up in Sylhet.

610) Which of the following is developing a medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) system for the Indian Army? This was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in February 2017?

- a) Boeing
- b) BAE Systems
- c) Elbit Systems

d) Israel Aerospace Industries

Ahead of the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Israel later in 2017, India has approved a deal to develop jointly a medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) system for the Army in a Rs. 17,000-crore deal. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which met on February 22, 2017, gave the go-ahead for the deal to be executed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI).

611) What is the currency of Rwanda, a country visited by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in February 2017?

- a) Rwandan shilling
- b) Rwandan dollar
- c) Rwandan pound
- d) Rwandan franc

612) What is the currency of Uganda, a country visited by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in February 2017?

- a) Ugandan shilling
- b) Ugandan dollar
- c) Ugandan pound
- d) Ugandan rand

613) Who among the following is the President of Uganda, a country visited by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in February 2017?

- a) Samson Kisekka
- b) George Adyebo
- c) Yoweri Museveni
- d) Apolo Nsibambi

Vice President M. Hamid Ansari returned to New Delhi on February 24, 2017 after concluding his five-day visit of two countries Rwanda and Uganda. He visited Rwanda from February 19-21 and Uganda from February 21-23. Addressing the India-Rwanda Business Forum organized jointly by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Rwanda Development Board in Kigali, Ansari said India-Rwanda Innovation Growth Program is being launched to expand ties in Science, Technology and Innovation. During his visit to Uganda, Ansari held talks with President Yoweri Museveni at the State House in capital Kampala and reviewed the "entire gamut" of bilateral cooperation. Rwandan franc is the currency of Rwanda while Ugandan Shilling is the currency of Uganda.

614) The Indian government approved investment by CPSE SJVN Ltd. in a hydroelectric project in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal in February 2017. The project is located on which river?

- a) Arun
- b) Rohni
- c) Karnali
- d) Indravati

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 22, 2017 approved the investment proposal for generation component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project in Nepal by SJVN Limited, a Central Public Sector Enterprise of Government of India. The project is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.

615) Which among the following Indian Ministers was the guest of honour and keynote speaker at the 'Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2017' organised in Kathmandu on February 19-20, 2017?

- a) Smriti Irani
- b) Arun Jaitley
- c) Nitin Gadkari
- d) Suresh Prabhu

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 'Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2017', organised by the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) in association with the Nepal government and Youth Community for Nepalese Contractors (YCNC) in Kathmandu on February 19-20, 2017. The minister was the guest of honour and keynote speaker at the summit.

616) India started Golden Jubilee Scholarships for meritorious students of which neighbouring country in 2002 to mark completion of 50 years of economic cooperation?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Pakistan

Embassy of India at Kathmandu awarded Golden Jubilee Scholarships to meritorious students of Nepal on February 22, 2017. The scheme was introduced in year 2002 to mark completion of 50 years of economic cooperation between India and Nepal.

617) Which of the following is the nationwide military operation to eliminate terrorists launched by Pakistan army on February 22, 2017?

- a) Rah-i-Rast
- b) Rah-e-Nijat
- c) Zarb-i-Azb
- d) Radd-ul-Fasaad

Pakistan army on February 22, 2017 launched nationwide military operation 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' to eliminate terrorists. 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' translates roughly to 'elimination of discord'.

618) Lugansk People's Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic are separatist territories of which of the following?

- a) Belarus
- b) Ukraine
- c) Georgia
- d) Moldova

Russia on February 18, 2017 announced a decree recognising passports issued by rebel authorities in separatist regions of Ukraine, triggering a protest from Kiev which called it a provocation. The decree, signed by President Vladimir Putin, was described by Moscow as temporary until a political solution is found to bring peace to the region. It listed the territories concerned as the self-declared Lugansk People's Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic.

619) International Mother Language Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) February 21
- b) February 22
- c) February 23
- d) February 24

620) . What was the theme of the International Mother Language Day observed in February 2017?

- a) Books for Mother Tongue Education
- b) Mother Tongue Instruction and Inclusive Education
- c) Local languages for Global Citizenship: Spotlight on Science
- d) Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education

621) . An incident in which of the following in 1952 started the observation of annual International Mother Language Day?

- a) Delhi
- b) Kabul
- c) Kathmandu
- d) Dhaka

UNESCO celebrated the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) on February 21, 2017 under the theme "Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education". The date corresponds to the day in 1952 when students from the University of Dhaka, Jagannath College and Dhaka Medical College, demonstrating for the recognition of Bengali as one of the two national languages of East Pakistan, were brutally shot dead by police (then under Pakistan government) near the Dhaka High Court in the capital of present-day Bangladesh.

622) Which of the following hosted the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) from February 19 to 23, 2017?

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Abu Dhabi

The five-day International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) and NAVDEX (naval defence and maritime security exhibition) was organised in Abu Dhabi from February 19 to 23, 2017. Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre attended the opening ceremony. OPV (Off Shore Patrol Vehicle) INS Sunayna 2 is representing Indian Navy at the exhibition.

623) . Which of the following was the world's largest importer of arms in 2012–16 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in February 2017?

- a) USA
- b) India
- c) China

d) France

624) . Which of the following was the world's largest exporter of arms in 2012–16 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in February 2017?

- a) USA
- b) India
- c) China
- d) France

India was the world's largest importer of major arms in the last five years, Stockholm-based think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said on February 20, 2017. India accounted for 13 per cent of the total global arms imports in 2012-16 – is highest among all the countries. The five biggest exporters in 2012–16 were the United States (33%), Russia (23%), China (6.2%), France (6.0%) and Germany (5.6%), by rank. The five biggest importers were India (13%), Saudi Arabia (8.2%), the United Arab Emirates (4.6%), China (4.5%) and Algeria (3.7%).

625) . The World Day of Social Justice was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) February 20
- b) February 21
- c) February 22
- d) February 23

World Day of Social Justice was observed on February 20, 2017 with "Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work" as theme for 2017. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice in 2007.

626) Who among the following was appointed as the new National Security Adviser by US President Donald Trump in February 2017?

- a) Gary Locke
- b) William Daley
- c) Rhiannon Evans
- d) Herbert McMaster

President Donald Trump on February 21, 2017 appointed Herbert Raymond McMaster, a US Army lieutenant general, to be his new National Security Adviser.

627) . Raj Chengappa was re-elected President of Editors Guild of India in February 2017. He is associated with which publication?

- a) Frontline
- b) Outlook
- c) The Week
- d) India Today

Veteran journalist and Group Editorial Director of India Today Raj Chengappa has been re-elected as the President of the Editors' Guild of India at the Annual General meeting of the Guild on February 18, 2017.

628) Who among the following was honoured with the 'Legendary Award' by the Brand Laureate in February 2017?

- a) Gulzar
- b) AR Rahman
- c) Alka Yagnik
- d) Lata Mangeshkar

Melody Queen Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with the 'Legendary Award' by the Brand Laureate. The Brand Laureate Awards recognises world-class achievement in branding among individuals and companies. (February 2017)

629) . UNSECO appointed Naseer Shamma of Iraq as an Artist for Peace in February 2017. He is a well-known:

- a) Sculptor
- b) Painter

- c) Musician
- d) Poet

Iraqi oud player Naseer Shamma was on February 23, 2017 honoured as the Artist for Peace to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) due to "his commitment to peace, especially by targeting youth during his musical performances". "Shamma is named in gratitude to his commitment to the musical education of young people in Iraq and elsewhere and his tireless efforts to carry a message of peace through his concerts," the Paris-based organisation said.

630) . Rodrigo Rato was handed a jail sentence of four years and six months on February 23, 2017 for embezzlement of bank funds in Spain. He is the former head of:

- a) FAO
- b) IMF
- c) WTO
- d) ECB

Former IMF Managing Director Rodrigo Rato was handed a jail sentence of four years and six months on February 23, 2017 for misusing funds when he was the head of two Spanish banks. Spain's National Court, which deals with corruption and financial crime cases, said he had been found guilty of "embezzlement" when he headed up Caja Madrid and Bankia. Rato, who served as MD of IMF from 2004 to 2007, was also Spain's Minister of the Economy from 1996 to 2004.

631) . Russian Vitaly Churkin died at the age of 64 February 20, 2017. He was a well-known:

- a) Astronomer
- b) Diplomat
- c) Olympian
- d) Musician

Russia's Ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin died at the age of 64 on February 20, 2017.

632) Kaci Kullmann Five died aged 65 on February 19, 2017. She was head of the committee that selected winner of Nobel Prize in:

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry

Kaci Kullmann Five, the chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee which selects the Peace Prize laureates, has died aged 65 on February 19, 2017. Kullmann became a member of the Norwegian Nobel committee in 2003, and was elected chair in 2015.

633) Which of the following hosts the Svalbard Global Seed Vault aimed at preserving the world's most important ancient crops for future generations?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

Nearly 10 years after a "doomsday" seed vault opened on an Arctic island, some 50,000 new samples from seed collections around the world, including India, have been deposited in the world's largest repository built to safeguard against wars or natural disasters wiping out global food crops. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a gene bank built underground on the isolated island in a permafrost zone some 1,000 kilometres from the North Pole, was opened in 2008 as a master backup to the world's other seed banks, in case their deposits are lost. The latest specimens sent to the bank, located on the Svalbard archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole, included more than 15,000 reconstituted samples from an international research centre that focuses on improving agriculture in dry zones.

634) Discovery of seven new miniature frog species was reported from which of the following in February 2017 by Delhi University-based researchers?

- a) Western Ghats
- b) Andaman & Nicobar
- c) Rann of Kutch

d) Sundarbans National Park

Seven new miniature frog species in the world, which can comfortably sit on a coin or a thumbnail, have been discovered by Indian scientists in the Western Ghats. The study conducted by two Delhi University-based researchers with five years of extensive explorations in the Western Ghats said that these frogs were overlooked earlier because of their insect-like calls and secretive habitats. The study, titled "Seven new species of Night Frogs from the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot of India, with remarkably high diversity of diminutive forms", was published on February 21, 2017 in PeerJ, a peer-reviewed open access journal.

635) Which of the following was declared Best Film at the 67th Berlin Film Festival in February 2017?

- a) Bright Nights
- b) On Body and Soul
- c) A Fantastic Woman
- d) The Other Side of Hope

636) Which trophy is given to winner of Best Film at the Berlin Film Festival?

- a) Golden Dove
- b) Golden Bear
- c) Golden Eagle
- d) Golden Lion

Hungarian drama On Body and Soul has picked up the Golden Bear for Best Film at the 67th Berlin Film Festival on February 18, 2017. Other winners: The Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize went to Alain Gomis' African drama Félicité. Polish director Agnieszka Holland picked up the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize for crime thriller Pokot (Spoor). Aki Kaurismaki picked up the Silver Bear for Best Director for The Other Side of Hope. South Korean Actress Kim Min-hee won the Silver Bear for Best Actress for her role in 'On The Beach At Night Alone'. Austrian actor Georg Friedrich was honored with the Silver Bear for Best Actor for his role in 'Bright Nights'. Sebastian Lelio's 'A Fantastic Woman' was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay.

637) Which award was conferred on Harihar Vaishnav, Nirmal Minz, Jamsal and Thupstan Paldan by Sahitya Akademi in February 2017?

- a) Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman
- b) Katha Puraskar
- c) Kalidas Samman
- d) Bhasha Samman

Four scholars were on February 21, 2017 awarded the Sahitya Akademi's prestigious Bhasha Samman for their contribution towards promoting regional languages. While Harihar Vaishnav and Nirmal Minz were awarded for their work towards the enrichment of 'Halbi' and 'Kurukh' languages, Lozang Jamsal and Thupstan Paldan were chosen for their efforts in promoting the Ladakhi language and literature. These languages are not among the ones that the Akademi recognises that numbers around 24. The 'Bhasha Samman' carries a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000, an inscribed copper plaque and a citation. In case of joint winners, the prize money is equally shared among the winners.

638) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. What is the minimum permissible investment?

- a) 1 gram
- b) 2 grams
- c) 3 grams
- d) 4 grams

639) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. What is the maximum permissible investment (grams per person per fiscal year)?

- a) 50 grams
- b) 100 grams
- c) 500 grams
- d) 750 grams

640) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. What is the interest rate per annum payable semi-annually on the initial value of investment?

- a) 1.5%
- b) 1.75%
- c) 2.5%
- d) 2.75%

641) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years. Exit option will be available after:

- a) 3rd year
- b) 4th year
- c) 5th year
- d) 6th year

642) Consider the following statements on the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017.

- I. Non-Resident Indians are not eligible to purchase
- II. Will be eligible for Statutory Liquidity Ratio purposes
- III. Redemptions of SGB will be subject to capital gains tax for all investors

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only
- c) III and I only
- d) II only

643) Consider the following statements on the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017.

- I. Redemption will be in Indian Rupees
- II. Can be used as collateral for loans
- III. Issue price based on data previous week's (Monday-Friday) simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only
- c) III and I only
- d) I, II and III

Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2016-17–Series IV. Applications for the bond will be accepted from February 27, 2017 to March 3, 2017. The Bonds will be issued on March 17, 2017.

The features of the Bond are as follows:

- Product name: Sovereign Gold Bond 2016-17 – Series IV
- Issuance: To be issued by Reserve Bank India on behalf of the Government of India.
- Eligibility: The Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident Indian entities including individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) cannot invest in these bonds.
- Denomination: The Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
- Tenor: The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option from 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- Minimum size: Minimum permissible investment will be 1 grams of gold.
- Maximum limit: The maximum amount subscribed by an entity will not be more than 500 grams per person per fiscal year (April-March). A self-declaration to this effect will be obtained.
- Joint holder: In case of joint holding, the investment limit of 500 grams will be applied to the first applicant only.

- Issue price: Price of Bond will be fixed in Indian Rupees on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for the week (Monday to Friday) preceding the subscription period. The issue price of the Gold Bonds will be Rs. 50 per gram less than the nominal value.
- Payment option: Payment for the Bonds will be through cash payment (upto a maximum of Rs. 20,000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.
- Issuance form: The Gold Bonds will be issued as Government of India Stocks under GS Act, 2006. The investors will be issued a Holding Certificate for the same. The Bonds are eligible for conversion into demat form.
- Redemption price: The redemption price will be in Indian Rupees based on previous week's (Monday-Friday) simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by IBJA.
- Sales channel: Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices as may be notified and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange, either directly or through agents.
- Interest rate: The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
- Collateral: Bonds can be used as collateral for loans. The loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by the Reserve Bank from time to time.
- KYC Documentation: Know-your-customer (KYC) norms will be the same as that for purchase of physical gold. KYC documents such as Voter ID, Aadhaar card/PAN or TAN /Passport will be required.
- Tax treatment: The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961). The capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted. The indexation benefits will be provided to long term capital gains arising to any person on transfer of bond
- Tradability: Bonds will be tradable on stock exchanges within a fortnight of the issuance on a date as notified by the RBI.
- SLR eligibility: The Bonds will be eligible for Statutory Liquidity Ratio purposes.
- Commission: Commission for distribution of the bond shall be paid at the rate of 1% of the total subscription received by the receiving offices and receiving offices shall share at least 50% of the commission so received with the agents or sub agents for the business procured through them.

644) Which of the following is jointly developing and implementing government-sponsored Entrepreneurship and Skill Development initiatives in India? This is being done under the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme.

- a) Narayen Operating Foundation
- b) Wadhvani Operating Foundation
- c) Pichai Operating Foundation
- d) Desai Operating Foundation

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (SDE) and Wadhvani Operating Foundation (WOF) signed in New Delhi on February 23, 2017 agreements for implementing an earlier understanding of jointly developing and implementing Entrepreneurship and Skill Development initiatives in the country. The Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme will be the first joint effort in this regard. Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme launched by the Ministry during November, 2016 aims at providing on line Entrepreneurship Education to about 15 lakh students across the country.

645) What was observed on February 24, 2017?

- a) Excise Day
- b) Service Tax Day
- c) Wealth Tax Day
- d) Income Tax Day

The annual "Annual Central Excise Day 2017" was observed on February 23, 2017. 32 Officers of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and its formations from all over India received "Commendation Certificate". The Central Excise Day is being celebrated every year to commemorate the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.

646) Coaches for which of the following trains were unveiled by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on February 22, 2017?

- a) Antyodaya Express
- b) Humsafar Express
- c) UDAY Express

d) Tejas Express

647) . Which of the following trains announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17 is the first to be launched?

- a) Antyodaya Express
- b) Humsafar Express
- c) UDAY Express
- d) Tejas Express

The fully unreserved, long-distance, superfast Antyodaya Express trains got a little closer to reality with union minister of railways Suresh Prabhu dedicating a rake of 22 coaches in New Delhi on February 22, 2017. The coaches unveiled in Delhi were manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory in Perambur (Tamil Nadu). Ready to be pressed into service on busy routes, the first Antyodaya Express will be launched between Mumbai and Tatanagar. "We had announced in the Rail Budget that we would launch four new passenger services. First Humsafar Express was launched and now Antyodaya," Prabhu said. Railways will also soon launch Tejas Express and UDAY (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air-conditioned Yatri) Express as promised in the Railway Budget 2016-17.

648) Which of the following hosted the India Telecom-2017 organised by the TEPC (Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council) on February 20-21, 2017?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bangalore

India Telecom-2017 was organised in New Delhi on February 20-21, 2017. TEPC (Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council) organised the two-day event with participation from telecom ministers, senior government officials and industry leaders from many countries. In the event organized to commemorate the 25th year of the ASEAN-India relations, Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha urged the participating countries to ensure that Indian telecom products and services should become their number one choice as they accelerate the digital connectivity initiatives.

649) Cash purchases of jewellery will attract ____ tax collected at source (TCS) from April 1 if the amount exceeds 2 lakh.

- a) 0.25%
- b) 0.5%
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%

Cash purchases of jewellery will attract one per cent tax collected at source (TCS) from April 1 if the amount exceeds Rs 2 lakh, as against the current threshold of Rs 5 lakh. Once the Finance Bill 2017 is passed, jewellery will be treated on par with general goods, which attract one per cent TCS on cash purchase of above Rs 2 lakh. The Bill seeks to do away with the threshold of Rs 5 lakh on jewellery purchases for applicability of TCS because the Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to ban cash dealings of over Rs 3 lakh and make violations punishable with a penalty of an equivalent amount to be paid by the person receiving the cash. However, as there is no special provision for TCS on its purchase, jewellery is now being clubbed in general goods on which one per cent TCS is triggered if a single transaction exceeds Rs 2 lakh in cash. (February 20, 2017)

650) What is IMF's new growth estimate for the Indian economy in 2016-17 in its annual country report launched on February 22, 2017?

- a) 5.7 per cent
- b) 6 per cent
- c) 6.3 per cent
- d) 6.6 per cent

"Growth is projected to slow to 6.6 per cent in FY2016-17, then rebound to 7.2 per cent in FY2017-18, due to temporary disruptions, primarily to private consumption, caused by cash shortages," IMF said in its annual country report on India on February 22, 2017. India's economy grew at 7.6 per cent in 2015-16.

651) What was the foreign direct investment (FDI) in India in 2016 as per data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) recently?

- a) \$31 billion

- b) \$36 billion
- c) \$41 billion
- d) \$46 billion

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India grew 18 per cent during 2016 to touch \$46 billion, data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) showed. The country attracted FDI of \$39.32 billion in 2015. The main sectors which attracted the highest foreign inflows include services, telecom, trading, computer hardware and software and automobile. Bulk of the FDI came in from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan. (February 24, 2017)

652) The Government launched an Offer for Sale (OFS) to disinvest 5% of paid-up equity capital in which of the following in February 2017?

- a) BEL
- b) REC
- c) NHPC
- d) BHEL

The Offer for Sale (OFS) for BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) on February 22-23 February 2017 got an enthusiastic participation both from retail and the non-retail investors including domestic institutional investors and foreign institutional investors. The Government proposed to disinvest 5% of paid-up equity capital-out of its shareholding of 74.41% in BEL through OFS mechanism. BEL is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence and is engaged in manufacturing of equipments in the field such as communication, radars, naval systems etc. The floor price was fixed at Rs.1498 per share for the OFS Issue.

653) Which of the following was the largest holder of US government securities at the end of 2016?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Ireland
- d) Switzerland

India became the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of 2016, with exposure worth USD 118.2 billion. With holdings worth USD 1.09 trillion, Japan remained the largest holder of these securities followed by neighbouring China with exposure to the tune of USD 1.06 trillion. Latest data available with the US Treasury Department showed that India's holding stood at USD 118.2 billion in December 2016, slightly lower than USD 118.7 billion seen in November.

654) Which of the following launched "Project Sangam" in February 2017 enabled trained manpower to get jobs via professional networking website LinkedIn?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft

Microsoft's Indian-born CEO Satya Nadella launched "Project Sangam" to help the government not only train but also help people get jobs via professional networking website LinkedIn. It was launched in the presence of AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis at the "Future Decoded" event in Mumbai on February 22-23, 2017. Microsoft had acquired LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion in an all-cash deal in 2016. Nadella also announced the launch of "Skype Lite", an exclusive "Made for India" app for messaging, audio and video calling even at lower bandwidths.

655) Which of the following announced grants of Rs. 5 crore each for NGOs Foundation of Ecological Security (Gujarat), Health - Child in Need Institute (West Bengal) and MeJol (Maharashtra) in February 2017?

- a) TCS
- b) Wipro
- c) HCL Technologies
- d) Infosys

Three winners of HCL Grant 2017 across categories of Environment, Health and Education were on February 21, 2017 announced at a ceremony held at HCL Technologies Hub, Noida. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley felicitated the winners. Each winning NGO receives a Grant of up to INR 5 crores. The winning NGOs across three categories are: Environment - Foundation of Ecological Security (Gujarat), Health - Child in Need Institute (CINI) (West Bengal), Education - MeJol (Maharashtra).

656) 'BharatQR' is the Quick Response (QR) code payments solution launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), MasterCard and _____ on February 20, 2017.

- a) Paytm
- b) Visa
- c) MoneyGram
- d) CCAvenue

657) 'BharatQR' is the Quick Response (QR) code payments solution launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its partners on February 20, 2017. Which of the following statements is not correct in case of payment made using the code?

- a) Amount is debited from customer's account instantaneously
- b) Amount is credited into merchant's account instantaneously
- c) Amount is credited into merchant's account on the next day
- d) All the above

658) 'BharatQR' is the Quick Response (QR) code payments solution launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its partners on February 20, 2017. Consider the following.

- I. Smartphone
- II. Internet Connection
- III. Mobile Banking App

Which of the above are essential for making payment using BharatQR?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), MasterCard and Visa on February 20, 2017 joined hands to launch 'BharatQR', the world's first smartphone-based standardised, interoperable Quick Response (QR) code payments solution. A QR or quick response code is a type of two-dimensional bar code that is used to provide easy access to information through a smartphone. With the 'BharatQR' code (unique to each merchant), the merchant will receive the money instantaneously. In the case of a card-based transaction at a point-of-sale (POS) terminal, the merchant receives money only the next day. According to a joint NPCI, MasterCard and Visa statement, BharatQR has many benefits — consumers need not scan different QR codes at the same merchant provided by different payment networks; merchants will only need to display one QR code at the storefront or through the acquiring bank's mobile application. To use the BharatQR code you need to have a smart phone with an Internet connection and a bank application that is compatible with the new code.

659) Who among the following was named as the 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016' in February 2017?

- a) Basudeo Narain Singh
- b) Vivek Chaand Sehgal
- c) Vishwavir Ahuja
- d) Chandubhai Viran

660) Who among the following was felicitated with the Entrepreneur Of The Year Lifetime Achievement Award by EY in New Delhi on February 24, 2017?

- a) Adi Godrej
- b) Ratan Tata
- c) Azim Premji
- d) Nandan Nilekani

Vivek Chaand Sehgal, chairman of Motherson Sumi Systems Limited (MSSL), the flagship company of Samvardhana Motherson Group (SMG), received the 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016' award in New Delhi on February 24, 2017. Sehgal will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award ceremony at Monte Carlo in June. The EOY is a global business award programme, now in its 18th year in India. Co-Founder of Infosys Nandan Nilekani got the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the Unique Identification Authority of India – the Aadhaar initiative.

Category winners are: Business Transformation: Dr Abhay Firodia (Chairman, Force Motors), **Consumer Products & Retail:** Chandubhai Virani (Whole time Director, Balaji Wafers), **Entrepreneurial CEO:** Uday Shankar (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Star India), **Financial Services:** Vishwavir Ahuja (MD and CEO, RBL Bank), **Life Sciences &**

Healthcare: Samprada Singh and Basudeo Narain Singh (Chairman Emeritus and Executive Chairman, Alkem Laboratories), **Manufacturing:** Hari Mohan Bangur (Managing Director, Shree Cement), **Real Estate & Infrastructure:** Vikas Oberoi (CMD Oberoi Realty), **Services:** R Dinesh (Managing Director, TVS Logistics Services), **Start-up:** Darshan Patel (CMD, Vini Cosmetics)

661) Which corporate group launched 'MyAgriGuru', an advisory platform for farmers, as a mobile app in February 2017?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) ITC
- d) Mahindra & Mahindra

Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd (MASL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra on February 24, 2017 announced the launch of 'MyAgriGuru', an advisory platform for farmers that has been introduced as a mobile app. Mahindra is working with Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to source weather forecast for a five-day period, in order to ensure that that crucial farming activities are aligned with the climatic conditions.

662) Which of the following announced a deal to acquire internet company Yahoo! for a reduced price in February 2017?

- a) Google
- b) Nextel
- c) Verizon
- d) AT&T

663) Yahoo! Was started in 1994 by Jerry Yang and _____.

- a) Jeff Bezos
- b) David Filo
- c) Tim Cook
- d) Jan Koum

Yahoo slashed the price of the sale of its core Internet business to Verizon by USD 350 million following a pair of major data breaches at Yahoo, the two companies announced on February 21, 2017. Under the revised terms of the deal, Verizon will now pay USD 4.48 billion for Yahoo. Yahoo announced in September that hackers in 2014 stole personal data from more than 500 million of its user accounts. Founded in 1994 by Stanford graduate students, Jerry Yang and David Filo, Yahoo! was one of the last independently operated pioneers of the web.

664) Kenneth J. Arrow died at 95 on February 21, 2017 at Palo Alto (USA). He was 95. He won Nobel Prize in 1976 in which of the following?

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry

Kenneth J. Arrow, the youngest-ever winner of a Nobel prize for economics, whose theories on risk, innovation and the basic mathematics of markets have influenced thinking on everything from voting to health insurance to high finance, died on February 21, 2017 at Palo Alto (USA). He was 95. Arrow and British economist Sir John R. Hicks shared the 1972 Nobel memorial prize in economic science for their pioneering mathematical work on general equilibrium theory, which says that there is an overall balance between supply and demand in an economy as a whole.

665) Carlos Ghosn has decided to step down as CEO of which of the following automobile companies?

- a) Ford
- b) Volkswagen
- c) Peugeot
- d) Nissan

Nissan Motor Co said on February 23, 2017 that Carlos Ghosn, 62, will step aside as CEO after leading the company for 16 years, allowing him to concentrate on deploying his cost-cutting expertise across its alliance with Renault SA and newly added Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Hiroto Saikawa, a company veteran of 40 years, will be the new CEO.

666) Which telecom service provider said in February that it will acquire Telenor India?

- a) Reliance Communications
- b) BSNL
- c) Idea Cellular
- d) Bharti Airtel

India's largest telecom service provider Bharti Airtel on February 23, 2017 announced that it has inked a definitive agreement to acquire Telenor India which has a customer base of 44 million.

667) Which of the following became the first company to launch smartphone with the panic button service “112” in India in February 2017?

- a) Micromax
- b) Xiaomi
- c) Apple
- d) LG

In line with the government’s initiative to make the “Panic Button” service on mobile phones mandatory from March 2017, South Korean electronics conglomerate LG on February 22, 2017 launched “K10 2017” smartphone that comes with the panic button service “112”. With this, LG Electronics has become the first company to adhere to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendation to have a single number ‘112’ for all emergency calls across the country.

668) Which of the following has been introduced by Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) in February 2017 to control the unauthorised usage of removable USB storage media devices like pen drives and external hard drives?

- a) USB Pratibandh
- b) USB Pratirodh
- c) USB Pramaan
- d) USB Prabal

At a time when cyber attacks are increasing by day, the government through its Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) on February 21, 2017 launched “Cyber Swachhta Kendra” -- a new desktop and mobile security solution for a secure cyber space in the country. The ‘Cyber Swachhta Kendra’ (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) will notify, enable cleaning and secure systems of end-users to prevent further infections. Union IT and Electronics Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also announced the launch of several other apps. USB Pratirodh will control the unauthorised usage of removable USB storage media devices like pen drives, external hard drives. Samvid app will protect desktops from suspicious applications. M-Kavach tool will provide a comprehensive mobile device security solution for Android devices addressing threats related to mobile phones.

669) Which of the following became the first bank in India to use its corporate name as its website’s top-level identifier, instead of “.com” or “.co.in” domains?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) State Bank of India

State Bank of India (SBI) has rebranded its corporate website as “bank.sbi” from the earlier sbi.co.in. Bank.sbi is the highest domain protocol, known as generic top level domain (gTLD). The adoption of gTLD enables an organisation to use its corporate name – .sbi – as their website’s top-level identifier, instead of using a more traditional “.com” or “.co.in” domains, SBI said in a statement on February 19, 2017. The existing web address will remain active till customers become familiar with operating through the new address. With this, SBI has become the first banking organisation in India to use a gTLD for its internet presence.

670) Which state conferred prestigious Bhim Awards upon 42 outstanding sportspersons on February 19, 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Haryana

Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki accompanied by Chief Minister Manohar Lal and Sports Minister Anil Vij and other senior ministers on February 19, 2017 conferred prestigious Bhim Awards upon 42 outstanding sportspersons of the state at a function organised at Haryana Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh. Each recipient of the Bhim Award was honoured with Rs five lakh in cash, a memento, citation, blazer, tie and scarf.

671) Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on February 18, 2017 declared 2017 as ‘Year of ____’.

- a) Apple
- b) Saffron
- c) Pineapple
- d) Apricot

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on February 18, 2017 declared 2017 as 'Year of Apple' in a major bid to promote the famed Kashmiri apples in domestic and foreign markets.

672) Which state's offer of Deputy Collectors' job has been accepted by Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu in February 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu, who is the first Indian woman athlete to win a silver medal at the Olympics, has accepted the government job that was offered by the Andhra Pradesh Government to her following her Rio de Janeiro triumph. Sindhu's mother Vijaya confirmed the news to the media about her daughter's willingness to take the offer of Deputy Collector. The 21-year-old shuttler has been working with Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) since 2013.

673) V K Srinivasan passed away in Hyderabad on February 21, 2017 at the age of 76. He was well-known as:

- a) Doctor
- b) Lawyer
- c) Painter
- d) Economist

Noted economist and retired Special Chief Secretary of the undivided State of Andhra Pradesh, V K Srinivasan, passed away in Hyderabad on February 21, 2017. Srinivasan, who was also the Director of city-based Indian Institute of Economics, was 76. A 1963-batch IAS officer, he had served as Collector of Karimnagar and Anantapur districts. He also served in Ministry of Finance.

674) Which of the following celebrated its statehood day on February 20, 2017?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura
- d) Mizoram

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20, 2017 conveyed his greetings to the people of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on their Statehood Day.

675) Who among the following was sworn in as the eleventh Nagaland Chief Minister in Kohima on February 22, 2017?

- a) Kiyaniilie Peseyie
- b) Yanthungo Patton
- c) Shurhozelie Liezietsu
- d) Tokheho Yephthomi

Nagaland Peoples' Front President Shurhozelie Liezietsu was sworn in as the eleventh Nagaland Chief Minister in Kohima on February 22, 2017. T. R. Zeliang had resigned as Chief Minister on February 19, 2017 against the backdrop of widespread protests in the state triggered by the government decision to reserve 33 per cent seats for women in urban local bodies.

676) John-John Dohmen received International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Male Player of the Year (2016) award in Chandigarh on February 23, 2017. He plays for which country?

- a) Spain
- b) Belgium
- c) Germany
- d) Australia

Belgium captain and Olympic silver medallist John-John Dohmen and Netherlands' Naomi van As won the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) male and female Player of the Year (2016) awards respectively at the gala FIH Hockey Stars Awards Ceremony, in Chandigarh on February 23, 2017.

677) The Indian Women's team won the ICC 2017 Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Colombo on February 21, 2017. Who among the following was the losing finalist?

- a) South Africa
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Pakistan
- d) New Zealand

The Indian Women's team on February 21, 2017 defeated South Africa by a solitary wicket to clinch victory in the final of the ICC 2017 Women's World Cup Qualifiers at the P Sara Oval in Colombo. Both India and South Africa were already assured of places in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 with a round to go in the Super Six stage of the tournament. Sri Lanka and Pakistan are the other teams to have qualified from this tournament to join Australia, England, New Zealand and the West Indies, who booked places in the pinnacle event by finishing in the top four in the ICC Women's Championship.

678) Who won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy in February 2017?

- a) Central Zone
- b) South Zone
- c) North Zone
- d) East Zone

East Zone beat West Zone by eight wickets to clinch the National T20 Championship for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Mumbai on February 18, 2017.

679) Which of the following events at ITTF World Tour India Open held in New Delhi on February 2017 was won by Indian players?

- a) Men's Singles
- b) Women's Singles
- c) Women's Doubles
- d) None of the above

German table tennis player Dimitrij Ovtcharov beat Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto to win the Men's Singles title in the Seamaster 2017 ITTF World Tour India Open at the Thyagaraja Sports Complex in New Delhi on February 20, 2017. Other winners: Sakura Mori won Women's Singles title. Women's Doubles title was won by Matilda Ekholm of Sweden and her Hungarian partner Georgina Pota. Men's Doubles title was won by Japan's Masataka Morizono & Yuya Oshima.

680) The 8th Asian Winter Games were inaugurated at which of the following on February 19, 2017?

- a) Kyoto
- b) Saitama
- c) Sapporo
- d) Shizuoka

The 8th Asian Winter Games opened in Sapporo (Japan) on February 19, 2017. The Games feature five sports, 11 disciplines and 64 events and have attracted around 1,500 participants from 30 countries and regions. Australia and New Zealand are making their first appearance at the Games after accepting an invitation from the Olympics Council of Asia (OCA). Since Oceania does not have regional Winter Games, this is also first time the two countries are competing on snow and ice at a continental event. The 7th edition of the Asian Winter Games was hosted by Almaty, Kazakhstan.

681) What was the performance of Indian Women's team at the Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy tournament at Vientiane, Laos in February 2017?

- a) Gold medal
- b) Silver medal
- c) Bronze Medal
- d) Fourth place

Indian Women's team won silver at the Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy tournament at Vientiane, Laos on February 18, 2017.

682) Denmark's Erland Kops passed away in Copenhagen on February 18, 2017 at 80. He was known for achievements in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Tennis
- c) Squash
- d) Badminton

Denmark's badminton legend Erland Kops passed away in Copenhagen on February 18, 2017. The 11-time All England champion was 80

683) The Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which has the capability to destroy incoming enemy missiles, was test-fired successfully on March 1, 2017. The enemy missile was launched from which of the following locations?

- a) Mahe
- b) Chandipur
- c) Thar Desert
- d) Sriharikota

684) The Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which has the capability to destroy incoming enemy missiles, was test-fired successfully on March 1, 2017. The interceptor missile was launched from which of the following locations?

- a) Mahe
- b) Chandipur
- c) Thar Desert
- d) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island

685) The Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which has the capability to destroy incoming enemy missiles, was test-fired successfully on March 1, 2017. Which of the following was the enemy missile?

- a) Prithvi
- b) BrahMos
- c) Agni
- d) Trishul

India on March 1, 2017 successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying any incoming enemy missile at low altitude. The endo-atmospheric missile is capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 km.

The interceptor was engaged against a target which was a Prithvi missile launched from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, taking up the trajectory of a hostile ballistic missile. The target missile was launched at about 10.10 hours.

After about four minutes the interceptor, Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile positioned at Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal, getting signals from tracking radars, roared through its trajectory to destroy the incoming hostile missile in mid-air, in an endo-atmospheric altitude.

686) What was the Infant Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 37
- b) 41
- c) 46
- d) 50

687) What was the Under-five Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 37
- b) 41
- c) 46
- d) 50

688) Which state had the highest Infant Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) Bihar
- b) Odisha
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Chhattisgarh

689) . Which state had the highest Under-five Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) Bihar

- b) Odisha
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

690) What was the sex ratio at birth in 2015-16 according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 919
- b) 923
- c) 931
- d) 937

691) 9. What was the overall sex ratio in 2015-16 according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 871
- b) 886
- c) 894
- d) 991

Infant mortality rate (IMR) reduced by 16 points over the last 10 years -- 41 children below the age of one died per 1,000 live births, down from 57 a decade ago, according to the India fact-sheet of the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4), the largest-ever assessment of the country's health and family welfare indicators. The last survey was in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). Although it has reduced infant deaths by 48 per cent over 23 years, from 79 in 1992-93 to 41 in 2015-16, India is far from the 2015 millennium development goal (MDG) -- set in consultation with the United Nations -- of an IMR of 27.

NFHS-4 also reveals a 24-point reduction in **Under-five Mortality Rate**: From 74 children under five dying for every 1,000 live births in 2005-06, it is now 50. India was set MDG target of U5MR of 42 per 1000 live births in 2015.

Chhattisgarh had the highest IMR at 54 while Madhya Pradesh had the highest under-five mortality (65) in the country. Kerala's IMR (6) and under-five mortality (7) rates were the lowest.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) too declined to 2.2 children per woman from 2.7 in NFHS-3 moving closer to target level of 2.1.

The survey also stated that sex ratio at birth (number of females per 1,000 males) improved from 914 (2005-06) to 919 (2015-16) at the national level over the last decade with the highest in Kerala (1,047), followed by Meghalaya (1,009) and Chhattisgarh (977). The overall sex-ratio for the country is 991, while in rural India it was 1009 and in urban areas it was 956. (March 3, 2017)

692) Which of the following hosted the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2017) from March 7 to 9, 2017?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Mumbai

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, in collaboration with United Nations University and UNESCO, is organizing a three-day International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2017) in Delhi from March 7 to 9, 2017. Themed on 'Building Knowledge Societies: From Digital Government to Digital Empowerment', the ICEGOV 2017 will be inaugurated by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice. The key objective of ICEGOV 2017 is to explore how Digital Government can lead to Digital Empowerment by local knowledge.

693) What is the Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) launched by DRDO in March 2017 named?

- a) Ananya
- b) Aastha
- c) Chinmayi
- d) Swathi

694) . DRDO launched 15 NBC drugs for the Indian Army in March 2017. NBC refers to:

- a) Nuclear, Bionic and Chemical
- b) Nuclear, Binary and Chemical
- c) Nuclear, Bacterial and Chemical
- d) Nuclear, Biological and Chemical

:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over three of its products for induction into the Indian Army in a formal function in New Delhi on March 2, 2017. The products are: (i) Weapon Locating Radar (WLR), SWATHI, (ii) NBC Recce vehicle and (iii) NBC Drugs. Weapon Locating Radar (WLR), SWATHI has been developed by DRDO's Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE). The NBC Recce Vehicle Mk-I has been developed by Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE). NBC refers to Nuclear, Biological and Chemical. The NBC drugs have been developed by DRDO's INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences) which is actively engaged in developing antidotes for chemical, biological and nuclear emergencies, combat casualty care and other life saving drugs.

695) Submarine Kalvari is Indian Navy's first submarine of which of the following categories?

- a) Viking
- b) Agosta
- c) Sturgeon
- d) Scorpene

The Indian Navy on March 2, 2017 successfully conducted the maiden firing of an Anti-Ship missile from the indigenously built Kalvari class submarine, during a test firing in the Arabian Sea. The Kalvari class is a class of submarines based on the Scorpene-class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. It is a class of diesel-electric attack submarine which is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and being manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

696) INS Viraat, the second aircraft carrier in the Indian naval fleet, was decommissioned on March 6, 2017. It was acquired by India from which of the following countries?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) United Kingdom

INS Viraat, the second aircraft carrier in the Indian naval fleet, will be decommissioned on March 6, Vice Admiral Girish Luthra said in Mumbai on February 27, 2017. INS Viraat has spent 30 years in the Indian Navy and before that 27 years in the Royal Navy of UK. Earlier known as HMS Hermes, the ship was in the Royal Navy from 1959. In the late 80s, Indian Navy purchased it at the cost of USD 65 million and was re-commissioned on May 12, 1987.

697) The first train of which of the following categories that connects Ernakulam and Howrah was flagged off by the Railways Minister on February 27, 2017?

- a) UDAY Express
- b) Tejas Express
- c) Antyodaya Express
- d) Humsafar Express

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the fourth Humsafar class of trains and the first Antyodaya class of trains through video conferencing from Rail Bhawan on February 27, 2017. The Sri Ganganagar–Tiruchirappalli Humsafar Express (Weekly) will travel via Krishnarajapuram, Pune and Ahmedabad. The Ernakulam–Howrah Antyodaya Express (Weekly) will travel via Salem, Katpadi and Visakhapatnam. Antyodaya Express is a long-distance, fully unreserved, superfast train service, for the common man to be operated on dense routes. Prabhu said that Tejas and UDAY Express will be launched soon.

698) Which of the following is the social media campaign launched by the Women & Child Development Ministry in March 2017 to create awareness about gender discrimination?

- a) #IAmEqual
- b) #ShelsEqual
- c) #AllAreEqual
- d) #WeAreEqual

In order to raise awareness about gender discrimination, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has initiated a social media campaign -- #WeAreEqual. The campaign will culminate in the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, marked by the Nari Shakti Award ceremony during which President Pranab Mukherjee will honour individuals and institutions for their exemplary contribution to women's empowerment, the ministry said in a statement on March 2, 2017.

699) 'Collective Choice and Social Welfare' is a recently released book authored by who among the following economists?

- a) Amartya Sen
- b) Jagdish Bhagwati
- c) Raghuram Rajan
- d) Arvind Panagariya

700) Who among the following economists has co-authored the recently released book 'Indian Railways: The Weaving of a National Tapestry'?

- a) Vijay Kelkar
- b) Bibek Debroy
- c) Kaushik Basu
- d) Arvind Virmani

701) Who among the following has co-authored the recently released novel 'Private Delhi' with James Patterson?

- a) Aman Sethi
- b) Dheeraj Sharma
- c) Ashwin Sanghi
- d) Amish Tripathi

702) 'Master on Masters' is a recently released book authored by who among the following musicians?

- a) Amjad Ali Khan
- b) Shivkumar Sharma
- c) Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
- d) Hariprasad Chaurasia

Collective Choice and Social Welfare by Amartya Sen, Master on Masters by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Indian Railways: The Weaving of a National Tapestry by Bibek Debroy, Sanjay Chadha & Vidya Krishnamurthi, 'Master on Masters' by Amjad Ali Khan and Private Delhi by Ashwin Sanghi and James Patterson.

703) . 11 innovators, who have used basic technology to improve life, are part of the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi in March 2017. Which of the following pairs of innovators and innovations is not matched correctly?

- a) Moa Subong: Invented Bamhum -- a wind musical instrument
- b) Girish Badragond: Designed low cost bore-well scanners
- c) Akash Manoj: Developed non-invasive self diagnosis of silent heart attack
- d) Ajay Kumar Sharma: Developed bamboo strip, incense stick and incense making machine

704) 11 innovators, who have used basic technology to improve life, are part of the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi in March 2017. Which of the following pairs of innovators and innovations is not matched correctly?

- a) Subhash Ola: Developed a modified milk boiler
- b) Santosh Pachar: Developed improved carrot variety.
- c) Shalini Kumari: Created a modified walker with adjustable legs
- d) Paresh Panchal: Designed farmer friendly compressor for biogas bottling

Noted writers Ashokkumar P Chavda and Prabal Kumar Basu, artists Rahul Shailendra Kokaste and Dheeraj Yadav, and 11 innovators will be part of the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi from March 3 till March 18. Also artists Subodh Gupta and Bharti Kher will start staying at Rashtrapati Bhavan as artists-in-residence from March 2 to

March 10. Gupta is known for working with everyday objects like steel utensils. He has also masterfully executed works in bronze, marble, brass and wood. Kher is an who uses “bindi” as a central motif in her work to link tradition and modernity.

Also, 11 innovators, who have used basic technology to improve life, are included in the in-residence programme. **Surjeet Singh** from Haryana has developed a high yield basmati rice variety which is salt tolerant. **Moa Subong** from Nagaland has invented Bamhum -- a wind musical instrument. **Ajay Kumar Sharma** from Uttar Pradesh has designed farmer friendly compressor for biogas bottling.

Akash Manoj from Tamil Nadu has developed non-invasive self diagnosis of silent heart attack. **Girish Badragond** from Karnataka has designed low cost bore-well scanners. **Mansukhbhai Prajapati** from Gujarat has come up with refrigerator, non-stick ‘tawa’ and a cooker made from clay.

Subhash Ola from Rajasthan developed a modified milk boiler. **Shalini Kumari** from Bihar created a modified walker with adjustable legs. Paresh Panchal from Gujarat developed bamboo strip, incense stick and incense making machine. **Santosh Pachar** from Rajasthan developed improved carrot variety.

705) Nutan Guha Biswas was appointed as the Chairperson of which of the following regulatory organisations in March 2017?

- a) Forward Markets Commission
- b) Inland Waterways Authority of India
- c) National Highways Authority of India
- d) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

Nutan Guha Biswas will be the new Chairperson of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Biswas would replace Amitabh Verma in the IWAI under the Ministry of Shipping. Guha would continue in the post till July 31, 2018 or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the department of personnel and training said in a notification on March 3, 2017.

706) D. R. Doley Barman was appointed as the Director of which of the following in March 2017?

- a) National Judicial Academy
- b) National Defence Academy
- c) Indian Military Academy
- d) National Police Academy

Senior police officer D R Doley Barman was on February 28, 2017 appointed as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

707) Former Union Minister P. Shivshankar passed away on February 27, 2017 at the age of 90. He had worked as which of the following before joining politics?

- a) Judge
- b) Diplomat
- c) Civil Servant
- d) Police Officer

Former Union Minister and Congress leader P. Shivshankar passed away in Hyderabad on February 27, 2017. He was 90. Shivshankar served as a judge in the then Andhra Pradesh High Court. He joined Congress and won Lok Sabha election from Secunderabad in 1978 and 1980. He served as Union Minister in the governments of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. He also served as Governor of Sikkim and Kerala.

708) Which of the following was won by Tarak Mehta who passed away at the age of 87 in Ahmedabad on March 1, 2017?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri

Eminent humorist and playwright Tarak Mehta, best known for his Gujarati column “Duniya Ne Undha Chasma”, passed away at the age of 87 in Ahmedabad on March 1, 2017. Mehta’s columns, which first appeared in Gujarati weekly

magazine 'Chitralekha' in 1971, were adapted into a TV serial, "Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashma" in 2008. He won Padma Shri in 2015.

709) Haji Abdul Salam died on February 28, 2017 at the age of 69. He was the Rajya Sabha member from which state?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam passed in Imphal on February 28, 2017 at the age of 69. Salam has been member of the upper house from Manipur since 2014. He was elected to the 3rd, 6th and 8th Manipur Legislative Assembly from Wabagai assembly constituency.

710) According to the Indus Waters Treaty, India has control over waters of which of the following rivers?

- a) Beas
- b) Ravi
- c) Sutlej
- d) All the above

The Indian Commissioner of the Permanent Indus Commission has accepted his Pakistani counterpart's invitation for talks on the Indus Waters Treaty scheduled to be held in Pakistan in the second half of March, media reports said on March 3, 2017. The Permanent Indus Commission is a bipartisan body entrusted with everyday implementation of the World Bank-brokered Indus Waters Treaty that was signed in 1960. According to the agreement, India has control over three eastern rivers -- Beas, Ravi and Sutlej -- all flowing from Punjab. Pakistan controls the western rivers of the Indus -- Chenab and Jhelum that flow from Jammu and Kashmir.

711) Consider the following regarding Tunisia.

- I. Capital: Tunis
 - II. Currency: Tunisian dollar
 - III. President: Beji Caid Essebsi
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

712) Consider the following regarding Mali.

- I. Capital: Bamako
 - II. Currency: West African CFA franc
 - III. President: Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

713) Consider the following regarding Republic of Congo.

- I. Capital: Libreville
 - II. Currency: Central African CFA franc
 - III. President: Denis Sassou Nguesso
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar went on a 3-day visit to Tunisia from February 26 to 28, 2017. Akbar met with President Beji Caid Essebsi and other leaders in Tunis (Currency: Tunisian dinar). Akbar visited Mali (Currency: West African CFA franc) on March 2-4 where he called on President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Prime Minister Modibo Keita in capital Bamako. The minister visited Timbuktu and presented a cheque of USD 0.5 million as India's support to Mali towards restoration of its heritage. The Minister also visited Republic of Congo (Currency: Central African CFA franc) on March 5-6 where he called on President Denis Sassou Nguesso in capital Brazzaville.

714) India held 'Al-Nagah-II' defence exercises with which of the following in Himachal Pradesh in March 2017?

- a) UAE
- b) Qatar
- c) Oman
- d) Bahrain

In an effort to build bilateral military-to-military relations and skills, a 14-day joint defence exercise 'Al-Nagah-II' between the armies of India and Oman will begin in Himachal Pradesh from March 6.

715) Which of the following hosted the Summit of the 21-nation Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on March 7, 2017?

- a) Jakarta
- b) Kuala Lumpur
- c) Manila
- d) Singapore

Vice President Hamid Ansari will attend the Summit of the 21-nation Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on March 7 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The summit has the theme: 'Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean'.

716) Who among the following was appointed as the new Spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry in February 2017?

- a) Ranjit Rae
- b) Deepak Mittal
- c) Gopal Baglay
- d) Jitendra Bhargava

Senior diplomat Gopal Baglay was on February 27, 2017 appointed Spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry succeeding Vikas Swarup, who was made India's new High Commissioner to Canada. Manjeev Singh Puri is set to be the country's envoy to Nepal. Puri's name has been proposed with the term of Ranjit Rae coming to an end.

717) Which of the following hosted the India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave on February 27-28, 2017?

- a) Gandhinagar
- b) Jaipur
- c) Mumbai
- d) Hyderabad

Two-day fourth India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave was organised in Jaipur on February 27-28, 2017.

718) National Science Day was observed on February 28, 2017 to mark the _____.

- a) Birth anniversary of Sir C. V. Raman
- b) Day of conferment of Knighthood on C. V. Raman
- c) Day of discovery of Raman Effect by C. V. Raman
- d) Foundation of Indian Academy of Sciences by C V Raman

719) What was the theme of the National Science Day observed on February 28, 2017?

- a) Fostering Scientific Temper
- b) Science for Nation Building

- c) Genetically Modified Crops and Food Security
- d) Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons

Every year since 1987, National Science Day is celebrated on February 28. On this day in 1928, Sir C.V. Raman discovered the famous "Raman Effect", about scattering of light. He was awarded Nobel Prize in physics for this discovery in 1930. Main objective is to bring science in the forefront through celebration of the national science day (NSD), inculcate scientific temper and take pride in the scientific achievements of the country. Theme for the National Science Day 2017 is "Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons".

- 720)** Which of the following was launched by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Narendra Singh Tomar in Gurugram on March 1, 2017?
- a) Swachh Samay Saptah
 - b) Swachh Shakti Saptah
 - c) Swachh Saathi Saptah
 - d) Swachh Shiksha Saptah

Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Narendra Singh Tomar launched the 'Swachh Shakti Saptah' in Gurugram on March 1, 2017. The Minister declared that he was now glad that 102 districts of the country have declared themselves ODF (open defecation free) under the scheme covering 1.71 lakh villages. Three states - Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala - have already declared themselves ODF.

- 721)** Which of the following hosted the International Yoga Festival that was jointly organized by AYUSH, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, GMVN and Parmarth Niketan Ashram from March 1 to 7, 2017?
- a) Mussoorie
 - b) Rishikesh
 - c) Dehradun
 - d) Haridwar

The International Yoga Festival was jointly organized by AYUSH, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, GMVN and Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh from March 1 to 7, 2017.

- 722)** Zero Discrimination Day, which was celebrated on March 1, 2017, is an initiative of:
- a) UNICEF
 - b) UNDP
 - c) UNAIDS
 - d) UNESCO

Zero Discrimination Day was celebrated by UNAIDS on March 1, 2017. The theme of this year's Day was 'Make Some Noise for #ZeroDiscrimination'. "From Bamako to Baltimore, the right to health belongs to all. On this #ZeroDiscrimination Day let us commit to ensuring everyone, everywhere can access health care safely and live life fully with dignity", said Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director in his message.

- 723)** World Wildlife Day was observed on March 3, 2017 to mark the day of adoption of CITES in 1973. CITES is:
- a) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
 - b) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora
 - c) Collaboration on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora
 - d) Convention on International Trafficking in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- 724)** What was the theme of the World Wildlife Day observed on March 3, 2017?
- a) Climate change in the wild
 - b) Listen to the young voices
 - c) The future of wildlife is in our hands
 - d) Involve forest dwellers in conservation

World Wildlife Day was observed on March 3, 2017. Theme: 'Listen to the Young Voices'. March 3 marks the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

725) Which historic city and UNESCO World Heritage site was retaken by the Syrian army from the Islamic State terrorist group in March 2017?

- a) Delos
- b) Patmos
- c) Palmyra
- d) Meteora

The General Staff of the Syrian Army on March 2, 2017 said it had recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra from the extremist group Islamic State (IS).

726) World Civil Defence Day was celebrated on:

- a) March 1
- b) March 2
- c) March 3
- d) March 4

727) Consider the following regarding the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO).

- I. Its Permanent Secretariat is based in Geneva
- II. India has the status of an Observer State
- III. Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov is Secretary General

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

World Civil Defence Day was celebrated on March 1, 2017. This Day commemorates the entry into force of the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) Constitution as an intergovernmental organisation in 1972. In 2017, the theme for the World Civil Defence Day celebration is "Together with civil defence against disasters". The ICDO comprises Member States (56 States), Observer States (18 States) and Affiliated Members (30 Members). Its Permanent Secretariat is based in Geneva. India is an affiliated member. Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov is Secretary General of ICDO.

728) Consider the following regarding Sweden.

- I. Eurozone
- II. European Union
- III. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

The country is a member of which of the above?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) III and I only

729) Consider the following regarding Sweden.

- I. Parliament: Riksdag
- II. Capital: Stockholm
- III. King: Harald V

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) III and I only

Sweden announced on March 2, 2017 that it will reintroduce compulsory military service starting this summer. The conscription will cover all Swedes born after 1999. They will be called up each year after January 1 2018. Sweden is not a NATO member but has signed the body's Partnership for Peace programme launched in 1994 to develop military cooperation between NATO and non-member countries. Sweden joined the European Union on 1 January 1995, but

declined Eurozone membership. Currency: Swedish krona, Parliament: Riksdag, Capital: Stockholm, King: Carl XVI Gustaf. Prime Minister: Stefan Lofven. Harald V is the King of Norway.

730) The government of Pakistan announced the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with which province in March 2017?

- a) Sindh
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Pakistan government on March 2, 2017 approved the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province to bring the impoverished and politically deprived tribal region at par with the rest of the country. The FATA is a semi-autonomous tribal region in northwest Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan.

731) Consider the following statements regarding Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

- I. It has 10 countries as Members
- II. India is not its Member
- III. Its 2017 Summit was organised in Baku

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) III and I only

The day-long 13th summit of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) was organised in Islamabad on March 1, 2017. The ECO summit was attended by the representatives of nine other countries -- Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan -- besides Pakistan. The theme of the summit was 'Connectivity for Regional Prosperity'. The summit concluded with the adoption of the Islamabad Declaration and Vision 2025. ECO was established in 1985 by Pakistan, Iran and Turkey with Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Tajikistan joined in 1992.

732) What is the joint military exercise between South Korea and USA in March 2017 named?

- a) Key Resolve
- b) Peninsular Drill
- c) Austere Challenge
- d) Cormorant Strike

South Korea and the United States kicked off their annual, massive military exercises on March 1, 2017. The joint exercises are known as Key Resolve and Foal Eagle.

733) Which of the following saw the eruption of 3,763-metre-high Volcan de Fuego, one of the country's three active volcanoes, in February 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Nicaragua
- c) Venezuela
- d) Guatemala

Guatemala's Volcano of Fire erupted today on February 25, 2017, spewing lava and sending up ash plumes that rained down ashes on nearby communities. The 3,763-metre-high Volcan de Fuego, one of the country's three active volcanoes, is located about 45 kilometres southwest of the capital Guatemala City.

734) Neil Fingleton died at 36 on February 25, 2017. He was the tallest person in which country?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) United Kingdom

735) Bill Paxton died at 61 on February 25, 2017. He was well-known as:

- a) Actor
- b) Painter
- c) Economist
- d) Industrialist

US actor Bill Paxton, a favourite go-to cast member for director James Cameron, who appeared in films such as "The Terminator," "Aliens," "True Lies" and "Titanic," died at 61 in Los Angeles on February 25, 2017. Game of Thrones actor Neil Fingleton, who was named Britain's tallest man, died at 36 on February 25, 2017. Fingleton started his career as a professional basketball player for teams in the United States and Spain but an injury forced him into early retirement in 2007. He then started his acting career and joined the cast of Game of Thrones in 2014.

736) Essa Moosa died aged 81 on February 26, 2017. He was a prominent Indian-origin human rights lawyer based in which country?

- a) South Africa
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Fiji
- d) New Zealand

Essa Moosa, a prominent Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer, died aged 81 in Cape Town on February 26, 2017.

737) Who among the following assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in March 2017?

- a) Amjad Hussain B. Sial
- b) Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi
- c) Syed Ashiq Hussain Bukhari
- d) Aftab Ahmad Sherpao

Pakistan's diplomat Amjad Hussain B. Sial on March 1, 2017 assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu. He will continue till February 28, 2020. Sial succeeded Nepal's Arjun Bahadur Thapa, who was appointed the Secretary-General in 2014.

738) Which of the following was conducted by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and Interpol in India from January 30 to February 19 to nab those involved in illegal trade in wildlife?

- a) Operation Black Panther
- b) Operation Flying Dagger
- c) Operation Thunder Bird
- d) Operation Black Archer

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised 'Operation Thunder Bird' from January 30 to February 19 to nab those involved in illegal trade in wildlife in India. 'Operation Thunder Bird' is the code name for Interpol's multi-national and multi-species enforcement operation in India.

739) Which island nation became the first in the world to ratify the Kigali Amendment on ending hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in February 2017?

- a) Nauru
- b) Palau
- c) Samoa
- d) Marshall Islands

Pacific archipelago nation Marshall Islands said on February 28, 2017 it was the first country to ratify a global pact to phase out planet-warming gases called HFCs. The Kigali Amendment on ending hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) was agreed by nearly 200 countries in the Rwandan capital in October 2016, after years of talks. It must be officially ratified by 20 nations to enter into force.

740) Which of the following won the Best Picture award at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Lion
- b) Arrival
- c) Fences
- d) Moonlight

741) Who won the Best Actress award at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Emma Stone
- b) Meryl Streep
- c) Ruth Negga
- d) Natalie Portman

742) The Salesman (Persian) was the Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017. It has been directed by who among the following?

- a) Babak Karimi
- b) Asghar Farhadi
- c) Ebrahim Golestan
- d) Nader Talebzadeh

743) Who among the following won the Best Director award at 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Mel Gibson
- b) Barry Jenkins
- c) Damien Chazelle
- d) Kenneth Lonergan

744) Casey Affleck won the Best Actor award for which movie at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Lion
- b) Arrival
- c) Fences
- d) Manchester by the Sea

The 89th Academy Awards were presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California on February 26, 2017. Moonlight, directed by Barry Jenkins, won three awards, including Best Picture. La La Land won the most awards with six. The Salesman (Persian), an Iranian film directed and written by Asghar Farhadi, won Best Foreign Language Film award. Top winners: **Best picture:** Moonlight, **Best actor:** Casey Affleck (Manchester By The Sea), **Best Actress:** Emma Stone (La La Land), **Best Supporting Actor:** Mahershala Ali (Moonlight), **Best Supporting Actress:** Viola Davis (Fences), **Best Director:** Damien Chazelle (La La Land), **Best Animated Feature Film:** Zootopia, **Best Foreign Language Film:** The Salesman

745) Former President Barack Obama has been named the 2017 winner of the _____ Profile in Courage Award in March 2017.

- a) Woodrow Wilson
- b) John F. Kennedy
- c) Harry S. Truman
- d) Dwight D. Eisenhower

Former President Barack Obama has been named the 2017 winner of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award by the John F Kennedy Library Foundation announced on March 2, 2017. The award is named for Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage".

746) Rajinder Goel and Padmakar Shivalkar won the _____ Lifetime Achievement awards at the BCCI Annual Awards in March 2017.

- a) Polly Umrigar
- b) Lala Amarnath
- c) Col. C K Nayudu
- d) MA Chidambaram

747) Virat Kohli was declared winner of the ____ award at the BCCI Annual Awards in March 2017.

- Polly Umrigar
- Lala Amarnath
- Col. C K Nayudu
- Jagmohan Dalmiya

748) Dilip Sardesai award is given for best performance in India's test series with which of the following?

- Australia
- Sri Lanka
- South Africa
- West Indies

The BCCI Annual Awards committee consisting N Ram, Ramachandra Guha and Diana Edulji announced the winners for the prestigious awards on March 1, 2017. Virat Kohli will become the first player to receive the Polly Umrigar Award - given to the International Cricketer of the Year - for the third time. Ravichandran Ashwin won the Dilip Sardesai award, which is given to honour the best performance in the bilateral Test series between India and West Indies, for the second time.

The complete list of the winners is as follows:

- Col. CK. Nayudu Lifetime achievement award: Rajinder Goel, Padmakar Shivalkar
- BCCI Lifetime achievement award form women: Shantha Rangaswamy
- BCCI special award: VV Kumar, Late Ramakant Desai
- Polly Umrigar Award: Virat Kohli
- Dilip Sardesai award (For India's best cricketer in the West Indies series 2016): Ravichandran Ashwin
- Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16: Jalaj Saxena of Madhya Pradesh
- Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in domestic limited-overs competitions, 2015-16: Axar Patel of Gujarat
- Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest scorer in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16): Shreyas Iyer of Mumbai
- Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16): Shahbaz Nadeem of Jharkhand
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest scorer in U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16: Jay. G. Bosta of Mumbai
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest wicket-taker in (U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16: Satyajeeet Bachhav of Maharashtra
- NKP Salve Award (Highest scorer in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16: Arman Jaffer of Mumbai
- NKP Salve Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16: Ninad Rathva of Baroda
- Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest scorer in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16): Abhishek Sharma of Punjab
- Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16): Abhishek Sharma of Punjab
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Sr.) of 2015-16): Mithali Raj of Railways
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Jr.) of 2015-16): Deepti Sharma of Uttar Pradesh
- Best Umpire in Domestic cricket in 2015-16: Nitin Menon
- Best performance in BCCI Domestic tournaments of 2015-16: Mumbai Cricket Association

749) President Pranab Mukherjee presented the 'Standard' to 125 Helicopter Squadron and 'Colours' to Mechanical Training Institute of Indian Air Force on March 3, 2017. These are based in which state?

- Karnataka
- Kerala
- Tamil Nadu
- Andhra Pradesh

President Pranab Mukherjee on March 3, 2017 presented the 'Standard' to 125 Helicopter Squadron and 'Colours' to Mechanical Training Institute of Indian Air Force at Air Force Station, Tambaram, Tamil Nadu.

750) Possession of more than ____ pieces for study, research or numismatics purpose will be a criminal offence under the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017.

- 5
- 10

- c) 15
- d) 25

The government on March 1, 2017 notified the law that makes holding of more than 10 scrapped notes punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 10,000. The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017, was passed by Parliament in February 2017 with a view to eliminate the "possibility of running a parallel economy" using the old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes that have been demonetised. With the law coming into force, possession of more than 10 pieces of the old notes by individuals and more than 25 pieces for study, research or numismatics purpose will be a criminal offence, attracting fine of Rs 10,000 or five times the cash held, whichever is higher. The act also ends the liability of the RBI and the government on the demonetised currency notes.

751) The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released its **second advance estimates** of economic growth on February 28, 2017. What is the growth rate estimate for 2016-17?

- a) 6.9%
- b) 7.1%
- c) 7.3%
- d) 7.5%

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released its **second advance estimates** of economic growth on February 28, 2017. The CSO has kept its estimate for growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016-17 unchanged at 7.1% which it had projected in the **first advance estimates** in January 2017. The Indian economy expanded by 7% in the third quarter of 2016-17. The CSO has also marginally revised upwards the estimates for the first and the second quarters to 7.2 per cent and 7.4 per cent.

752) Jose Angel Gurria is associated with which of the following organisations?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) WEF
- c) WTO
- d) OECD

Paris-based think tank OECD on February 28, 2017 cut India's growth forecast to 7% for 2016-17 in view of demonetisation, but said the pace will accelerate to 7.3% in 2017-18. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had in February 2016 projected the country's economy to expand at 7.4% in 2016-17. "India has been a star performer in gloomy times. We do not have many cases of 7% growth. It is a top reformer among all the G-20 countries," OECD Secretary-General Jose Angel Gurria said. The organisation forecast the country's economic growth to rise further to 7.7% in 2018-19.

753) Who among the following is the Chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to investigate the stashing away of black money in foreign banks and suggest ways to bring it back to India?

- a) Justice M.B. Shah
- b) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- c) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- d) Justice Madan B. Lokur
- e) Justice Arijit Pasayat

Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigating Team (SIT) on black money has so far unearthed black money to the tune of 70 thousand crore rupees across the country. Speaking to media after a high-level meeting of SIT on black money, its Vice-Chairman Justice Arijit Pasayat said in Cuttack March 2, 2017 that the committee will submit its sixth report to the Apex court in the first week of April. Justice M.B. Shah is the Chairman of SIT.

754) Which of the following has topped the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Mumbai

Thiruvananthapuram has topped the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy. The not-for-profit organisation revealed the findings of the fourth edition of the survey on February 28, 2017. Notably, all the Indian cities surveyed fared poorly on the 82 parameters, scoring between 2.1 and 4.4 on a scale of 10, against the global benchmarks set by London (9.3) and New York 9.8.

755) India's first Integrated Heliport was inaugurated at which of the following on February 28, 2017? It has been built by Pawan Hans.

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Mumbai

India's first Integrated Heliport was inaugurated at Rohini, New Delhi on February 28, 2017. State-owned Pawan Hans has carried out the heliport project for the Civil Aviation Ministry. Built at an investment of Rs 100 crore, the facility will be useful in providing medical emergency, public safety and enhancing tourism. The Heliport consists of a terminal building having capacity of 150 passengers, 4 hangers with parking capacities for 16 helicopters and 9 parking bays.

756) Which was the top state in terms of Domestic Tourist Visits at 344.3 million in 2016?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Karnataka
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Domestic Tourist Visits (DTVs) during 2016 recorded a growth rate of 15.5% over 2015, showed data released by the Ministry of Tourism on March 2, 2017. During 2016, the number of DTVs to the States/UTs was 1653 million (provisional) as compared to 1432 million in 2015 registering a growth of 15.5%. The top ten States in terms of number of DTVs (in millions), during 2016, were Tamil Nadu (344.3), Uttar Pradesh (229.6), Madhya Pradesh (184.7), Andhra Pradesh (158.5), Karnataka (129.8), Maharashtra (115.4), West Bengal (74.5), Telangana (71.5), Gujarat (42.8) and Rajasthan (41.5).

757) What is the share of core sector industries in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- a) 8%
- b) 18%
- c) 28%
- d) 38%
- e) 48%

The growth of eight core industries (coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity) slowed down to a five-month low of 3.4% in January 2017, mainly due to contraction in output of refinery products, fertiliser and cement. The growth rate was 5.7% in January 2016. The eight core industries account for nearly 38 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

758) India was ranked 36th in Internet Inclusiveness, which is based on factors like Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness, in March 2017. The ranking is an initiative of Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and which of the following?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft

India ranked 36th among 75 nations in Internet inclusiveness based on factors like Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness, a Facebook-Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report said on March 1, 2017. Singapore and Sweden were joint first. United States was third while United Kingdom was fourth. Japan was fifth. South Korea was sixth. France was seventh while the Netherlands and Canada were joint eighth. Italy was tenth.

759) Which of the following has decided to end its mobile service joint venture with NTT DoCoMo of Japan?

- a) Reliance Communications

- b) BSNL
- c) Idea Cellular
- d) Tata Teleservices

Tata Sons has agreed to pay USD 1.18 billion in damages to NTT DoCoMo to settle long standing dispute over exit of the Japanese firm from their India joint venture. Tata Sons reached an out-of-court agreement with Japan's largest mobile phone firm to enforce a June 2016 award of a London arbitral tribunal. Following this, the two firms applied to the Delhi High Court to suspend legal proceedings and accept the settlement. (March 2017)

760) Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) belongs to which corporate group?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) ITC
- d) L&T

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on March 2, 2017 decided to auction off the Taj Mansingh hotel. Tata Group's Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) has been operating the iconic hotel on Mansingh Road since 1978. IHCL's 33-year lease of the Taj hotel expired in 2011 and it was given nine temporary extensions on various grounds.

761) Which former Indian cricketer joined global professional network LinkedIn as an 'Influencer' in March 2017?

- a) Rahul Dravid
- b) Sachin Tendulkar
- c) Dilip Vengsarkar
- d) Sunil Gavaskar
- e) Saurav Ganguly

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on March 2, 2017 joined LinkedIn, global professional network, as an 'Influencer'. LinkedIn India said, "Tendulkar, with his success in sports and in business adds to the growing cast of iconic Indian influencers, ultimately helping to inspire our more than 467 million members worldwide to achieve higher heights in their careers."

762) The annual Mobile World Congress was organised in _____ in February 2017.

- a) Seattle
- b) Mumbai
- c) Shanghai
- d) Barcelona

The iconic Nokia 3310 is set to make a comeback in a new trendier avatar, with HMD Global bringing the handset to India in the next quarter for about Rs 3,500. HMD Global, which has struck a 10-year brand licensing agreement with Nokia for mobile phones and tablets, will also bring in Android-powered Nokia 6, Nokia 5 and Nokia 3 to India in the second quarter of this year. This was announced at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2017 in Barcelona in February 2017.

763) Who among the following opened the London Stock Exchange in a special ceremony on February 27, 2017?

- a) Urjit Patel
- b) Arun Jaitley
- c) Nitin Gadkari
- d) Suresh Prabhu

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley opened the London Stock Exchange in a special ceremony on February 27, 2017. Following the market open ceremony, Nikhil Rathi, CEO, London Stock Exchange (LSE) plc, hosted a roundtable event with Jaitley, delegates from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and leading investors.

764) Which of the following global market research companies announced the setting up of its Public Affairs unit in India in March 2017?

- a) Ipsos
- b) Gallup
- c) Nielsen
- d) Maplecroft

Global market research company Ipsos on March 3, 2017 announced the launch of Ipsos Public Affairs in India. The public affairs wing has been launched with an aim to help customers identify what drives, builds and sustains social research and corporate reputation in India.

765) The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) of the New York Stock Exchange closes above the 21,000 mark for the first time on March 1, 2017. DJIA comprises shares of how many companies?

- a) 10
- b) 20
- c) 30
- d) 40

Wall Street closed with strong gains on March 1, 2017 with the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), the main market indicator, rising 1.45 per cent and ending the day above 21,000 for the first time in history. The DJIA, which is made up of 30 "blue chip" stocks, including IBM, ExxonMobil and Coca-Cola, had closed above 20,000 for the first time on January 25.

766) Who among the following will take charge as India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June 2017?

- a) Ashok Lavasa
- b) J. S. Deepak
- c) Shaktikanta Das
- d) Anjuly Chib Duggal

Telecom Secretary J. S. Deepak was on March 1, 2017 named India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June 2017.

767) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for a period of five years recently?

- a) Biswajit Roy
- b) B. S. Giridhar
- c) G. K. Satish
- d) Sanjiv Singh

Sanjiv Singh was on February 28, 2017 appointed Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for a period of five years. Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) interviewed eight candidates. He will be assuming the charge on or after June 1.

768) Which of the following claimed to have become the "first state" in the country to serve midday meal up to class 12 for girl students?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Girl students up to class 12 in all Delhi government schools will get midday meal facility from April 1. Currently the scheme covers boy and girl students till class 8 only. The government claimed that Delhi will become the "first state" in the country to serve midday meal up to class 12.

769) Which state announced the 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojna' in March 2017 to provide food at subsidized rate to the poor in urban areas?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

In order to provide food at subsidized rate to the poor in urban areas, Finance Minister Jayant Malaiya announced 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojna' while presenting Madhya Pradesh's Budget for 2017-2018 in Bhopal on March 1, 2017. The minister said: "Year 2017, the birth centenary year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, is being celebrated as 'Garib Kalyan Varsh'. To mark the year, 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojna' is being launched in selected urban areas." The funds for the scheme will be arranged through the donations received from corporate sector under Corporate Social Responsibility.

770) The World Bank announced a loan of \$63 million for 'Tejaswini: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project' in which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

The World Bank will provide loan to India to empower 6.8 lakh adolescent girls in Jharkhand under the 'Tejaswini' project. A Financing Agreement for International Development Association (IDA) credit of USD 63 million (equivalent) for the "Tejaswini: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project" was signed in New Delhi in February 2017 between the bank and the government.

771) Kristalina Georgieva is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at which of the following?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) WTO
- d) World Bank

World Bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kristalina Georgieva, who was on a visit to India, on February 28, 2017 travelled in local train from Churchgate to Dadar in Mumbai.

772) Which of the following won the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) in February 2017?

- a) Ranchi Rays
- b) Delhi Waveriders
- c) Uttar Pradesh Wizards
- d) Kalinga Lancers

773) Which of the following hosted the final of the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) on February 26, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chandigarh
- d) Bhopal

774) Who among the following was the top scorer with 12 goals in the fifth edition of Hero Hockey India League (HIL) that concluded in February 2017?

- a) Moritz Fuerste
- b) Affan Yousuf
- c) Agustin Mazzilli
- d) Robbert Kempermann

Odisha-based Kalinga Lancers defeated Dabang Mumbai 4-1 in a keenly-contested summit clash to win their maiden Hockey India League title, in Chandigarh on February 26, 2017. Skipper Moritz Fuerste (30th, 58th) converted two penalty corners for the Lancers before Glenn Turner (18th minute) struck a field effort for the Odisha outfit, which lost the final in 2016 to Jaypee Punjab Warriors. A field goal gets two points. For Dabang Mumbai, Affan Yousuf (33rd) scored the lone goal from a penalty corner variation. Earlier in the day, Uttar Pradesh Wizards registered a 5-4 come-from-behind win over Delhi Waveriders and claim the bronze medal. Fuerste and Turner of Kalinga Lancers finished as the league's joint highest scorers with 12 goals each in as many matches. Dabang Mumbai's Harmanpreet Singh bagged the award for emerging player of the league, which carries a cash award of Rs 20 lakh. Harmanpreet scored seven goals.

775) Who among the following won the World Women's Chess Championship in Tehran in March 2017?

- a) Tan Zhongyi
- b) Antoaneta Stefanova
- c) Anna Ushenina
- d) Koneru Humpy

Indian GM Dronavali Harika won her third bronze medal in a row after a defeat against Tan Zhongyi of China in a semi-final tie-breaker at the World Women's Chess Championship in Tehran on February 26, 2017. Zhongyi became the new Women's World Champion after defeating Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine in the final on March 4.

776) 45. India returned with three medals at the 68th Strandja Memorial _____ Tournament held in Sofia, Bulgaria in February 2017?

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing
- c) Wrestling
- d) Archery

Mohamed Hussamuddin won silver medal as India signed off with three medals at the 68th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. Hussamuddin was beaten 2-3 by Ukraine's Mykola Butsenko in the bantamweight (56kg) final. India thus ended with three medals at the event after Amit Phangal (49kg) and Meena Kumari Maisnam (54kg) lost their respective semifinals to settle for bronze medals. (February 27, 2017)

777) John Hampshire died aged 76 on March 1, 2017. He was known for achievements in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Rugby
- c) Football
- d) Cricket

Former England batsman and Test umpire John Hampshire died aged 76 on March 1, 2017 in London. Hampshire made history on his Test debut by becoming the first Englishman to score a century at Lord's in his maiden Test in the series with the West Indies in 1969. He played eight Tests and three One Day Internationals (ODIs) for England between 1969 and 1975.

778) Raymond Kopa died on March 3, 2017 aged 85. He was known for achievements in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Rugby
- c) Football
- d) Badminton

French football legend Raymond Kopa, who won the European Cup three times with Real Madrid in the 1950s, died on March 3, 2017 aged 85.

779) Who among the following won the only gold for India at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup organised in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Jitu Rai
- b) Vijay Kumar
- c) Ankur Mittal
- d) Amanpreet Singh

780) Which country topped the medals tally at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup organised in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Vietnam
- d) Australia

India won five medals, including one gold, in the ISSF World Cup that concluded at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi on March 4, 2017. India's medals came from Pooja Ghatkar in the Women's Air Rifle (bronze), Ankur Mittal in men's double trap (silver), Amanpreet Singh in men's 50m pistol (silver) and two-time Olympian Jitu Rai in the men's 10m air pistol (bronze) and 50m pistol (gold). China topped the medals tally with 12 medals (6 gold and 6 silver) followed by Italy, Australia, Japan and India. India also won two more medals in test events. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won bronze with Haley Dunn of the United States in the Mixed Team Skeet event. Also Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu won gold medal in the Mixed Team Air Pistol event. As the mixed team events are Test-only event, there will be no official World Cup medals and no official scores added to the shooters' accolades.

781) Both Men's and Women's races at Tokyo Marathon on February 26, 2017 were won by athletes from:

- a) Chad
- b) Kenya
- c) Nigeria
- d) Norway

Kenya's Wilson Kipsang stormed to victory in the Tokyo Marathon on February 26, 2017 in the fastest race ever run in Japan. The former world record holder clocked 2hr 3min 58sec. Another Kenyan Sarah Chepchirchir won the women's race in 2:19:47.

782) Monika Athare has won laurels for India in which event in women's athletics?

- a) High jump
- b) Javelin throw
- c) Shot put
- d) Marathon

T. Gopi and Monika Athare won the second edition of IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon on February 26, 2017 in Delhi, finishing in 2:15:37 hours and 2:39:08 hours, respectively.

783) Tarun Kona and Alwin Francis recently won Men's Doubles event in which sport in February 2017?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Tennis
- c) Badminton
- d) Archery

India's Tarun Kona and Alwin Francis won the Men's Doubles title at the 2017 Uganda International Series badminton tournament in Kampala on February 25, 2016. They beat Aatish Lubah and Georges Julien Paul of Mauritius, 21-8, 21-14 in the final.

784) The 51st edition of _____ Vintage and Classic Car Rally was hosted in the national capital on February 26, 2017.

- a) Indian Express
- b) Hindustan Times
- c) The Hindu
- d) Times of India
- e) The Statesman

The 51st edition of The Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally was hosted in the national capital on February 26, 2017.

785) Which of the following statements about the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on March 10, 2017 is/are correct?

- I. It refers to inheritance of property left in Pakistan by those who migrated to India
- II. It refers to government confiscation of property belonging to those convicted for terrorist offences
- III. It refers to inheritance of property left in India by those who migrated to Pakistan and China

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

786) The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 amends the Enemy Property Act,_____.

- a) 1964
- b) 1968
- c) 1970
- d) 1972

Rajya Sabha on March 10, 2017 passed a Bill to amend a 49-year-old law to guard against claims of succession or transfer of properties left by people who migrated to Pakistan and China, amid a walkout by the entire Opposition. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968, was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha. The measure was passed by the Lok Sabha in March 2016. After this, the Rajya Sabha had sent it to a select committee, following whose recommendations, the government had moved a number of amendments to it. After the amended bill was passed by a voice vote by the Rajya Sabha on March 10, it was returned to the Lok Sabha for final passage.

787) Which of the following launched Women Transforming India, an online contest to select women achievers, on March 8, 2017?

- a) CMIE
- b) NCAER
- c) FICCI
- d) NITI Aayog

788) Which of the following was the theme of International Women's Day observed on March 8, 2017?

- a) Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty
- b) Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality
- c) Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!
- d) Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030
- e) A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2017 on March 8, 2017, NITI Aayog, in partnership with the UN in India and MyGov, launched the second edition of Women Transforming India, an online contest to celebrate women achievers, leaders and change makers from across the country. The theme for this year's International Women's Day is: "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030".

789) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament on March 9, 2017. It has increased the maternity leave for women employed in the organised sector for the first two children to:

- a) 14 weeks
- b) 20 weeks
- c) 26 weeks
- d) 30 weeks

790) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament on March 9, 2017. The new law will apply to all establishments employing _____ or more people

- a) 10
- b) 12
- c) 14
- d) 16

791) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament on March 9, 2017. Which of the following provides the longest maternity leave of 50 weeks to women employees?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) United States

- Women working in the organised sector will now be entitled to paid maternity leave of 26 weeks, up from 12 weeks, as Parliament on March 9, 2017. The new law will apply to all establishments employing 10 or more people and the entitlement will be for only up to first two children. For third child, the entitlement will be for only 12 weeks.
- The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 9, had been passed by the Rajya Sabha in August 2016.
- The measure that takes India to the third position in terms of the number of weeks for maternity leave after Canada and Norway where it is 50 weeks and 44 weeks, respectively.
- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her full paid absence from work, to take care for her child.
- The bill provides for 12 weeks of maternity leave to a woman who legally adopts a child below three months of age and a commissioning mother (defined as a biological mother) who uses her egg to have a surrogate child. In such cases, 12-week period of maternity leave will be calculated from the date the child is handed over to the adoptive or commissioning mother.
- The central government has already amended its service rules and is providing 26 weeks maternity leaves to its employees.

792) A national conference on which of the following was organised by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in New Delhi on March 7, 2017?

- a) Jal Shuddhi Abhiyan
- b) Jal Nirmal Abhiyan
- c) Jal Jeevan Abhiyan
- d) Jal Kranti Abhiyan
- e) Jal Sanchay Abhiyan

793) Two water stressed villages in each district of the country are to be selected and a comprehensive water security plan is to be formulated to achieve water security for these villages. This will be done which scheme of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation?

- a) Jal Gaon Abhiyan
- b) Jal Gram Abhiyan
- c) Jal Panchayat Abhiyan
- d) Jal Krishi Abhiyan

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation organized a national conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan in New Delhi on March 7, 2017. Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti inaugurated the conference. About 700 participants representing various stakeholder groups such as farmers, Panchayat members, officials, NGOs and students attended the daylong conference.

Jal Kranti Abhiyan was launched in June 2015 to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders making it mass movement. One of the main objectives of the Jal Kranti Abhiyan is "strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies for Participatory Irrigation Management."

There are four important components of Jal Kranti Abhiyan viz. Jal Gram Yojana, Development of Model Command Area, Pollution Abatement and Mass Awareness Programme. Under Jal Gram Yojana two water stressed villages in each district of the country are to be selected and a comprehensive water security plan is formulated to achieve water security for these villages.

794) Aircraft carrier INS Viraat was decommissioned in Mumbai on March 6, 2017. What was it known as when acquired by India from United Kingdom in 1980s?

- a) HMS Kent
- b) HMS Albion
- c) HMS Bulwark
- d) HMS Hermes

Aircraft carrier INS Viraat was on March 6, 2017 decommissioned in Mumbai, at an impressive ceremony onboard and in the presence of Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba and top armed forces officials. INS Viraat was a centaur-class aircraft carrier which was in service with Indian Navy for 30 years. It served in the Royal British Navy as HMS Hermes from

November 1959 to April 1984. In the late 80s, Indian Navy purchased it at the cost of USD 65 million and was re-commissioned after refurbishment on 12 May 1987.

795) The Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) INS Tillanchang was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Karwar on March 9, 2017. It was built at:

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- e) Cochin Shipyard

The Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tillanchang, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command, in Karwar (Karnataka) on March 9, 2017. INS Tillanchang is the third ship of four follow-on WJFAC built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The first two ships of the class, IN ships Tarmugli and Tihayu were commissioned in 2016 and are based at Vishakhapatnam.

796) The Air Force Station inaugurated at Panagarh in Burdwan district on March 7, 2017 is named after who among the following former Air Force Chiefs?

- a) Arjan Singh
- b) Pratap Chandra Lal
- c) Subroto Mukherjee
- d) Om Prakash Mehra

A new C-130J squadron complex was on March 7, 2017 inaugurated by Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh at Panagarh in Burdwan district. This will be the second C-130 squadron of the IAF after Hindon which will house a squadron of the Super Hercules aircraft. The squadron complex has been named "Air Force Station Arjan Singh" after the 97-year-old Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh, would be capable of undertaking all types of air transport missions in this sector.

797) What was the rank of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Times Higher Education's (THE) 'Best Small Universities in the World' ranking released in March 2017?

- a) 2nd
- b) 4th
- c) 6th
- d) 8th

798) Which of the following has topped the Times Higher Education's (THE) 'Best Small Universities in the World' ranking released in March 2017?

- a) University of Chicago
- b) California Institute of Technology
- c) Cambridge University
- d) Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has made it to the top 10 of Times Higher Education's (THE) Best Small Universities in the World ranking for 2017 released on March 7, 2017. IISc is the only Indian university to have made it to the list. Small universities are defined by having fewer than 5,000 students and teach and research across more than four disciplines. Top 10: 1. California Institute of Technology (Caltech), United States 2. École Normale Supérieure, France 3. Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), South Korea 4. École Polytechnique, France 5. Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy 6. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy 7. École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France 8. Indian Institute of Science, India 9. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden 10. Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy (March 7, 2017)

799) India's largest tricolour was inaugurated in which state on March 5, 2017?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Punjab

d) Jammu & Kashmir

A mammoth tricolour, believed to be the largest in the country with the tallest flag post, has been inaugurated at the Indo-Pak Attari Border in Amritsar on March 5, 2017. The flag measures 110 metres (360-foot) in length, 24 metres in width and weighing 55 tonnes. The flag post, which stands 110 metres tall, now outflanks the 91.44 metres (300-foot) high tricolour in Ranchi which was till now considered the tallest in the country. The flag mast has been installed just 150 metres away from the border. Built at a cost of Rs 3.50 crore, it was a project of the Amritsar Improvement Trust Authority of Punjab govt.

800) A commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of which of the following was released by the Prime Minister on March 7, 2017?

- a) Sahaj Yog
- b) Isha Foundation
- c) Chinmay Mission
- d) Yogoda Satsang Math

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of Yogoda Satsang Math on March 7, 2017. Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS) celebrated its 100 years journey on March 3. One major aim of YSS is to reveal the complete harmony, basic oneness, and common foundations of all true religions.

801) Which of the following hosted the 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) on March 9-10, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Gangtok

The 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) was organised in New Delhi on March 9-10, 2017. The two-day event was an initiative to facilitate investment, highlight strengths of the North-East Region (NER) and business opportunities which North-East has to offer. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh addressed the Summit on March 10.

802) India was ranked among the lowest on 'Women Business Ownership' index in March 2017. The survey was conducted by:

- a) BillDesk
- b) Visa
- c) MasterCard
- d) CCAvenue

India, which is yet to step up overall conditions conducive to the success of women entrepreneurs, has ranked among the lowest 'Women Business Ownership' index, a survey has revealed. "Women entrepreneurs have been carving out a niche for them across the globe, including India especially in niche and unconventional businesses. However, there is significant potential to harness the untapped potential of women's entrepreneurship in India", said MasterCard Index of Women Entrepreneurs. (March 7, 2017)

803) Which of the following hosted the 'Destination North East-2017' on March 6-8, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Chandigarh

A 3-day festival 'Destination North East-2017' was organised in Chandigarh on March 6-8, 2017. The festival was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

804) Who among the following social activists is the author of 'Foot Soldier of the Constitution: A Memoir' released recently?

- a) Anna Hazare
- b) Teesta Setalvad
- c) Ila Bhatt
- d) Binayak Sen

805) 'The Man Who Became Khali' has been co-authored by Dalip Singh Rana and:

- a) Suhel Seth
- b) Vinit K. Bansal
- c) Harsh Mander
- d) Sushant Singh

806) Who among the following has authored 'India's Railway Man: A Biography of E. Sreedharan' released recently?

- a) Asok Kumar Ray
- b) Gorky Chakraborty
- c) Rajendra B. Aklekar
- d) Shantanu Guha Ray

807) Who among the following Congress leaders is the author of the book Courage and Commitment released recently?

- a) Kumari Selja
- b) Ambika Soni
- c) Margaret Alva
- d) Shashi Tharoor
- e) Jayanthi Natarajan

Recent books: India's Railway Man: A Biography of E. Sreedharan by Rajendra B. Aklekar; The Target by Shantanu Guha Ray and Suhel Seth; Pages from My Life by Subhash Sethi; Mission Overseas: Daring Operations by the Indian Military by Sushant Singh; Foot Soldier of the Constitution: A Memoir Teesta Setalvad; Fatal Accidents of Birth: Stories of Suffering Oppression & Resistance by Harsh Mander; Courage and Commitment by Margaret Alva; The Look East Policy and the Northeast India Gorky Chakraborty, Asok Kumar Ray; The Secret Diary of Kasturba by Neelima Dalmia Adhar; The Man Who Became Khali by Dalip Singh Rana (with Vinit K. Bansal)

808) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of Central Water Commission (CWC) in March 2017?

- a) Uma Tuli
- b) Gopal Sinha
- c) Pranay Singh
- d) Narendra Kumar

Narendra Kumar, a Central Water Engineering Service (1979 batch) officer, is the new Central Water Commission (CWC) chairman. He assumed the charge of the post up on superannuation of GS Jha on March 10, 2017.

809) World's heaviest woman Eman Ahmed was in news for undergoing surgery for obesity in Mumbai in March 2017. She is a native of:

- a) Iran
- b) Egypt
- c) Turkey
- d) Tunisia

Egypt's Eman Ahmed, the world's heaviest woman with a weight of 500 kg, has undergone a surgery in Mumbai. A team of doctors at Saifee hospital performed a laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy on 36-year-old Eman on March 7, 2017.

810) Former Lok Sabha member Syed Shahabuddin died in Noida on March 4, 2017 at the age of 82. He had served in which of the following before joining politics?

- a) Indian Police Service
- b) Indian Forest Service
- c) Indian Foreign Service
- d) Indian Engineering Service

Former three-time MP and diplomat Syed Shahabuddin died in Noida on March 4, 2017. He was 82. Shahabuddin, born in Ranchi in 1935, had joined Indian Foreign Service in 1958 and served as a Vice Consul and Consul in New York from 1959-61. Shahabuddin was enrolled as an advocate in the Patna High Court and the Supreme Court. He was a Rajya Sabha member from Bihar during 1979-84 and a Lok Sabha member (Kishanganj) from 1985-89 and 1991-96.

811) Arvind Padmanabhan died in New Delhi on March 8, 2017 at the age of 49. He was well-known as:

- a) Diplomat
- b) Economist
- c) Journalist
- d) Civil Servant

Veteran journalist Arvind Padmanabhan, an Executive Editor at IANS, died in New Delhi on March 8, 2017 at the age of 49. Padmanabhan had a long inning at IANS, joining the India Abroad newspaper that was then part of the wire service in 1999 as in-charge of its Business Section. He steadily took on greater responsibilities in the news agency, first assuming charge of the Business Bureau of the wire service and subsequently rising to become, first, the Business Editor of IANS and then the Bureau Chief. He was soon elevated as the Executive Editor and headed the business and economy team. He was earlier with the PTI, The Times of India and TV18.

812) Rabi Ray died in Cuttack on March 6, 2017 at the age of 90. He served as the Speaker of Lok Sabha in:

- a) 1996-99
- b) 1992-95
- c) 1989-91
- d) 1986-88

813) Rabi Ray died in Cuttack on March 6, 2017 at the age of 90. He served as Union Minister in the Cabinet of who among the following Prime Ministers?

- a) Morarji Desai
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- d) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Noted socialist leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Rabi Ray died in Cuttack on March 6, 2017 at the age of 90. In 1967, he was elected to the 4th Lok Sabha from Puri constituency in Orissa as candidate of the Samyukta Socialist Party (SSP). In 1974, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Orissa and he completed his term in Rajya Sabha in 1980. He was the Union minister of health and family welfare in Morarji Desai Ministry from January 1979 to January 1980. In 1989, he was re-elected to the 9th Lok Sabha from the Kendrapara constituency in Orissa as a Janata Dal candidate. In December 1989, he was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 9th Lok Sabha and served in the post till July 1991. In 1991, he was re-elected to the 10th Lok Sabha again from Kendrapara. Since 1997, he was associated with a non-political organization, the Lok Shakti Abhiyan.

814) Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar went on a four-day visit to United States in March 2017. Which of the following persons he a) met is not matched correctly?

- a) Wilbur Ross: Secretary of Treasury
- b) Rex W. Tillerson: Secretary of State
- c) John F. Kelly: Secretary of Homeland Security
- d) Paul Ryan: House of Representatives Speaker

Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson in Washington D.C. during his four-day visit in March 2017. Various bilateral issues, including terrorism, Asia-Pacific and Afghanistan, were discussed in the meeting. The Foreign Secretary also held meetings with a number of senior U.S. administration officials including Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly, National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, House speaker Paul Ryan along with meetings with senior member of the Congress.

815) Mswati-III, who came on an official visit to India in March 2017, is the monarch of which of the following?

- a) Lesotho
- b) Namibia

- c) Swaziland
- d) Botswana

India President Pranab Mukherjee on March 10, 2017 called upon the King of Swaziland Mswati-III to promote Indian investments in areas of interest of his country. The President received King Mswati-III of Swaziland at Rashtrapati Bhavan and hosted a lunch in his honour.

816) _____ National Oil Company of UAE has signed an agreement to fill up crude oil at Mangalore facility of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL).

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Abu Dhabi

Union Cabinet on March 6, 2017 approved the signing of the Definitive Agreement on Oil Storage and Management between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE. According to the Agreement, the ADNOC will fill up 0.81 MMT of crude oil at ISPRL storage facility at Mangalore, Karnataka.

817) Which ASEAN country expelled the ambassador of North Korea in March 2017?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Singapore
- e) Thailand

Malaysia said on March 4, 2017 that it would expel the North Korean ambassador in a deepening diplomatic row over the assassination of the half-brother of Pyongyang's leader at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. "The ambassador has been declared persona non grata," Malaysia's foreign ministry said in a statement, adding it had demanded but not received an apology over Pyongyang's attack on its investigation of the case. Kim Jong-Nam, 45, was poisoned in February 2017 with VX, a nerve agent so deadly that it is classed as a weapon of mass destruction.

818) Which of the following said in March 2017 that it has entered into a long-term partnership agreement with Volkswagen Group and Skoda for joint development of products?

- a) Force Motors
- b) Ashok Leyland
- c) Tata Motors
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Tata Motors on March 10, 2017 said it has entered into a long-term partnership agreement with Volkswagen Group and Skoda for joint development of products with the first rollout expected in 2019. The agreement was signed by Guenter Butschek, CEO & MD of Tata Motors, Matthias Muller, CEO of Volkswagen AG, and Bernhard Maier, CEO of Skoda Auto, Tata Motors.

819) Which of the following has lowest bribery rate in the Asia Pacific according to a survey released by Transparency International in March 2017? India has the highest rate according to the survey.

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Vietnam
- d) Sri Lanka

India has got the dubious distinction of having the highest bribery rate in the Asia Pacific, with a survey conducted by international anti-graft rights group Transparency International revealed on March 7, 2017 that more than two-thirds of Indians had to pay 'tea money' or fork out other forms of bribe to get public services. The survey found 69 per cent in India as saying they had to pay a bribe, followed by 65 per cent in Vietnam. China was much lower at 26 per cent while the same for Pakistan was 40 per cent. Japan had the lowest incidence of bribery -- at 0.2 per cent. South Korea also fared well at a mere 3 per cent.

820) Which of the following was chosen as the new sponsor for the Indian cricket team by the BCCI in March 2017?

- a) Oppo
- b) Xiaomi
- c) Vivo
- d) LG

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on March 7, 2017 named OPPO Mobiles India Private Limited as the new team sponsor for the national team. OPPO's association with BCCI will start from April 2017 for a period of five years. OPPO takes the place of Star India, whose contract runs till March 31.

821) . Which of the following has launched "Peace in the home" programme to curb domestic violence in member countries?

- a) Commonwealth
- b) G77
- c) IBSA
- d) BRICS

The Commonwealth launched an initiative on March 8, 2017 to help member states tackle domestic violence. The "Peace in the home" programme will include toolkits to help governments across the Commonwealth share details of initiatives that had been particularly successful at dealing with domestic violence. "The Commonwealth initiative will build a coalition of governments, businesses, human rights institutions, civil society and individual citizens to choral our efforts to address domestic violence," Baroness Patricia Scotland, who took over as Commonwealth Secretary General in 2016, said.

822) Which of the following hosted the Annual Devolution Conference organised from March 6 to 9, 2017?

- a) London
- b) Nairobi
- c) Ottawa
- d) Canberra

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal represented India in the 4th Annual Devolution Conference organised in Nakuru County, Kenya from March 6 to 9, 2017. The objective of the conference also includes sharing the good experience of devolution system and how it can be used to increase good governance and public accountability for social and economic development internationally. The theme of the 2017 Conference is "Devolution – Transforming Lives: Tell Your Story!"

823) Which of the following was observed on March 9, 2017?

- a) World Liver Day
- b) World Polio Day
- c) World Kidney Day
- d) World Heart Day

World Kidney Day was observed on March 9, 2017. World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the Brussels-based International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF), headquartered in the Netherlands. This year's World Kidney Day theme, "Kidney Disease and Obesity," aims to remind the public how diabetes and high blood pressure are critical risk factors for CKD.

824) Which continent was hit by Cyclone Enawo in March 2017?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) North America

Cyclone Enawo made landfall in the northeast of Madagascar on March 7, 2017 killing at least three people. The storm was expected to move south through the island nation for several days, affecting the capital of Antananarivo.

825) The United States started deploying THAAD anti-ballistic missile defence system on the Korean peninsula to counter threats from North Korea. THAAD stands for _____ High Altitude Area Defence.

- a) Theatre
- b) Tactical
- c) Terminal
- d) Tertiary

The United States has started to deploy the first elements of its advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system at the Osan Air Base in South Korea. THAAD is designed to protect against threats from North Korea. It's designed to shoot down incoming missiles that threaten civilian populations. (March, 2017)

826) Which SAARC nation observed "National Jute Day" on March 6, 2017?

- a) Nepal
- b) India
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bangladesh

As part of its continued efforts to revive the golden era of jute, the Bangladeshi government on March 6, 2017 observed "National Jute Day" for the first time in the country.

827) Who among the following was re-elected as the President of the European Council in Brussels in March 2017?

- a) Donald Tusk
- b) José Manuel Barroso
- c) Mario Draghi
- d) Jean-Claude Juncker

European Union leaders confirmed Donald Tusk of Poland for a second term as Council President on March 10, 2017. Twenty-seven EU leaders voted at a summit in Brussels to give Tusk a new 2.5 year mandate with only Poland voting against.

828) Which country's Constitutional Court upheld impeachment of President Park Geun-hye by the Parliament in March 2017?

- a) Laos
- b) Taiwan
- c) Vietnam
- d) South Korea

South Korea's Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye on March 10, 2017, removing her from office over a graft scandal involving big business.

829) George A. Olah died in USA on March 8, 2017 at the age of 89. He won Nobel Prize in which of the following in 1994?

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry

George A. Olah, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1994, died at age of 89 in Los Angeles on March 8, 2017.

830) Thomas Starzl died on March 5, 2017 at the age of 90. He is known for performing world's first successful transplant of which of the following in 1967?

- a) Lungs
- b) Heart
- c) Kidney
- d) Liver

USA's Thomas Starzl, the man who performed the world's first liver transplant died on March 5, 2017 at the age of 90. He carried out the first successful transplant in 1967. Since then, thousands of lives have been saved by the procedure.

831) Who among the following is the former President of Haiti who died at 74 in March 2017?

- a) Rene Preval
- b) Garry Conille
- c) Robert Harting
- d) Bernard Gousse

Rene Preval, the only democratically elected president of Haiti to win and complete two terms, died at age 74 in Port-at-Prince on March 4, 2017.

832) Who among the following was selected for the Saraswati Samman for 'Hawthan' in March 2017?

- a) Jagdish Pawar
- b) Mahabaleshwar Sail
- c) Krishna Goswami
- d) Harishankar Naik

833) 'Hawthan' is an award winning novel in which language?

- a) Manipuri
- b) Konkani
- c) Maithili
- d) Santhali

Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel 'Hawthan'. (March 9, 2017)

834) The Seema Nazareth Award for Excellence in Print Journalism, conferred on Alnoor Peermohamed in March 2017, is given by which of the following business dailies?

- a) Livemint
- b) Businessline
- c) Economic Times
- d) Business Standard

Prakash Javadekar, the Union minister of Ministry Human Resources Development, on March 6, 2017 presented the Business Standard-Seema Nazareth Award for Excellence in Print Journalism 2016 to Principal Correspondent Alnoor Peermohamed in New Delhi. Peermohammed is 17th recipient of the award, instituted by Business Standard and the Nazareth family in memory of Seema Nazareth, a young Business Standard journalist who died in March 1999.

835) Who among the following actresses won the Harvard Foundation 2017 Artist of the Year Award in March 2017?

- a) Viola Davis
- b) Meryl Streep
- c) Emma Stone
- d) Natalie Portman

'Fences' actress Viola Davis won the Harvard Foundation 2017 Artist of the Year Award on March 11, 2017.

836) Ethiopia's Fikadu Kebebe Debele (2:09:37) and Alemu Worknesch (2:30:04) won Men's and Women's races at _____ International Marathon on March 6, 2017.

- a) Rabat
- b) Algiers
- c) Cancun
- d) Marrakesh

Ethiopia's Fikadu Kebebe Debele (2:09:37) and Alemu Worknesch (2:30:04) won Men's and Women's races at Rabat International Marathon in Morocco on March 6, 2017.

- 837)** Who among the following won the Best Actress award at International Film Festival & Awards of Australia in March 2017?
- a) Priyanka Chopra
 - b) Radhika Apte
 - c) Vidya Balan
 - d) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who played the character of Sarbjit Singh's sister Dalbir Kaur in the film 'Sarbjit', won the Best Actress award at the International Film Festival and Awards of Australia (IFFAA). (March 9, 2017)

- 838)** Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) cannot lend more than _____ in cash against gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on March 9, 2017.
- a) Rs 25,000
 - b) Rs 50,000
 - c) Rs 75,000
 - d) Rs 100,000

Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) cannot lend more than Rs 25,000 in cash against gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on March 9, 2017. The earlier provision for NBFC was that high value loans against gold of Rs 1 lakh and above must only be disbursed by cheque. RBI reduced the amount to Rs 25,000 from the earlier Rs 1 lakh in line with the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

- 839)** Which of the following launched 'Work from Home' policy for its employees in March 2017?
- a) Punjab National Bank
 - b) Canara Bank
 - c) Central Bank of India
 - d) State Bank of India

State Bank of India on March 7, 2017 launched a new facility to enable its employees to work from home. On obtaining prior permission, employees have been given the opportunity to work from their home, in case of any emergency. The Board of the bank has recently approved the 'Work from Home' policy to enable its employees to work while at home using mobile devices to address any urgent requirement they may have, that prevents their travelling to work. SBI will be using mobile computing technologies and shall have continuous control over all the enabled devices centrally to manage and secure the data and applications on the mobile devices. Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya however, stated that only a few tasks can be performed from home, owing to security reasons.

- 840)** Which of the following has signed an agreement with German KfW Development Bank for USD 274 million (Rs 1,800 crore) loan facility to finance affordable housing segment in the country?
- a) Punjab National Bank
 - b) Canara Bank
 - c) Central Bank of India
 - d) State Bank of India

Country's largest lender State Bank of India on March 10, 2017 said it has signed an agreement with German KfW Development Bank for USD 274 million (Rs 1,800 crore) loan facility to finance affordable housing segment in the country.

- 841)** Who among the following was appointed as the new Deputy Governor at the Reserve Bank of India in March 2017?
- a) B. P. Kanungo
 - b) Bharat Narotam Doshi
 - c) Anjuly Chib Duggal
 - d) C. N. Jha

B P Kanungo was on March 10, 2017 appointed deputy governor in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years.

- 842)** The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect from March 6, 2017. Online filing of trade mark applications will be charged _____ lower fee than physical filings.

- a) 5%
- b) 10%
- c) 15%
- d) 20%

The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect from March 6, 2017. These Rules, which replace the erstwhile Trade Mark Rules 2002, will streamline and simplify the processing of Trade Mark applications. Number of Trade Mark (TM) Forms have been reduced from 74 to 8. To promote e-filing of TM applications, the fee for online filing has been kept at 10% lower than that for physical filing. The fees for Individuals, Start-ups and Small Enterprises have been reduced from that proposed in the draft Rules – i.e. only Rs 4,500 as against Rs 8,000 for e-filing of TM applications proposed at the draft stage.

843) Contributions to the Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK) by corporates are eligible for _____ deduction from the Income Tax payable by them.

- a) 60%
- b) 70%
- c) 80%
- d) 100%

Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa, who is also the Chairperson of the Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK), received a cheque of Rs 25 crores towards the SBK from P.V. Ramesh Babu, CMD of Rural Electric Corporation (REC) Limited as part of REC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on March 9, 2017. All donations towards SBK are eligible for deduction of 100% from the total Income Tax. The contributions to SBK can also be included by companies towards corporate social responsibility (CSR) under the Companies Act, 2013. Profitable companies have to shell out at least 2 per cent of their three-year annual average net profit toward the listed CSR activities.

844) Ministry of Railways signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for environmental conservation in March 2017. Who among the following is the Executive Director of UNEP?

- a) John Lyng
- b) Jan Petersen
- c) Erna Solberg
- d) Erik Solheim

Ministry of Railways on March 9, 2017 signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to formalise the joint cooperation in the area of environmental conservation. Erik Solheim, Executive Director UNEP (and Under Secretary General, UN) from Head office, Nairobi, Kenya was present on the occasion.

845) The government made Aadhaar mandatory for availing crop insurance policies recently. RWBCI stands for _____ Weather-based Crop Insurance.

- a) Reliable
- b) Rejuvenated
- c) Restructured
- d) Remodified

The government has made Aadhaar mandatory for availing crop insurance policies from the upcoming kharif sowing season. The Agriculture Ministry has issued a directive to rural financial institutes to comply with the new rule from the kharif (summer) season starting April 1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather-based Crop Insurance (RWBCI) provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of crop. Under these schemes, premium to be paid by farmers are fixed lower. (March 9, 2017)

846) Which of the following hosted the Meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers on March 9-10, 2017?

- a) London
- b) Nairobi
- c) Ottawa
- d) Canberra

847) Which of the following will host Trade Summit for SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) in Commonwealth in May 2017?

- a) London
- b) Nairobi
- c) Ottawa
- d) New Delhi

A Meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers was organised in London on March 9-10, 2017. Ministers from across the bloc committed to boosting intra-Commonwealth trade in the face of the growing clamour for protectionism globally. The meeting involved round-table discussions that brought businesses and politicians from around 35 Commonwealth member states together in what was the first meeting of trade ministers from the Commonwealth in the past 12 years. Baroness Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, said that the opportunity to advance trade was huge. India, meanwhile, announced a summit on trade amongst Commonwealth SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) in May. The meeting, an initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and India's Ministry of Commerce, will take place in New Delhi.

848) . Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the only Indian in latest Hurun Global Self-Made Women Billionaires List. She is the owner of which of the following companies?

- a) Cipla
- b) Biocon
- c) Shantha Biotech
- d) Bharat Biotech

With a net worth of \$1.9 billion, Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the sole Indian in the self-made women billionaires across the globe and ranks at 36th position out of a total 88, according to the latest Hurun Global Self-Made Women Billionaires List. Only 12 countries managed to produce self-made women billionaires. Chen Lihua, 76, of FuWah, is the most successful businesswoman in the world and tops this list with a net worth of \$7.2 billion. (March 8, 2017)

849) Which of the following installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant in Kerala in March 2017?

- a) JSW Energy
- b) NTPC
- c) Torrent Power
- d) Reliance Power

State-run NTPC on March 10, 2017 said it has installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) at Kayamkulam in Kerala. Such systems are fast emerging as an alternative to conventional ground mounted PV systems which are land intensive. It has various benefits like conserving water through reduction of evaporation, increased generation due to cooling effect on the panels, reduced installation time etc.

850) Which of the following is the new owner of Europe based automobile companies Opel and Vauxhall?

- a) Ford
- b) Volkswagen
- c) Peugeot
- d) Nissan

General Motors is selling its unprofitable European car business to the French maker of Peugeot, marking the American company's retreat from a major market. With the 2.2 billion euro (USD 2.33 billion) deal announced on March 6, 2017, GM is giving up brands Opel in Germany and Vauxhall in Britain.

851) Which of the following signed MoU with the University of Houston (UH) for augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its ageing oilfields in March 2017?

- a) Indian Oil
- b) Reliance Industries Ltd
- c) BPCL
- d) Oil India Ltd

Oil India Limited (OIL) has signed an MoU with the University of Houston (UH) for augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its ageing oilfields. The MoU was inked on March 7, 2017 in the presence of Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

852) India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) is an initiative of which American company and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST)?

- a) Boeing
- b) DuPont
- c) IBM
- d) Lockheed Martin

Tata Trusts has joined hands with Lockheed Martin and Department of Science and Technology (DST) for the second edition of India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) which focuses on providing support to startups in the country. Other partners of the programme includes Massachusetts institute of technology (MIT), IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Bombay. The revamped programme was rolled out on March 10, 2017 by Tata Trusts Chairman Ratan N Tata, DST Secretary Ashutosh Sharma and Lockheed Martin's George Standridge at the Festival of Innovation at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

853) Which of the following launched the second edition of its mobile application development challenge 'Appathon' in March 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) ICICI Bank

Country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank on March 9, 2017 launched the second edition of its mobile application development challenge. "Through 'ICICI Appathon' season II, we intend to collaborate with innovative technopreneurs. We believe that programmes like these will encourage young developers to create world class banking applications on mobile," its managing director and chief executive Chanda Kochhar said.

854) Which of the following was ranked first in the world in the Airports Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey in the 5-15 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category for 2016?

- a) Bengaluru International Airport
- b) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi
- c) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), Mumbai
- d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad

GMR's Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport has secured first position in the world in the prestigious Airports Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey in the 5-15 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category for the year 2016. (March 6, 2017)

855) Which of the following announced the launch of 'SMB Heroes', a nation-wide programme designed to recognise small and medium businesses (SMBs) that have embraced digital platform to grow their business, in March 2017?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft

Google India on March 8, 2017 announced the launch of 'SMB Heroes', a nation-wide programme designed to recognise small and medium businesses (SMBs) that have embraced digital platform to grow their business. SMBs contribute 37 per cent to India's GDP and employ 120 million people. Today, there are only 32 per cent of small businesses in India that have any sort of web presence.

856) Which of the following announced the launch of an electronic virtual assistant (EVA), an artificial intelligence-driven chatbot, for customer services in March 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Central Bank of India

d) State Bank of India

HDFC Bank on March 6, 2017 announced the launch of an electronic virtual assistant (EVA), an artificial intelligence-driven chatbot, for customer services. Eva is India's first AI-based banking chatbot and can answer millions of customer queries across multiple channels instantly, HDFC Bank said in a statement.

857) Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated ONGC Petro additions Ltd's (OPaL) Rs 30,000-crore plant to the nation in which state on March 7, 2017?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated ONGC Petro additions Ltd's (OPaL) Rs 30,000-crore plant to the nation at the Dahej Special Economic Zone at Dahej in Gujarat on March 7, 2017. OPaL is the single largest petrochemical plant in India that has a capacity to produce 14 lakh tonnes of polymers and 5 lakh tonnes of chemicals such as benzene annually. It is a joint venture company promoted by ONGC, GAIL, and GSPC with an investment of Rs 30,000 crore, an official statement by ONGC said.

858) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's longest (1344 m) Cable Bridge on which river in March 2017?

- a) Narmada
- b) Yamuna
- c) Ganga
- d) Brahmaputra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's longest (1344 m) Cable Bridge on the River Narmada at Bharuch in Gujarat on March 7, 2017.

859) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched a web-based platform called 'Pratibimba' showcasing his government's performance and achievements in March 2017?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) Vijay Rupani
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) Siddaramaiah

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on March 6, 2017 launched a comprehensive web-based platform showcasing the government's performance and achievements to the citizens. Developed as the Chief Minister's dash board, 'Pratibimba,' which means reflection, will serve as a tool to improve efficiency in governance and allow citizens to track government's progress. Karnataka is the second state in the country after Andhra Pradesh to have such a dash board, Siddaramaiah said after launching Pratibimba at the state secretariat in Bengaluru.

860) The President inaugurated the Centenary Celebrations of Women's Indian Association in which of the following on March 4, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Kochi

The President inaugurated the Centenary Celebrations of Women's Indian Association in Chennai on March 4, 2017.

861) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards for women were announced for who among the following recently?

- a) Social workers
- b) Journalists
- c) Teachers
- d) Weavers

Textiles Minister Smriti Irani on March 8, 2017 announced the launch of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards for women weavers and women artisans.

862) India's largest waste-to-energy plant was inaugurated at which of the following on March 10, 2017? The project will use 2,000 metric tonnes of waste every day to generate 24 mega watt of energy.

- a) Kolkata
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Mumbai

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation launched India's largest waste-to-energy plant at Narela-Bawana on March 10, 2017. Venkaiah Naidu, Union minister for urban development, inaugurated the project at the Civic Centre. The project will use 2,000 metric tonnes of waste every day to generate 24 mega watt of energy. The plant is expected to provide respite from overflowing landfill sites in Delhi as it will incinerate the waste to generate power. The power generated would be sold to distribution companies for a price fixed by electricity regulator.

863) Which of the following was the top ranked country in the latest FIFA rankings issued in March 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) Germany
- d) Argentina

The Indian football team slipped two places to be at 132nd in the latest FIFA rankings issued on March 9, 2017. Argentina leads the international rankings followed by Brazil, Germany, Chile and Belgium.

864) Which of the following lost 5-match Women's Hockey series with India in Bhopal in March 2017?

- a) Belarus
- b) Ukraine
- c) Russia
- d) Spain

Indian women dished out a disciplined performance to notch up a 3-1 win over a fighting Belarus to register their fifth consecutive victory to win the five-match Test series 5-0, in Bhopal on March 8, 2017.

865) . Which of the following won the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy organised in Qatar in March 2017?

- a) India
- b) Singapore
- c) Pakistan
- d) Philippines

The Indian men's Rugby team defeated Pakistan 14-12 to secure the 7th rank at the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy. The two-day championship was held on March 4-5, 2017, at Aspire Rugby Field in Doha, Qatar. Philippines won the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy

866) Which of the following pairs of states and the party that got the highest vote share in February-March Assembly elections is not matched correctly?

- a) Uttar Pradesh-BJP
- b) Uttarakhand-BJP
- c) Punjab-Congress
- d) Goa-Congress

- PUNJAB: **Vote shares:** Congress: 38.5%, AAP: 23.7%, SAD: 25.2%, BJP: 5.4%, LIP: 1.2%;
- UTTAR PRADESH: **Vote shares:** BJP: 39.7%, BSP: 22.2%, SP: 21.8%, Congress: 6.2%, Independent: 2.6%
- GOA: **Vote shares:** BJP: 32.5%, Congress: 28.4%, Maharashtratrawadi Gomantak Party: 11.3%, Independent: 11.1%, AAP: 6.3%
- UTTARAKHAND: **Vote Shares:** BJP: 46.5%, Congress: 33.5%, Independent: 10.0%, BSP: 7.0%

• MANIPUR: **Vote shares:** BJP: 36.3%, Congress: 35.1%, NPF: 7.2%, NPEP: 5.1%, Independents: 5.1%

867) How many out of the five states where elections were organised in February-March 2017 have a bicameral legislature?

- a) 0
- b) 1
- c) 2
- d) 3

Only Uttar Pradesh has both Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

868) Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He won from which constituency?

- a) Patti
- b) Patiala
- c) Phillaur
- d) Phagwara

869) Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Moga
- b) Lambi
- c) Majitha
- d) Raikot

870) Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He has become Chief Minister for the _____ time.

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

871) Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He lost from which constituency?

- a) Moga
- b) Lambi
- c) Majitha
- d) Raikot

The Congress party made a resounding comeback in Punjab after a gap of a decade, with 77 seats in the 117-member Assembly. **Seats** (117): Congress: 77, Aam Aadmi Party: 20, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD): 15, BJP: 3, Lok Insaaf Party: 2
Vote shares: Congress: 38.5%, AAP: 23.7%, SAD: 25.2%, BJP: 5.4%, LIP: 1.2%

Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore at the Punjab Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh. He had won from Patiala Urban but lost from Lambi constituency to Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. This is the second time that Amarinder, 75, has become Chief Minister of the state. He earlier held the office from 2002 to 2007. He was Member of Lok Sabha from Amritsar from 2014 to November 2016.

872) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Aligarh
- b) Lucknow West
- c) Govind Nagar
- d) None of the above

873) Consider the following political parties.

- I. Rashtriya Lok Dal
- II. Apna Dal (Soneylal)
- III. Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party

IV. Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal

Which of the above was an alliance partner of BJP in February-March 2017 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only
- c) III and IV only
- d) IV and I only

Results of the Assembly elections in five states were announced by the Election Commission on March 11, 2017. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP bagged 312 seats on its own and with allies Apna Dal (Soneylal Patel) and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) their strength goes up to 325 in a House of 403. **Seats** (403): BJP: 312, BSP: 19, SP: 47, Congress: 7, Rashtriya Lok Dal: 1, Apna Dal (Soneylal): 9, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal: 1, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party: 4, Independent: 3 **Vote shares**: BJP: 39.7%, BSP: 22.2%, SP: 21.8%, Congress: 6.2%, Independent: 2.6%. Outgoing Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav is a member of Legislative Council. He did not contest Assembly polls.

874) Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Ponda
- b) Siroda
- c) Bicholim
- d) None of the above

875) Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar was sworn-in as the chief minister of Goa on March 14. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha from which state in 2014?

- a) Goa
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Uttar Pradesh

The Congress emerged as the single largest party in Goa, relegating the BJP to the second position in Assembly polls which threw up a hung house with both parties hoping to form the new government. The Congress won 17 seats in the 40-member house, while the BJP bagged 13. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and the independents won three seats each, while the NCP bagged one. In the last polls, the BJP had won 21 seats and the Congress nine. Chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar lost from Mandrem constituency by over 7,000 votes. **Seats (40)**: BJP: 13, Congress: 17, NCP: 1, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party: 3, Goa Forward Party: 3, Independent: 3 **Vote shares**: BJP: 32.5%, Congress: 28.4%, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party: 11.3%, Independent: 11.1%, AAP: 6.3%

The Manohar Parrikar government on March 16, 2017 proved its majority on the floor of the Goa Assembly by winning the trust vote with the support of 22 legislators in the 40-member house in Panaji. Parrikar, who resigned as Defence Minister from the central cabinet, was sworn-in as the chief minister along with nine other MLAs by Governor Mridula Sinha on March 14. Parrikar was elected to Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in November 2014.

876) Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Kichha
- b) Gadarpur
- c) Rudrapur
- d) None of the above

In the results announced on March 11, 2017, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won with a clear majority in the state with 57 seats in a 70-member Uttarakhand assembly, ousting the Congress led by chief minister Harish Rawat. The Congress bagged 11 seats with the other parties at two. Rawat lost from both the Haridwar (Rural) and Kichcha seats. **Seats (70)**: BJP: 56, Congress: 11, Independent: 2 **Vote Shares**: BJP: 46.5%, Congress: 33.5%, Independent: 10.0%, BSP: 7.0%

877) Which of the following pairs of states and the party that won the most number of seats in February-March Assembly elections is not matched correctly?

- a) Manipur-Congress
- b) Uttar Pradesh-BJP
- c) Uttarakhand-BJP
- d) Goa-BJP

- PUNJAB: **Seats** (117): Congress: 77, Aam Aadmi Party: 20, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD): 15, BJP: 3, Lok Insaaf Party: 2
- UTTAR PRADESH: **Seats** (403): BJP: 312, BSP: 19, SP: 47, Congress: 7, Rashtriya Lok Dal: 1, Apna Dal (Soneylal): 9, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal: 1, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party: 4, Independent: 3
- GOA: **Seats (40)**: BJP: 13, Congress: 17, NCP: 1, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party: 3, Goa Forward Party: 3, Independent: 3
- UTTARAKHAND: **Seats** (70): BJP: 56, Congress: 11, Independent: 2
- MANIPUR: **Seats (60)**: BJP: 21, Congress: 28, Naga Peoples Front (NPF): 4, National People's Party (NPEP): 4, Trinamool Congress: 1, Lok Janshakti Party: 1, Independent: 1

878) Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Wangoi
- b) Nambol
- c) Oinam
- d) Thoubal

879) Who among the following was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Manipur on March 15, 2017?

- a) Oinam Lukhoi Singh
- b) Nongthombam Biren Singh
- c) Thokchom Satyabrata Singh
- d) Kshetrigao Nahakpam Indrajit Singh

Neither the Congress nor the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) reached the 31-seat mark needed to establish a majority in the 60-member Manipur Assembly, in the results announced on March 11, 2017. While the Congress has won in 28 constituencies, the BJP secured a victory in 21. Chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh won from Thoubal constituency.

Seats (60): BJP: 21, Congress: 28, Naga Peoples Front (NPF): 4, National People's Party (NPEP): 4, Trinamool Congress: 1, Lok Janshakti Party: 1, Independent: 1 **Vote shares**: BJP: 36.3%, Congress: 35.1%, NPF: 7.2%, NPEP: 5.1%, Independents: 5.1%

Nongthombam Biren Singh, who had won from Heingang constituency, was on March 15, 2017 sworn in as the Chief Minister of the first-ever BJP-led government in the state. Governor Najma Heptulla administered the oath of office and secrecy to Singh at a function in Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

880) . The share of NOTA (None of the Above) in votes polled was the highest (1.2%) in which state in February-March Assembly elections?

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

881) . The share of NOTA (None of the Above) in votes polled was the lowest (0.5%) in which state in February-March Assembly elections?

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

Goa has come up on top when it comes to voters hitting the NOTA button in the assembly polls held in five states in February-March 2017, closely followed by Uttarakhand. In Goa, 1.2 per cent of the voters chose NOTA (None of the Above), followed by 1 per cent in Uttarakhand. In Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP swept the election, the percentage of voters who opted for NOTA was 0.9 per cent. The figure stood at 0.7 per cent in Punjab while around 0.5 per cent of the people who exercised their voting right in Manipur chose NOTA.

882) Which constituency saw the highest victory margin of 1,50,685 votes in the Assembly polls held in five states in February-March 2017?

- a) Ghaziabad
- b) Muradnagar
- c) Sahibabad
- d) Hapur

883) Which constituency saw the lowest victory margin of 19 votes in the Assembly polls held in five states in February-March 2017?

- a) Uripok
- b) Sagolband
- c) Langthabal
- d) Konthoujam

Uttar Pradesh's Sahibabad assembly seat saw the winner with highest victory margin of 1,50,685 votes, while the winning candidate at Manipur's Sagolband seat scraped through with a small margin of 19 votes -- lowest in all 689 seats in five states that went to polls. In Sahibabad, BJP's Sunil Kumar Sharma with 2,62,741 defeated Congress's Amarpal, who polled 1,12,056 votes. In Sagolband, Indian National Congress's candidate Rajkumar Imo Singh, who polled 9,211 votes, defeated BJP's Khwairakpam Loken Singh, who bagged 9,192 votes.

884) The National Health Policy, 2017 envisions increasing life expectancy to:

- a) 69 years
- b) 70 years
- c) 71 years
- d) 72 years

885) The National Health Policy, 2017 aims at reduction of fertility rate to ____ by 2025.

- a) 1.7
- b) 1.9
- c) 2.1
- d) 2.3

886) The National Health Policy, 2017 has proposed to increase public health expenditure on health services to ____ of the GDP.

- a) 2.5%
- b) 3%
- c) 3.5%
- d) 4%

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 15, 2017 approved the National Health Policy, 2017 (NHP, 2017).
- The Policy aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.
- The Policy envisions increasing life expectancy to 70 years from 67.5 years and proposes free diagnostics and drugs at all public hospitals.
- The policy aims at reducing Under-Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and Maternal Mortality Rate to 100 by 2020.
- It targets at reducing infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019 and neo-natal mortality to 16 and still-birth rate to single digit by 2025.
- The policy also proposes reduction of fertility rate to 2.1 by 2025.
- The policy proposes to increase public health expenditure on health services to 2.5 per cent of the GDP in a time-bound manner from 2 per cent of the GDP as at present.
- The policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and proposes establishment of National Digital Health Authority (NDHA) to regulate, develop and deploy digital health across the continuum of care.

887) The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 was passed by Parliament in March 2017. The government had introduced the amendment bill in response made by heirs of Raja Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan on properties in which state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during partition will have no claim over the properties left behind in India, with Parliament on March 14, 2017 passing a bill to amend a 49-year-old law. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968, was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha, incorporating the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha recently. The government brought the amendment bill in the wake of a claim laid by the heirs of Raja Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan, known as Raja of Mahmudabad, on his properties spread across Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The matter is before the Supreme Court.

888) Which of the following was the event organised by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi on March 6-8, 2017?

- a) Asian Security Conference
- b) BRICS Security Conference
- c) Global Security Conference
- d) SAARC Security Conference

The 19th Asian Security Conference of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) was organised in New Delhi on March 6-8, 2017 on the subject 'Combating Terrorism: Evolving an Asian Response'. The Conference featured an impressive and wide array of speakers from India and fourteen foreign countries.

889) Which of the following was the Partner Country in the Smart Cities Summit was organised in New Delhi from March 16 to 18, 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) France
- d) Sweden

The fourth edition of the Smart Cities Summit was organised in New Delhi from March 16 to 18, 2017. China is the country partner at the summit. Over 1,500 global and national policymakers, financiers and technologists, along with over 25 city and state representatives, participated at the 4th Smart Urbanation: Convention and Expo. The three-day summit was organised by ASAPP Info Global Group and the India-China Economic and Cultural Council in partnership with the Smart Cities Council India.

890) Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Lok Sabha on March 14, 2017. The Bill seeks to amend the Inter State Water Dispute Act, _____.

- a) 1946
- b) 1956
- c) 1966
- d) 1976

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti introduced Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Lok Sabha on March 14, 2017. The Bill proposes a Single Standing Tribunal (with multiple benches) instead of existing practice of setting up multiple tribunals. Introducing the Bill the Minister called it a "Revolutionary step" towards the resolution of Inter- State River Water Disputes. Under the Inter State Water Dispute Act, 1956 which provides the legal framework to address such disputes, a separate Tribunal has to be established for each Inter State River Water Dispute.

891) What was the range of BrahMos Extended Range (BrahMos-ER) missile test-fired successfully on March 10, 2017?

- a) 300 km
- b) 350 km

- c) 400 km
- d) 450 km

India on March 10, 2017 successfully test-fired the BrahMos missile with an extended range of 450 km. The enhanced version of the supersonic cruise missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range off the Odisha coast from the Mobile Autonomous Launcher (MAL). "In a historical first, the formidable missile system once again proved its mettle to precisely hit enemy targets at much higher range than the current range of 290 km, with supersonic speed of 2.8 Mach," said the statement from BrahMos Aerospace. "With the successful test firing of BrahMos Extended Range missile - BrahMos-ER, the Indian Armed Forces will be empowered to knock down enemy targets far beyond 400 km. BrahMos has thus proved its prowess once again as the best supersonic cruise missile system in the world," BrahMos Aerospace CEO Sudhir Mishra said from the launch site.

892) The 32nd Inception Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was celebrated on March 11, 2017. CCTNS is _____ Tracking Network and Systems:

- a) Crime Control
- b) Central Criminal
- c) Crime and Criminal
- d) Criminal and Control

893) ICJS is _____ Criminal Justice System.

- a) Indian
- b) Intelligent
- c) Indigenous
- d) Interoperable

Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Archana Ramasundaram was the Chief Guest at the 32nd Inception Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which was celebrated in New Delhi on March 11, 2017. On the occasion, Ramasundaram acknowledged the progress made in CCTNS and expected NCRB to provide the platform for better Police services through CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) and upcoming Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).

894) Which among the following Congress leaders was selected as the new Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament in March 2017?

- a) Anand Sharma
- b) P. Chidambaram
- c) Mallikarjun Kharge
- d) Shashi Tharoor

895) The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament can have a maximum of _____ Members.

- a) 11
- b) 22
- c) 33
- d) 44

896) Consider the following statements on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.

- I. A Minister cannot be appointed as Member
 - II. Its Chairman comes from the second largest party in Parliament
 - III. It has equal number of members from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha
- a) I and II only
 - b) II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III only

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge has been nominated as the new chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament. Kharge, who filed the nomination papers on March 14, 2017, will succeed his party colleague K.V. Thomas who is completing three terms in the post. The senior Congress leader will take charge from May 1.

The PAC is formed every year consisting of 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha). None of the member of the committee hold any minister post. The post is always given to the member of a political party which has second largest presence after the ruling party in the Parliament.

PAC's primary role is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament. The CAG assists the committee during the course of investigation.

897) Who among the following assumed charge as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) in March 2017?

- a) Vasantbhai Ahir
- b) Tarachand Chheda
- c) Manhar Valjibhai Zala
- d) Manilal Jethabhai Vaghela

Former BJP legislator from Gujarat, Manhar Valjibhai Zala, on March 16, 2017 assumed charge as the chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), which was headless for almost a year. Two other members, Manju Diler from Uttar Pradesh and Dilip Kallu Haathived from Maharashtra, also took charge as members of the NCSK. The NCSK, established in 1994 to deal with the grievances of persons engaged in manual scavenging, has a sanctioned strength of four members and a chairperson.

898) Actor Akshay Kumar has donated Rs 9 lakh each to the families of 12 martyrs of which paramilitary force in March 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Actor Akshay Kumar has donated Rs 9 lakh each to the families of the 12 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were killed in a Naxal ambush in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on March 11.

899) Which of the following is the manufacturer of the Su-30MKI fighter jets of the Indian Air Force?

- a) Airbus Industrie
- b) United Aircraft Corporation
- c) BAE Systems
- d) Boeing Corporation

India and Russia on March 17, 2017 signed two key agreements for long-term maintenance and technical support for Russian-made Su-30MKI fighter jets of the Indian Air Force. Currently, the IAF operates around 230 Su-30MKI fighter jets and according to the agreements, Russian defence majors United Aircraft Corporation and the United Engine Corporation will render technical support and provide maintenance services and spares for the fleet for a period of five years. Along with the work on the programs of licensed production, repair and upgrade of Su and MiG planes, the United Aircraft-Building Corporation is carrying out work jointly with HAL on jointly developing the FGFA (Fifth- Generation Fighting Aircraft).

900) Which of the following will be hosted by Vladivostok in September 2017?

- a) BRICS Economic Forum
- b) Eastern Economic Forum
- c) Eurasian Economic Forum
- da) European Economic Forum

901) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the ____ International Economic Forum in June 2017 in Russia.

- a) St. Petersburg
- b) Volgograd
- c) Samara
- d) Moscow

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev on March 17, 2017 held discussions with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on ways to boost economic cooperation including in the energy and diamond processing sectors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to travel to Russia on June 1, 2017 to attend St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). He will also be holding a bilateral Summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Swaraj also thanked Trutnev for inviting India for participation in the Third Eastern Economic Forum to be held in Vladivostok in September 2017.

902) Which of the following hosted the India Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) with Russia as the Partner Country in March 2016?

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

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Russian Trade and Industry Minister Denis Manturov held a bilateral meeting in Chennai on March 16, 2017 before inauguration of the India Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) with Russia as the Partner Country in the flagship annual event of EEPC (Engineering Export Promotion Council) India.

903) A Meeting of Health Ministers from WHO SEARO (South-East Asia Region) was held in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017. The focus was on elimination of which of the following?

- a) Leprosy
- b) Measles
- c) Filariasis
- d) Tuberculosis

The Health Ministers from WHO SEARO (South-East Asia Region) took part in the two-day ministerial meeting towards ending Tuberculosis in the region in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017. Member nations signed a 'Call for Action' for ending TB by 2030. WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

904) Which of the following organised the meeting on "Strengthening Railway Transport Connectivity in South and South West Asia" in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) ECOSOC
- c) UNESCAP
- d) UNWTO

A two day meeting on "Strengthening Railway Transport Connectivity in South and South West Asia" was organised by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in coordination with Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and Ministry of Railways, Government of India in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017.

905) . A 140-member squad of which paramilitary force was flagged off for rendering United Nations (UN) mandated security duties in the Caribbean island of Haiti on March 17, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

A 140-member squad of paramilitary Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was on March 17, 2017 flagged off for rendering United Nations (UN) mandated security duties in the Caribbean island of Haiti. The contingent will render civil police duties and assist local police under the umbrella of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

906) . A Festival of India in which European country is being held from March to October, 2017?

- a) Belarus
- b) Ukraine
- c) Georgia
- d) Moldova

A Festival of India is being organized in Ukraine from March to October, 2017. The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music, Rangoli Exhibition, Mango and Film Festivals, Seminars on Yoga and Think Tank and Fashion Week in different cities of Ukraine, namely, Kyiv, Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Lviv, Ivano Frankivsk, Poltava and Ternopil.

907) Which state in the US has decided to observe March 16 as 'Indian American Appreciation Day'?

- a) Iowa
- b) Kansas
- c) Indiana
- d) Louisiana

The US state of Kansas has recognised March 16 as 'Indian American Appreciation Day' to honour an Indian techie who was killed in February in a racially-motivated hate crime. Srinivas Kuchibhotla, 32, was killed when 51-year-old US Navy veteran Adam Purinton opened fire at him and his friend Alok Madasani at a bar in Olathe on February 22, 2017.

908) Which state in the US has declared April as Sikh Awareness & Appreciation Month?

- a) Connecticut
- b) Colorado
- c) Delaware
- d) Florida

Delaware State Assembly has passed a resolution to proclaim April as 'Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month', amidst increasing hate crime incidents against Indian-Americans particularly the Sikhs in the US. A resolution in this regard was passed unanimously by both the chambers of the State Assembly - the Senate and the House of Representatives in Dover on March 17, 2017.

909) Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, who came on an official visit to India in March 2017, is the head of court in which of the following?

- a) Iraq
- b) Iran
- c) Jordan
- d) Lebanon

Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, Chief of The Royal Hashemite Court of Jordan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 10, 2017. Dr. Fayez Tarawneh conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein to Prime Minister.

910) Who among the following is the Executive Director of UN Women?

- a) Siphwe Nyanda
- b) Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu
- c) Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma
- d) Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka

911) The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map' in March 2017. In which country's government do women have the highest share (52.9%) of ministerial positions? India is 88th.

- a) Canada
- b) Sweden
- c) Rwanda
- d) Nicaragua

912) The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map' in March 2017. In which country's Parliament do women have the highest share (61.3%) of seats in the Lower or Single House? India is 148th.

- a) Canada
- b) Sweden
- c) Rwanda
- d) Slovenia

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map', a visual representation of women's political empowerment on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York. UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka launched the data on March 15, 2017.

India ranked 88th out of 186 countries in the list with of 18.5% of women appointed in ministerial positions as of January 1, 2017. The top position is jointly held by Bulgaria, France and Nicaragua where women occupy 52.9% of the ministerial positions.

In the ranking of nations according to number of women elected or appointed to parliaments (as on January 1, 2017), India ranked 148 out of the 193 nations, with only 11.48 per cent women in the Lower House of Parliament and 11 per cent in the Upper House. Rwanda tops the list with 61.3% of seats in Lower House being held by women.

IPU data shows that the global average of women in national parliaments increased just slightly from 22.6 per cent in 2015 to 23.3 per cent in 2016. The number of female Speakers of the House, however, is up to the highest so far, with 53 out of 273 posts.

913) The Commonwealth Day was celebrated the second ____ of March every year.

- a) Monday
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday
- d) Thursday

914) Who among the following is the Secretary General of Commonwealth?

- a) Gabriela Isler
- b) Vanessa Holland
- c) Patricia Scotland
- d) Sir Don McKinnon

'A Peace-building Commonwealth' was the theme of the Commonwealth Day that was celebrated on March 13, 2017. The annual day is celebrated on the second Monday in March. Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said that the theme reaffirms the Commonwealth Charter principle that "international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all." 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' was the theme in 2016.

915) Which SAARC country's Parliament adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day?

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

Bangladesh's unanimously adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day, in remembrance of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani Army in the night of March 25, 1971.

916) World Glaucoma Day was observed on ____, 2017.

- a) March 11
- b) March 12
- c) March 13
- d) March 14

World Glaucoma Day was observed on March 12, 2017. Glaucoma is an umbrella term encompassing several different eye diseases that damage the eye's optic nerve, the nerve that transfers visual information from the retina to the brain. Damage to the optic nerve can result in the loss of vision (often as blurriness in peripheral vision) and blindness if left untreated. There's no cure for glaucoma, but vision loss and blindness can be prevented if the disease is diagnosed and treated early.

917) Which country's Parliament was in news in March 2017 for recognising a river as a "legal person" in March 2017?

- a) Australia

- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) France

A New Zealand river revered by the Maori has been recognised by Parliament as a “legal person”, in a move believed to be a world first. Under legislation passed on March 15, 2017, the Whanganui river has been formally declared a living entity. According to the country’s Attorney-General, the river will have its own legal identity with all the corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a legal person.

918) Turkey was in news for suspending high-level diplomatic ties with which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Spain
- b) Belgium
- c) Romania
- d) The Netherlands

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Turkey will not allow the Dutch ambassador to Ankara to return and will suspend high-level ties until The Netherlands meets Turkey’s conditions over holding rallies abroad ahead of a referendum, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said after a cabinet meeting in Ankara on March 13, 2017. Ambassador Kees Cornelis van Rij is currently out of the country, with business being handled by the charge d’affaires.

919) Which African capital was in news for the death of more than 70 people from landslide at a garbage dump in March 2017?

- a) Algiers
- b) Addis Ababa
- c) Nairobi
- d) Tunis

The death toll from a landslide at Ethiopia’s largest rubbish dump in capital Addis Ababa reached 72 on March 14, 2017 as the country’s parliament declared three days of national mourning. Part of the largest hill at the rubbish dump gave way on March 11, swallowing up a slum that had been built on the trash and burying families alive in their homes. The Koshe landfill, the country’s largest, has for more than 40 years been the main garbage dump for Addis Ababa.

920) Who will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2018?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Canada
- c) South Africa
- d) United Kingdom

United Kingdom will host the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) in April 2018. The Commonwealth Summit is held every two years and the 2018 CHOGM will see the UK take over from Malta as chair of the heads of government until 2020. Last time the UK had hosted the CHOGM in 1997. Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland made the announcement on March 14, 2017.

921) Pakistan, which launched countrywide census on March 15, 2017, is the _____ most populous country in the world.

- a) Fifth
- b) Sixth
- c) Seventh
- d) Eighth

Pakistan on March 15, 2017 launched a countrywide census, the first in nearly two decades. Chief Statistician Asif Bajwa inaugurated the process of 6th census. Under the constitution, census should be held every 10 years to determine the exact population and allocation of resources among provinces on the basis number of people. The final outcome of the census would be known by July. Pakistan, with about 200 million people is the sixth most populous country in the world.

922) Which SAARC country capital hosted the Asian Parliamentary Assembly from March 14 to 17, 2017?

- a) Thimphu
- b) Dhaka
- c) Colombo
- d) Islamabad

923) The Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held from March 14 to 17, 2017. India was represented by Parliamentarians Meenakshi Lekhi, Swapan Dasgupta and _____.

- a) Kumari Selja
- b) Ambika Soni
- c) Anand Sharma
- d) Shashi Tharoor

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly was organised in Islamabad from March 14 to 17, 2017. India was represented by parliamentarians Shashi Tharoor, Meenakshi Lekhi and Swapan Dasgupta at the event.

924) "Nabajatra" and "Joyjatra" are first _____ launched in Bangladesh in March 2017.

- a) Satellites
- b) Submarines
- c) Express Trains
- d) Atomic Energy stations

Bangladesh military on March 12, 2017 inducted "Nabajatra" and "Joyjatra", its first ever submarines. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina officially commissioned the two Chinese submarines. The submarines were handed over to Bangladesh on November 14, 2016.

925) Which of the following is the largest ever diamond unearthed in the world at 3,106 carats?

- a) Cullinan
- b) Cornwall
- c) Centurion
- d) Clarke

A pastor working in the mines of eastern Sierra Leone has unearthed a 706-carat diamond, the government said in capital Freetown on March 16, 2017. The huge diamond was discovered by Emmanuel Momoh. The President's Office said that a 706-carat diamond was presented to President Dr Ernest Bai Koroma on March 15. The Cullinan diamond, which was unearthed in South Africa in 1905, is the world's largest at 3,106 carats uncut. The Cullinan was cut into several gems, including two set into the sceptre and crown of the British Crown Jewels.

926) Derek Walcott died in St. Lucia on March 17, 2017 at the age of 87. He was a winner of Nobel Prize in which field in 1992?

- a) Literature
- b) Physics
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry

Nobel literature laureate Derek Walcott died at Gros Islet in St. Lucia on March 17, 2017 at the age of 87. He received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature.

927) National Physical Laboratory (NPL)-CSIR dedicated the first "Pristine air-quality monitoring station at _____" to the Nation on March 17, 2017.

- a) Shimla
- b) Chamba
- c) Palampur
- d) Dalhousie

National Physical Laboratory (NPL)-CSIR dedicated the first "Pristine air-quality monitoring station at Palampur" to the Nation on March 17, 2017. NPL has established an atmospheric monitoring station in the campus of Institute of

Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) at Palampur (H.P.) at an altitude of 1391 m for generating the base data for atmospheric trace species & properties to serve as reference for comparison of polluted atmosphere in India.

928) Which continent was in news for the discovery of world's first fluorescent frog recently?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) South America

The world's first fluorescent frog has been discovered in the Amazon basin in Argentina. Scientists at the Bernardino Rivadavia Natural Sciences Museum in Buenos Aires made the discovery by accident. In normal light the frog appears to have a dull, mottled brown-green skin with red dots, but under UV light it glows a bright fluorescent green. The researchers, who published their discovery on March 13, 2017 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that the trait enhanced the brightness of the frog by 19-29 per cent depending on the level of ambient light in its surroundings.

929) Which of the following launched the robot named 'Chintu' in collaboration with Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT), Pune, on March 16, 2017?

- a) Apple
- b) Toshiba
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM

IBM in collaboration with Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT), Pune, on March 16, 2017 introduced 'Chintu' -- a cognitive assistant powered by IBM Watson that will assist senior citizens in conducting everyday tasks. The students at MIT have been using IBM Watson APIs powered by IBM Bluemix to solve day to day problems.

930) Which of the following will host the 105th session of Indian Science Congress in January 2017?

- a) Jamia Millia Islamia University
- b) Aligarh Muslim University
- c) University of Calcutta
- d) Osmania University

The 105th session of Indian Science Congress, a gathering of scientific luminaries from countries across the world, will be held at the Hyderabad-based Osmania University (OU) from January 3 to 7, 2017. OU Vice-Chancellor Prof S Ramachandram on March 15, 2017 received a communication from the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) General President Achyuta Samanta in this regard.

931) India's Harsha Vardhan Durugadda was awarded the \$50,000 Rio Tinto ____ Award for his 'Column of Sound' in March 2017.

- a) Music
- b) Poetry
- c) Painting
- d) Sculpture

New Delhi-based sculptor Harsha Vardhan Durugadda has been awarded the \$50,000 Rio Tinto Sculpture Award for his 'Column of Sound'. The "most generous" award for sculpture in Western Australia, the honour was announced recently at the opening of the 13th annual Sculpture by the Sea in Cottesloe. Now in its 13th year, the 'Sculpture by Sea' exhibition is Perth's largest free to the public event and runs from March 3 to March 20, 2017.

932) Which PSB raised Rs 1,000 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant additional tier-I bonds in March 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Canara Bank
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) Bank of India

933) India is expected to fully implement Basel III standards of prudential banking by March _____.

- a) 2018
- b) 2019
- c) 2020
- d) 2021

Bank of India has raised Rs 1,000 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant additional tier-I bonds. "The bank has raised Rs 1,000 crore by issue of Basel III compliant additional tier-I bonds on March 15, 2017," it said in a regulatory filing on March 15, 2017. Bondholders will get a yield of 9.95 per cent per annum. In view of implementation of global standard Basel III Capital Regulations, banks need to improve and strengthen their capital planning processes. The norms are being implemented to mitigate concerns on potential stresses on asset quality and consequential impact on performance and profitability of banks. Being implemented in phases since April 1, 2013, India is expected to fully implement Basel III standards by March 2019. This will align full implementation of Basel III in India closer to the internationally agreed date of January 1, 2019.

934) Which bank had the most number of its staff (64) involved in fraud cases in April-December 2016 as per data disclosed by RBI in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

935) Which bank witnessed most number of frauds (455) in April-December 2016 as per data disclosed by RBI in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

936) Which bank witnessed frauds to the tune of Rs 2,236.81 crore, the highest in April-December 2016, as per data disclosed by RBI in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds during April-December period of 2016 with state-owned SBI taking the second spot, RBI data revealed on March 12, 2017.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal, as many as 455 fraud cases involving Rs 1 lakh and above were detected in ICICI Bank, closely followed by SBI (429), Standard Chartered (244) and HDFC Bank (237). The other banks which reported large number of frauds to the apex bank during the period include Axis Bank (189), Bank of Baroda (176) and Citibank (150).

However, in value terms, frauds involving Rs 2,236.81 crore were reported in SBI, followed by Punjab National Bank (Rs 2,250.34 crore) and Axis Bank (Rs 1,998.49 crore).

The data provided by RBI to the Finance Ministry also revealed the involvement of bank staffs in fraud cases. In the case of SBI, 64 employees were involved in fraud cases, while it was 49 for HDFC Bank and 35 for Axis Bank. In all, 450 employees were involved in fraud cases in different public and private sector banks during April-December 2016, in 3,870 cases involving a total value of Rs 17,750.27 crore.

937) ESAF Small Finance Bank was launched in which state in March 2017?

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

ESAF Small Finance Bank, state's first private sector in micro financing, was launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on March 17, 2017.

938) Which of the following announced a one-time farm loan settlement scheme worth Rs 6,000 crore primarily for tractors in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

State Bank of India (SBI) on March 14, 2017 announced a one-time farm loan settlement scheme worth Rs 6,000 crore primarily for tractors. The scheme will result in the bank taking a 40 per cent haircut on outstanding tractor loans as of September 2016.

939) Which of the following announced a new subsidiary firm to manage estate matters in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

State Bank of India (SBI) on March 11, 2017 said it has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary firm - SBI Infra Management Solutions (SBIIMS) - to take care of its premises and estate related matters. "The primary role of the new entity will be to handle transaction management and advisory services, project management, facility management and implementation of policies and initiatives," SBI said in a statement.

940) The Central Public Sector Enterprises - Exchange Traded Fund (CPSE ETF) comprises stocks of how many public sector companies?

- a) 5
- b) 10
- c) 15
- d) 20

The third tranche of the government's exchange traded fund (ETF) of top 10 state-owned companies saw bids worth Rs 9,200 crore from investors on March 17, 2017, which is 3.7 times the amount sought to be raised. The Reliance Mutual Fund-managed Central Public Sector Enterprises - Exchange Traded Fund (CPSE ETF) saw all round participation from investors, with retail buyers putting in bids of over Rs 3,500 crore. CPSE-ETF comprises stocks of ONGC Ltd, Coal India Ltd, Indian Oil Corp Ltd, Gail (India) Ltd, Power Finance Corp. Ltd, Rural Electrification Corp Ltd, Container Corp of India Ltd, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd.

941) The government launched Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) for developing export linked infrastructure in states in March 2017. What will be the contribution of states in cost of projects?

- a) 10%
- b) 20%
- c) 30%
- d) 50%

The government on March 15, 2017 launched a new scheme - TIES - for developing export linked infrastructure in states with a view to promote outbound shipments. Launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) seeks to bridge the infrastructure gap and provide forward and backward linkages to units engaged in trade activities. The scheme, to be implemented from April 1, would have a budgetary allocation of Rs 600 crore for three years with an annual outlay of Rs 200 crore. The cost of projects under TIES would be equally shared between the Centre and the states.

942) Which of the following hosted the International Vision Zero Conference on Occupational Safety and Health from March 15 to 17, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai

d) New Delhi

A three-day International Vision Zero Conference on Occupational Safety and Health was organised in New Delhi from March 15 to 17, 2017. It was organized by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with International Social Security Association - Manufacturing, Construction and Mining. The Conference was inaugurated by Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Bandaru Dattatreya.

943) India's economic growth is expected to pick up once the effects of cash shortages linked to the currency exchange initiative fade. Which of the following has mentioned this in its 'Global Prospects and Policy Challenges' note released recently?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) WTO
- d) ADB

India's economic growth is expected to pick up once the effects of cash shortages linked to the currency exchange initiative fade, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its note titled 'Global Prospects and Policy Challenges'. (March 15, 2017)

944) Which of the following has decided to sell its 24% stake in Lubrizol India to Lubrizol Corporation of USA in March 2017?

- a) Indian Oil
- b) HPCL
- c) BPCL
- d) Oil India

The Cabinet on March 15, 2017 approved sale of state-owned Indian Oil Corp's (IOC) 24 per cent stake in Lubrizol India Pvt Ltd to Lubrizol Corporation, USA for an undisclosed sum. LIPL, where the US firm holds the remaining 76 per cent stake, is in the lube additives business.

945) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in February 2017?

- a) 2.55%
- b) 3.55%
- c) 4.55%
- d) 6.55%

946) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for February 2017?

- a) 2.65%
- b) 3.65%
- c) 4.65%
- d) 5.65%

Wholesale inflation soared to a 39-month high of 6.55 per cent in February and retail inflation inched up to 3.65 per cent due to rise in food and fuel prices, showed the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on March 14, 2017. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation in January was at 5.25 per cent, while the consumer inflation stood at 3.17 per cent. The December WPI inflation rate was revised upwards to 3.68 per cent from the previous 3.39 per cent.

947) Five Indians have made it to the World Economic Forum's 100 Young Global Leaders list released on March 15, 2017.

- I. Ambarish Mitra: Swaniti Initiative
- II. Vijay Shekhar Sharma: Paytm
- III. Shruti Shibulal: Tamara Hospitality
- IV. Rwitwika Bhattacharya-Agarwal: Blippar

Which of the above pairs of persons and their ventures is/are matched correctly?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only

- c) III and IV only
- d) IV and I only

948) Journalist Hindol Sengupta is in the World Economic Forum's 100 Young Global Leaders list released on March 15, 2017. He is Editor at large at which business magazine?

- a) Forbes India
- b) Fortune India
- c) Business India
- d) Business Today

Five Indians, including Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Shruti Shibulal, Director, Strategy & Development at The Tamara Hospitality, have made it to the World Economic Forum's 100 Young Global Leaders list released on March 15, 2017. The other individuals who represented India in the list include Ambarish Mitra Founder and CEO Blippar, a mobile phone app business valued at USD 1.5 billion; Hindol Sengupta, Editor at large Fortune India and Rwitwika Bhattacharya-Agarwal Founder and CEO Swaniti Initiative. Each year, the World Economic Forum (WEF) selects 100 young leaders, under the age of 40, who are tackling the world's most complex challenges with innovative approaches.

949) Which is India's Best City to live in the annual Quality of Living Survey by consultancy firm Mercer in February 2017?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Delhi
- d) Chennai

950) Which is the Best City to live in the annual Quality of Living Survey by consultancy firm Mercer of 230 cities around the world in February 2017?

- a) Geneva
- b) Vienna
- c) Berlin
- d) Paris

Consultancy firm Mercer's 19th annual Quality of Living survey was released on March 14, 2017. **Top 10 in the World:** 1. Vienna 2. Zurich 3. Auckland 4. Munich 5. Vancouver 6. Dusseldorf 7. Frankfurt 8. Geneva 9. Copenhagen 10. Basel
Indian cities in the list: Hyderabad: 144, Pune: 145, Bangalore: 146, Mumbai: 154, Kolkata: 160, New Delhi: 161

951) Which of the following is among the two Indian companies in the list of World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute in March 2017?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) Genpact
- d) Mindtree

Two Indian companies, Tata Steel and Wipro, have been named in the list of world's most ethical companies by American think tank Ethisphere Institute. Ethisphere honours those companies who recognise their role in society to influence and drive positive change in the business community and societies around the world.

952) Which of the following was declared as the "Best Airport in India and Central Asia" by Skytrax in March 2017?

- a) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- b) Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi
- c) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad

GMR Group-led consortium Delhi International Airport (DIAL) on March 15, 2017 said Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been declared as the "Best Airport in India and Central Asia" by Skytrax. The announcement was made at the World Airport Awards held at Passenger Terminal Expo in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Skytrax World Airport Awards are a global benchmark of airport excellence and widely known as the Passengers Choice Awards.

953) Which e-commerce company announced an exclusive partnership with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to sell Japanese products in India in March 2017?

- a) Flipkart
- b) Snapdeal
- c) Infibeam
- d) ShopClues

Online marketplace Snapdeal on March 16, 2017 announced its partnership with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for an exclusive partnership to showcase products from popular SME brands from Japan on Snapdeal. Customers can now purchase JETRO products across various categories including electronic devices, accessories, kitchenware and personal care directly from Snapdeal.

954) Which of the following has signed up as 'national supporter' of FIFA U-17 World Cup being held in October 2017?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) TVS Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp has signed up as a National Supporter for the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 which will be held across 6 host cities in October 2017. (March 16, 2017)

955) Which Indian digital payments firm launched bill payments service in Canada in March 2017?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

Online mobile wallet Paytm on March 16, 2017 announced that it has launched bill payments service in Canada. According to the company, users in Canada will now be able to pay for their cell phone, cable, internet, electricity and water bills via the Paytm Canada app.

956) 44. World Consumer Rights day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 15
- b) March 17
- c) March 19
- d) March 21

World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) was observed on March 15, 2017. WCRD was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who gave an address to the US congress on 15 March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights. Theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2017 is 'Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust'.

957) Who among the following has become the first Indian singer to have her wax figure Madame Tussauds?

- a) Asha Bhonsle
- b) Shreya Ghoshal
- c) Sunidhi Chauhan
- d) Kavita Krishnamurti

Shreya Ghoshal has become the first Indian singer to make it to Madame Tussauds, with her wax figure set to be showcased at the upcoming Delhi wing of the museum. The museum, which will be housed in the iconic Regal Building, also will also have wax statues of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. (March 15, 2017)

958) Which of the following launched the first ever Mobile Honey Testing Lab in India in March 2017?

- a) Hamdard Laboratories
- b) Marico
- c) Patanjali Ayurved
- d) Dabur

Dabur India Limited on March 14, 2017 inaugurated the first ever Mobile Honey Testing Lab designed specifically to reduce the adulteration in honey and ensure that purity is maintained. The Mobile Honey Testing Lab was flagged off from Dabur Research and Development Centre in Sahibabad by Sunil Duggal, CEO Dabur India.

959) Which of the following purchased driverless car-technology firm Mobileye for \$15.3 billion in March 2017?

- a) Apple
- b) Toshiba
- c) Microsoft
- d) Intel

U.S. chipmaker Intel agreed to buy Israeli driverless car-technology firm Mobileye for \$15.3 billion on March 13, 2017, positioning itself for a dominant role in the fast-moving autonomous-driving sector.

960) World Sleep Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 15
- b) March 17
- c) March 19
- d) March 21

Marking the occasion of World Sleep Day on March 17, 2017, Philips Healthcare India announced plans to extend sleep camps and launch a Centre of Excellence for training doctors on diagnosing sleep disorders in major cities in the country.

961) Which state's Assembly was in news in March 2017 for an MLA completing 50 years as Member?

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

Cutting across party lines, members of the Kerala Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram on March 15, 2017 heaped praise on former Finance Minister and Kerala Congress (M) leader K M Mani (83), who completed 50 consecutive years as member of the house, a distinction unparalleled in the country. He has represented Pala in Kottayam district since its formation in 1965.

962) Which state government introduced 'Pathadisha' mobile app that will enable a commuter to see location of a bus, its next destination and the availability of seats?

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

The West Bengal government on March 15, 2017 introduced 'Pathadisha' mobile app and fare smart card in state-run buses. Like Ola and Uber app-based cab service, where a commuter can verify the position of an approaching vehicle, 'pathadisha' will enable a commuter to see location of a bus, its next destination and the availability of seats. The project has World Bank and a Korean Green Growth fund as development partners.

963) Which state announced a cap on ticket rates in cinema halls and multiplexes at Rs 200 in March 2017?

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

The Karnataka government on March 15, 2017 proposed to cap ticket rates in cinema halls and multiplexes at Rs 200. Presenting the 2017-18 Budget in the assembly, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his government will prescribe Rs 200 as maximum price for tickets in all cinema theatres, including multiplexes, across the state.

964) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) Wang Shixian
- b) Tai Tzu Ying
- c) Carolina Marin
- d) Nozomi Okuhara

965) Which of the following was the venue of the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) Bristol
- b) London
- c) Liverpool
- d) Birmingham

966) How many of the five titles – Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles & Mixed Doubles – were won by China at the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) One
- b) Two
- c) Three
- d) Four

967) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) Lee Chong Wei
- b) Chen Long
- c) Liu Xiaolong
- d) Lin Dan

Top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei won the Women's Singles title at the All England Open badminton Championship in Birmingham on March 12, 2017. The Men's Singles title went to top seed Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia. The Men's Doubles title went to the Indonesian duo of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo. South Korea's Chang Ye Na and Lee So Hee won the Women's Doubles title. Mixed Doubles title was won by China's Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong.

968) Which state capital will host the Asian Athletics Championships in July 2017 after Ranchi pulled out recently?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal
- c) Lucknow
- d) Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar will host the Asian Athletics Championships in July after Ranchi made a late pull-out of staging the continental event. This was announced by Odisha Athletics Association President Jagmohan Patnaik on March 14, 2017.

969) Who among the following won the Hero Indian Open Golf title at the DLF golf and country club in Gurgaon in March 2017?

- a) Gaganjeet Bhullar
- b) Anirban Lahiri
- c) Mukesh Kumar
- d) Shiv Shankar Prasad Chawrasia

SSP Chawrasia became only the second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Hero Indian Open, clinching a seven-stroke win at the redesigned DLF golf and country club in Gurgaon on March 12, 2017.

970) Who among the following Ministers was appointed Vice President of the organising committee of Under-17 FIFA World Cup being hosted by India in October 2017?

- a) Kiren Rijiju
- b) Santosh Gangwar
- c) Babul Supriyo

d) Ram Kripal Yadav

Singer turned Union minister Babul Supriyo has been appointed Vice President of the 2017 U-17 FIFA World Cup organising committee, All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Praful Patel revealed on March 15, 2017

971) Which industry chamber and the Corps of Signal (Indian Army) organised DEFCOM-2015 in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) FICCI
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII
- d) PHDCCI

DEFCOM INDIA 2017 was organised in New Delhi on March 23-24, 2017 with the theme 'Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resource for Digital Army'. The two-day event was organised jointly by the Corps of Signals of the Indian Army and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

972) Which of the following celebrated 200 years of its raising on March 16, 2017?

- a) Gorkha Rifles
- b) Bihar Regiment
- c) Dogra Regiment
- d) Garhwal Rifles

First Battalion of the Ninth Gorkhas was raised by the British in 1817 as the 'Fatehgarh Levy' and it celebrated 200 years of its raising on March 16, 2017 at Secunderabad. Ninth Gorkha Rifles has a unique honour that all its battalions have been awarded the Chief of Army Staff's Citation for exceptional performance in the line of duty.

973) A Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution" was released by the government in March 2017 to mark Golden Jubilee year of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)? Who among the following is the Chairperson of NDDB?

- a) Dilip Rath
- b) Amrita Patel
- c) S. Ayyappan
- d) Jethabhai P. Patel

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh launched a Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution" commemorating National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) Golden Jubilee year in New Delhi on March 23, 2017. Dilip Rath is the Chairman of NDDB since August 2016. Dr. Varghese Kurien was the first Chairman of NDDB who served from 1965 to 1998.

974) Which of the following is the 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category', announced by the government in March 2017?

- a) Rashtriya Vishwas Yojana
- b) Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana
- c) Rashtriya Varishtha Yojana
- d) Rashtriya Vayovridha Yojana
- e) Rashtriya Vayoshreshtha Yojana

975) The full form of ALIMCO is ____ Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India.

- a) Application
- b) Adaptive
- c) Artificial
- d) Assistive

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, a 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category' will be launched in District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh on April 1, 2017. Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment said in New Delhi on March 23 that the Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens will be distributed and the Scheme will be implemented through Artificial Limbs Manufacturing

976) The Cabinet approved an amendment to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 regarding training of teachers in March 2017. Which of the following statements about RTE Act are correct?

- I. It went into effect on April 1, 2011
- II. Children of age between 6 and 14 years come under its purview
- III. It reserves 25% of seats for poor children in schools

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22, 2017 approved the amendment to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. 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. 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. The Act reserves 25 per cent free seats to poor students in government and private unaided schools, except minority institutions.

977) Which state hosted the 3-day international conference on “Universities of the Future: Knowledge, Innovation and Responsibility” in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

The 3-day international conference on “Universities of the Future: Knowledge, Innovation and Responsibility” concluded in Sonapat, Haryana on March 20, 2017.

978) Which of the following hosted the SRCC Global Millennium Summit in Dubai on March 18, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Dubai

Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel addressed the SRCC Global Millennium Summit in Dubai on March 18, 2017. He was there as the Chief Guest.

979) The Government launched National Water Quality Sub Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride on March 22, 2017. Which of the following states is affected by presence of Arsenic in drinking water?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

980) The Government launched National Water Quality Sub Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride on March 22, 2017. Which of the following states is affected by presence of Fluoride?

- a) Odisha
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Assam

The Government on March 22, 2017 launched National Water Quality Sub Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 affected habitations in the country by March 2021 with an outlay of Rs 25,000 crore. The mission was inaugurated in New Delhi in collaboration with the States. West Bengal is badly affected by the problem

of arsenic. Rajasthan suffers from presence of fluoride in drinking water with serious health hazards. Union Minister for Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar said that the dream of 'Har Ghar Jal' cannot be realized without the involvement of the citizens.

981) The World Meteorological Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 23
- b) March 24
- c) March 25
- d) March 26

982) What was the theme of the World Meteorological Day observed in March 2017?

- a) Climate for You
- b) Understanding Clouds
- c) Weather and Climate: Engaging Youth
- d) Hotter, Drier, Wetter. Face the Future

World Meteorological Day observed on March 23, 2017. Each year, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), its members and the worldwide meteorological community around the world celebrate the day on March 23rd around a chosen theme. The theme for this year's World Meteorological Day is 'Understanding Clouds'.

983) The World Water Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 22
- b) March 23
- c) March 24
- d) March 25

984) What was the theme of the World Water Day observed in March 2016?

- a) Saltwater
- b) Rainwater
- c) Freshwater
- d) Wastewater

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) celebrated the World Water Day 2017 in New Delhi on March 22, 2017. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. The theme of World Water Day 2017 is "Wastewater". An exhibition "Jal Hai To Kal Hai" was organised to create awareness on conservation of water in New Delhi.

985) International Day of Forests (World Forestry Day) was celebrated on _____, 2017.

- a) March 15
- b) March 17
- c) March 19
- d) March 21

986) What was the theme of the International Day of Forests (World Forestry Day) observed in March 2017?

- a) Forests & You
- b) Forests & Energy
- c) Forests & Ecology
- d) Forests & Livelihood

The International Day of Forests was celebrated in New Delhi on March 21, 2017. The day is celebrated on March 21 every year to bring into focus the role of forests in safeguarding the ecological security and livelihood of millions of people all around the world. The theme of this year's celebration is 'Forests & Energy'. It has been chosen by the United Nations to highlight the importance of wood energy in improving people's lives.

987) The World Tuberculosis Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 20
- b) March 21
- c) March 22

d) March 24

988) The World Tuberculosis Day is held every year to mark the discovery of its cause by which scientist?

- a) Edward Jenner
- b) Louis Pasteur
- c) Robert Koch
- d) Thomas Wood

The World Tuberculosis Day was observed on March 24, 2017. On this day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch had detected the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. Koch was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his tuberculosis findings in 1905. This is the second year of the two-year theme, 'Unite to End TB,' with a focus on addressing stigma, discrimination, marginalization, and overcoming barriers to access care. India bears the highest burden of tuberculosis (TB) globally, about 25 percent of all cases.

989) World Oral Health Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 20
- b) March 21
- c) March 22
- d) March 23

In a bid to improve awareness on oral health care, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Fagga Singh Kulaste launched the National Dental and Oral Information Interactive (IVR) portal in New Delhi on March 20, 2017 on the occasion of World Oral Health Day.

990) The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff was observed by the United Nations on March 25, 2017.

- a) March 23
- b) March 24
- c) March 25
- d) March 26

The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff was observed by the United Nations on March 25, 2017. Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the challenges that UN staff face and urged everyone to ensure that they have the safety they need to help those most in need around the globe.

991) The UNESCO-sponsored World Poetry Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 19
- b) March 21
- c) March 23
- d) March 25

21: The World Poetry Day was observed on March 21, 2017. A decision to proclaim 21 March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999. "Poetry is a window onto the breath-taking diversity of humanity", said Irina Bokova, Director General, in her message on World Poetry Day 2017.

992) More than 11,000 NGOs have been banned from receiving foreign funds, the government informed Parliament in March 2017. This has been done under which Act?

- a) Foreign Care Regulation Act
- b) Foreign Currency Reporting Act
- c) Foreign Currency Regulation Act
- d) Foreign Contribution Regulation Act

As many as 11,319 NGOs were barred from receiving foreign funds as their Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences had expired with effect from November 1, 2016 and registration of more than 14,000 NGOs was cancelled for violating the law, the Rajya Sabha was informed on March 22, 2017 by Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijju.

993) A 28-member expedition team to Mount Everest of which of the following was flagged off on March 23, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) Army
- c) Navy
- d) Air Force

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on March 23, 2017 formally flagged off the 28-member expedition team to Mount Everest, which will attempt to summit the peak in May 2017. The members were selected from a pool of 100 personnel from various ships, submarines, aircraft Squadrons and establishments of the Navy.

994) Which of the following has launched “Swasth Uttar Purva: Healthy North East” initiative in March 2017?

- a) Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- b) Centre for Science and Environment
- c) The Energy and Resources Institute
- d) Public Health Foundation of India

Aiming to improve public health efforts in the North Eastern region of India, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in collaboration with the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) launched “Swasth Uttar Purva: Healthy North East” initiative on March 22, 2017. Under the initiative, the PHFI and DoNER will provide technical assistance to the state governments of North East and NGOs for implementation of public health projects and programmes in the region. “The DoNER has provided funds to the PHFI for strengthening the health system in the North East region”, said K. Srinath Reddy, President of PHFI during the launch.

995) Which of the following hosted the nine-day mega cultural event, ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsava’, in March 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Tripura

A nine-day mega cultural event, ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsava’, showcasing traditional folk dance and music was inaugurated in Tawang by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on March 23, 2017. The cultural extravaganza has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture.

996) The government has decided to dissolve which of the following in March 2017?

- a) National Commission for Women
- b) National Commission for Minorities
- c) National Commission for Schedule Tribes
- d) National Commission for Backward Classes

The Union Cabinet on March 23, 2017 gave the go ahead for setting up a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes with constitutional status. The Commission will comprise a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three other members. The Cabinet also cleared a proposal for dissolving the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and repealing the law under which it was established. NCBC was a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established on August 14, 1993.

997) Which of the following is the section launched by the Prime Minister on his NaMo app to enable top policy-makers and distinguished analysts to write opinion pieces?

- a) Views
- b) Reflections
- c) Observations
- d) Perspectives

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched an Op-Ed section on his App to enable top policy-makers and distinguished analysts to write opinion pieces. The addition of the ‘Reflections’ section on the Narendra Modi App marks another effort by the Prime Minister to seek feedback on the current developments.

998) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairperson of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) for a term of three years in March 2017?

- a) Girish J. Shah
- b) Sunil Mansinghka
- c) Upendra Tripathy
- d) Sharad Singh Negi

999) The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is based at which of the following?

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

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory advisory body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF), will now be permanently chaired by a senior MoEF official, according to a notification issued by the govt. on March 3, 2017. The 22-member Board's three-year term ended February 28 and on March 1, a new Board of 18 members, chaired by Sharad Singh Negi, Special Secretary and Director-General (Forests), MoEF, came into effect. The March 3 notification specifies that for the next 3 years, the Board would be chaired by the Director-General (Forests) for its term. The Chennai-based AWBI was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. It was started under the stewardship of Late Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.

1000) Which of the following has decided to undertake an archaeological exploration to find out whether the Ram Setu is a natural or man-made phenomenon?

- a) Indian Council of Philosophical Research
- b) Indian Council of Historical Research
- c) Indian Institute of Advanced Study
- d) Indian Council of Social Science Research

The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is set to undertake an archaeological exploration to find out whether the Ram Setu is a natural or man-made phenomenon. It will undertake the exploration in October and November, before deciding whether a detailed underwater archaeological excavation is required to probe deeper, said ICHR chairman Y. Sudershan Rao in March 2017.

1001) Which of the following hosted the two-day National Conference on Reforms in the Working of Quasi-Judicial Bodies in March 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the principle of Separation of Powers cannot be strictly applied in any modern Government. He was speaking at the two-day National Conference on Reforms in the Working of Quasi-Judicial Bodies organised in Bengaluru on March 18-19, 2017.

1002) Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first indigenously built 'Medha' rake on the western corridor of Mumbai on March 18, 2017. These rakes have been manufactured at:

- a) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Asansol
- b) Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura
- c) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala
- d) Integral Coach Factory, Perambur

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on March 18, 2017 flagged off the first indigenously built 'Medha' rake on the western corridor of Mumbai. Two Medha rakes were on a trial mode since last two years and have been designed and built at the Integral Coach Factory in Perambur near Chennai.

1003) Who among the following is the author of 'Gods Own Kitchen' released recently?

- a) Robin Sharma

- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Rashmi Bansal

1004) Who among the following has been appointed member of high-level group set up by UN Secretary General to provide expertise on and coordinate the global fight against antimicrobial resistance?

- a) Devi Prasad Shetty
- b) Prathap Chandra Reddy
- c) Soumya Swaminathan
- d) Vishwa Mohan Katoch

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director Soumya Swaminathan has been named to a high-level group set up by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to provide expertise on and coordinate the global fight against antimicrobial resistance. Swaminathan, 57, has been named to the ad hoc Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, which will be co-chaired by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and World Health Organisation Director-General Margaret Chan. (March 19, 2017)

1005) Who amongst the following retired diplomats was appointed Chairperson of New Delhi-based think-tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)?

- a) Shivshankar Menon
- b) Hardeep Singh Puri
- c) Nirupama Rao
- d) Shyam Saran

Hardeep Singh Puri (65), India's former Ambassador to the UN in New York and Geneva, was on March 21, 2017 appointed as the Chairman of New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

1006) . Dr Randeep Guleria was appointed as the new Director of which of the following by the government in March 2017?

- a) AIIMS, Delhi
- b) PGIMER, Chandigarh
- c) AFMC, Pune
- d) NIMHANS, Bangalore

Dr Randeep Guleria was on March 24, 2017 appointed as the director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He has been appointed for five years from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the age of 65 until further orders.

1007) Dev Raj Sikka died on March 18, 2017 at the age of 85. He was a well-known:

- a) Lawyer
- b) Economist
- c) Astronomer
- d) Meteorologist

Dev Raj Sikka, former director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, who first proposed a link between the El Nino phenomenon and the Indian monsoon in 1982, died on March 18, 2017 at the age of 85.

1008) Chinu Modi died at the age of 78 in Ahmedabad on March 19, 2017. He was a winner of which of the following awards?

- a) Arjuna Award
- b) Magsaysay Award
- c) National Film Award
- d) Sahitya Akademi Award

Noted Gujarati poet, novelist, story-writer and critic, Chinu Modi, known by his pen name 'Irshad', passed away at the age of 78 in Ahmedabad on March 19, 2017. Modi had been conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2013 for his poetry book "Khara Zaran" in 2014.

1009) . Anil Divan died on March 20, 2017 at the age of 86. He was a well-known:

- a) Lawyer
- b) Economist
- c) Astronomer
- d) Archaeologist

Senior advocate and noted constitutional expert Anil Divan passed away in New Delhi on March 20, 2017 at the age of 86. Divan, a former president of the Bar Association of India, was associated with several organizations and was one of the founders of NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), and a member of the Committee on Judicial Accountability, a group of lawyers who work for improved accountability of judges.

1010) Which of the following hosted the second annual All India Management Association (AIMA) India-UAE conference on March 20, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Dubai

The second annual All India Management Association (AIMA) India-UAE conference was held in Dubai on March 20, 2017 under the auspices of Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development. The event was organised under the theme, "Resetting Globalisation: Collaborating in a Fast Changing World".

1011) Who among the following was appointed as the full-time interim Director General of International Solar Alliance in March 2017?

- a) Girish J. Shah
- b) Sunil Mansinghka
- c) Upendra Tripathy
- d) Sharad Singh Negi

1012) The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched in 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President_____.

- a) Shinzo Abe
- b) Francois Hollande
- c) Barack Obama
- d) David Cameron

Former New and Renewable Energy Secretary Upendra Tripathy was appointed as the full-time interim Director General of International Solar Alliance. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, and Segolene Royal, Minister for Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs, Government of France, jointly decided to appoint Upendra Tripathy, as the Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a full-time basis. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched on November 30, 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande in the presence of the then UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on the first day of the Paris Climate Conference or CoP21. (March 2017).

1013) Which of the following has invited the Indian Air Force to participate in its multinational exercise 'Blue Flag' to be held later this year?

- a) Israel
- b) France
- c) Iran
- d) Japan

In tune with India's growing defence ties with Israel, the Indian Air Force will participate in an air combat exercise in the Jewish country later this year. This will be the first time IAF will be part of the multinational exercise 'Blue Flag', known to be one of the biggest in West Asia. (March 23, 2017)

1014) . The two-day Indus Water Commission meeting was held in Islamabad on March 20-21, 2017. Pakistan has objected to India's construction of the 1000 MW Pakul Dul project on which river?

- a) Ravi
- b) Indus
- c) Jhelum
- d) Chenab

Officials from India and Pakistan discussed problems relating to Indus Basin at the two-day Indus Water Commission meeting held in Islamabad on March 20-21, 2017. During the meeting, Pakistan is said to have highlighted concerns about the three Indian hydro projects being built on the rivers flowing to Pakistan. They are 1000 MW Pakul Dul on Chenab, 120 MW Miyar, located across Miyar Nalla which is a right bank main tributary of River Chenab, and the 43 MW Lower Kalnai hydro project on Lower Kalnai Nalla, a tributary of river Chenab. Pakistan contends that the projects were violating the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, which has come under strain during the current tension between the two sides.

1015) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius who came on an official visit to New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Radha Mohan Singh
- d) Sushma Swaraj

India and Mauritius on March 18, 2017 held talks on expanding bilateral defence and security cooperation to effectively deal with the threat of terrorism. Ways to explore defence ties figured during talks between Defence Minister Arun Jaitley and his Mauritian counterpart Anerood Jugnauth in New Delhi.

1016) . Who among the following is a former President of France? He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on March 18, 2017?

- a) Marine Le Pen
- b) Maurice Papon
- c) François Bayrou
- d) Nicolas Sarkozy

Nicolas Sarkozy, former President of France, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on March 18, 2017.

1017) . Which of the following hosted the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 17-18 March 2017?

- a) Frankfurt
- b) Hamburg
- c) Darmstadt
- e) Baden-Baden

The meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors was held in Baden-Baden, Germany on 17- 18 March 2017.

1018) The Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved the membership of 13 more countries in March 2017. India is the _____ shareholder in AIIB.

- a) Largest
- b) Third largest
- c) Second largest
- d) Fourth largest

China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the membership of 13 more countries, Jin Liqun, president of AIIB said in Beijing on March 23, 2017. With 57 founding members, the AIIB which was established in 2015 aims to provide financing to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia. With authorised capital of USD 100 billion, China is the largest shareholder with 26.06 per cent voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 per cent followed by Russia 5.93 per cent and Germany with 4.5 per cent.

1019) . Which of the following was world's largest producer of crude oil in December 2016 and January 2017?

- a) Venezuela
- b) Mexico
- c) Russia
- d) United States

Russia continued to be the world's largest oil producer in January for the second consecutive month, official data showed on March 22, 2017. Russia's daily oil output averaged at about 10.8 million barrels in January, slightly more than 10.5 million barrels in December, according to data released by the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat). Saudi Arabia trailed behind in these two months, with its daily output averaging 9.95 million barrels in January.

1020) . Which of the following hosted the Spring Storm 17 military exercise with US Marines in March 2017?

- a) Greece
- b) Albania
- c) Romania
- d) Hungary

Some 1,200 Romanian and US soldiers took part in military drills at the Capu Midia Firing Range near Constanta off the Black Sea, on March 18, 2017. The Spring Storm 17 exercises aim to increase interoperability of Romanian and US troops in a region where NATO members are uneasy after Russia's interventions in Ukraine.

1021) Which neighbouring country unveiled a new Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit (PERU) in March to create awareness on reconciliation among children?

- a) Nepal
- b) Myanmar
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Pakistan

Sri Lanka on March 24, 2017 unveiled a new Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit (PERU) to create awareness on reconciliation among children.

1022) Which of the following hosted the Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on March 17, 2017?

- a) Sydney
- b) Auckland
- c) Ottawa
- d) London

The Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) was held in London on March 17, 2017. India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs MJ Akbar at the CMAG meeting.

1023) Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was released from prison in March 2017. He served as the fourth President of Egypt from 1981 to _____.

- a) 2005
- b) 2007
- c) 2009
- d) 2011

88-year-old Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's ousted president was on March 24, 2017 freed from a military hospital in Cairo after six years in custody over charges of killing more than 200 protesters during the 2011 Arab Spring uprising that toppled him. Mubarak served as the President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011. Current President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi served as Mubarak's military intelligence chief and led the military's overthrow of his democratically elected successor Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

1024) Jimmy Breslin died aged 88 on March 19, 2016. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album

- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain
- e) Associated Press reporter who flashed word of the German surrender in Italy at World War II's end

Jimmy Breslin, newspaper columnist who took on the high and mighty and championed the underdog, died at the age of 88 in New York on March 19, 2017. Breslin won a George Polk Award for metropolitan reporting in 1985 and the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986.

1025) Vera Lynn, who celebrated her 100th birthday in London on March 20, 2017, is:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain

Renowned World War II singer **Vera Lynn** celebrated her 100th birthday in London on March 20, 2017. Her name has been strongly associated with the world-famous cliffs since she released "The White Cliffs of Dover" in 1942. The singer also celebrated her birthday by releasing a new album, becoming the first person to do so at the age of 100.

1026) George E. Bria died at 101 in New York on March 18, 2017. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Associated Press reporter who flashed word of the German surrender in Italy at World War II's end

George E. Bria, the Associated Press reporter who flashed word of the German surrender in Italy at World War II's end and went on to become chief U.N. correspondent and a key news editor died in New York on March 18, 2017. He was 101.

1027) Colin Dexter died at died aged 86 in Oxford (UK) on March 21, 2016. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain

Writer **Colin Dexter**, who created music-loving Oxford detective Inspector Morse, died aged 86 in Oxford (UK) on March 21, 2016.

1028) Martin McGuinness died aged 66 on March 21, 2016. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain

Martin McGuinness, the Irish Republican Army commander who led his underground, paramilitary movement toward reconciliation with Britain, and was Northern Ireland's deputy first minister for a decade in a power-sharing government, died in Derry, Northern Ireland on March 21, 2017. He was 66.

1029) . Research facilities such as a Hypersonic Wind Tunnel and Shock Tunnel were commissioned at which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Satish Dhawan Space Centre
- b) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- c) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
- d) Master Control Facility

ISRO on March 20, 2017 commissioned two major facilities-- a Hypersonic Wind Tunnel and Shock Tunnel-- at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar said commissioning of such

facilities would provide adequate data for design and development of current and future space transportation systems in the country.

1030) India was ranked 87th on a global energy architecture performance index in March 2017. The index is an initiative of which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum
- c) International Energy Agency
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

India has marginally improved its position to 87th on a global energy architecture performance index, but ranks among the worst for pollution, a survey showed on March 22, 2017. Switzerland topped the annual list released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and was followed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France in the top five. India's rank improved three places from 90th in 2016. Bahrain is ranked the lowest at 127th.

1031) Who among the following won the Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity 2016 in March 2017 for her article on the Haryana government's law barring women without a minimum educational qualification from contesting Panchayat elections?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Tazeen Qureshy
- c) Shreya Ila Anasuya
- d) Anima Pookkunnyil

1032) Who among the following won the Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity 2016 in March 2017 for her story on conservation efforts by tribal women in an Odisha village?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Tazeen Qureshy
- c) Shreya Ila Anasuya
- d) Anima Pookkunnyil

The 8th Laadli Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity 2016 (Northern and Eastern Region) were announced at the Chinmaya Mission in Delhi on March 23, 2017. Anima Pookkunnyil, Assistant Editor with BusinessLine, and Shreya Ila Anasuya, a Delhi-based freelance journalist, were awarded this year for their critical gender-sensitive reportage.

Organised by Population First, the Laadli Media Awards are given to recognise efforts by those in the media and advertising industry who work to end gender prejudice. The awards have been given since 2007.

Anima Pookkunnyil's story in the BLink was about Kamlesh Kairi's petition to the Supreme Court against the unjust laws barring women without a minimum educational qualification from fighting Panchayat elections in Haryana.

Ila Anasuya was awarded for her report on Suzette Jordan.

Chitragada Choudhary was awarded the best prize in investigative journalism for her reportage on violence by security forces in Bastar in the Caravan magazine.

Tazeen Qureshy of NDTV.com won the best electronic report award for her story on the conservation efforts by tribal women in an Odisha village.

1033) Who among the following was named winner of the Abel Prize for contributions to mathematical sciences in March 2017?

- a) Yves Meyer
- b) Mikhail Gromov
- c) Lennart Carleson
- d) John Willard

French mathematician Yves Meyer was on March 21, 2017 awarded the 2017 Abel Prize for his work on wavelets, a mathematical theory with applications in data compression, medical imaging and the detection of gravitational waves. Meyer, 77, will receive 6 million Norwegian kroner (about £600,000) for the prize, which recognises outstanding

contributions to mathematics and is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The Abel Prize has been awarded annually since 2003 and is considered by many to be a maths equivalent of the Nobel Prize, which has no prize for mathematics.

1034) The KCK International Award for Excellence in Print Journalism was given by which Hindi newspaper group in March 2017?

- a) Dainik Bhaskar
- b) Rajasthan Patrika
- c) Dainik Jagran
- d) Amar Ujala

The KCK International Award for Excellence in Print Journalism, given by the Rajasthan Patrika, was presented in New Delhi on March 20, 2017 by the President of India.

1035) Who among the following was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the sixth National Photography Awards in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Javed Ahmed Dar
- b) Raghu Rai
- c) Rajesh Bedi
- d) Bhawan Singh

1036) Who among the following was conferred the Award for Professional Photographer of the Year at the sixth National Photography Awards in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) G. Nagasrinivasu
- b) K. K. Mustafah
- c) Dipayan Bhar
- d) Ch Narayana Rao

Veteran photographer Raghu Rai was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award at the 6th National Photography Awards presented by Union Information & Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on March 22, 2017. Rai began his career in 1965 and was awarded Padma Shri in 1972. Ravinder Kumar won the award for the Amateur Photographer of the Year while K. K. Mustafah received the award for Professional Photographer of the Year.

1037) Who among the following won the inaugural Kuldip Nayar Journalism Award in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Rajat Sharma
- b) Ravish Kumar
- c) Umashankar Singh
- d) Divya Srinivasan

For his contributions in the world of journalism, eminent TV journalist Ravish Kumar of NDTV was on March 19, 2017 honoured with the first Kuldip Nayar journalism award in New Delhi. Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar joined hands with the Gandhi Peace Foundation to institute the award.

1038) Who among the following won the \$1-million Global Teacher Prize given in Dubai in March 2017?

- a) Rima Khalaf
- b) Hanan Al Hroub
- c) Raduan Nassar
- d) Maggie MacDonnell

A Canadian school teacher whose teaching philosophy underscores hope and acts of kindness in an isolated corner of Quebec has won a USD 1 million prize in what has become one of the most-coveted and high-profile awards for teaching excellence. Maggie MacDonnell was awarded the annual Global Teacher Prize during a ceremony in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on March 19, 2017.

1039) What is the new upper limit of amount stored in pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) announced by the RBI recently if the customer provides full KYC details to the PPI issuing entity?

- a) Rs. 10,000
- b) Rs. 20,000
- c) Rs. 50,000
- d) Rs. 100,000

1040) What is the new upper limit of amount stored in pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) announced by the RBI recently if the customer provides minimum KYC details to the PPI issuing entity?

- a) Rs. 10,000
- b) Rs. 20,000
- c) Rs. 50,000
- d) Rs. 75,000

1041) The maximum value of pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) for Mass Transit Systems has been limited to:

- a) Rs. 1,000
- b) Rs. 2,000
- c) Rs. 3,000
- d) Rs. 4,000

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to fix the upper limit of amount stored in pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs), including smart cards and mobile wallets, at Rs 1 lakh in view of growing usage of PPIs for purchase of goods and services. According to the RBI's new draft norms for PPIs, amount in a PPI should not exceed Rs 1 lakh at any point of time if the customer provides full KYC and Rs 20,000 if the customer provides minimum KYC details to the PPI issuing entity. Further, only banks will be permitted to issue open system PPIs after full KYC in addition to semi closed PPIs.

The draft also said that the maximum value of any prepaid payment instrument, where specific limits have not been prescribed, should not exceed Rs 50,000. Also, cash loading to PPIs should be limited to Rs 50,000 per month subject to the overall limit of the PPI.

The RBI norms further said maximum value in prepaid gift instrument should not exceed Rs 20,000 and in case of PPI for Mass Transit Systems it should not be more than Rs 3,000 at any time. PPIs could be loaded/reloaded by cash, by debit to a bank account, by credit and debit cards, and other PPIs.

According to the RBI, entities, seeking approval/ authorisation from the RBI for issuance of PPIs should have a minimum positive net worth of Rs 25 crore. The receipt of fresh applications from banks and non-banks for grant of authorisation to operate a payment system for PPI under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 was suspended till February 28. (March 21, 2017)

1042) The government announced merger of Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI in March 2017. BMB was founded in:

- a) 2010
- b) 2011
- c) 2012
- d) 2013

The government on March 20, 2017 said it has decided to merge Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with SBI. The BMB, set up in 2013, has 103 branches with its presence in almost all the states.

1043) Mahesh Kumar Jain was promoted as MD and CEO at which public sector bank in March 2017?

- a) IDBI Bank
- b) Allahabad Bank
- c) Canara Bank
- d) Indian Overseas Bank

1044) Who among the following was appointed as the new MD & CEO of Indian Bank in March 2017?

- a) Melwyn Rego
- b) P.S. Jayakumar
- c) Rakesh Sharma
- d) Kishore Piraji Kharat

The Government of India has notified the swapping of IDBI Bank Ltd Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Kishor Piraji Kharat with Indian Bank Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Mahesh Kumar Jain. The notification comes at a time when IDBI Bank has been suffering due to increase in NPAs among other issues. According to a regulatory filing by Indian Bank, the government, through a notification dated March 18, 2017, appointed the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank Limited, Kishor Piraji Kharat, as MD & CEO of Indian Bank, "for the remaining period of his current tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier".

1045) Which of the following has been provided Rs. 1,100 crore in the Rs. 8,586-crore capital infusion plan for 10 PSBs announced recently?

- a) Central Bank of India
- b) Dena Bank
- c) IDBI Bank
- d) Indian Overseas Bank

Coming to the support of weak and non-performing public sector banks (PSBs), the Finance Ministry has chalked out a turnaround-linked Rs. 8,586-crore capital infusion plan for 10 PSBs. The 10 banks identified are Allahabad Bank (Rs. 418 crore); Andhra Bank (Rs. 1,100 crore); Bank of India (Rs. 1,500 crore); Bank of Maharashtra (Rs. 300 crore); Central Bank of India (Rs. 100 crore); Dena Bank (Rs. 600 crore); IDBI Bank (Rs. 1,900 crore); Indian Overseas Bank (Rs. 1,100 crore); UCO Bank (Rs. 1,150 crore) and United Bank of India (Rs. 418 crore). To avail themselves of the capital support, the identified PSBs require a tripartite memorandum of understanding with the government, the PSB management and employees of the PSB concerned. (March 20, 2017)

1046) HDFC launched an issue of Rs 2,000 crore (USD 306 million) under its MTN programme in March 2017. MTN refers to:

- a) Major Term Note
- b) Master Term Note
- c) Mature Term Note
- d) Medium Term Note

Mortgage firm HDFC Ltd on March 24, 2017 raised about USD 504 million (around Rs 3,300 crore) through rupee denominated bonds to fund its business expansion. This is the largest issuance of masala bonds out of India, HDFC Ltd said in a regulatory filing on stock exchanges. Under the Medium Term Note (MTN) programme, HDFC launched an issue of Rs 2,000 crore (USD 306 million) plus a green-shoe option. "The Corporation (HDFC) has closed the masala bonds and raised Rs 3,300 crore," it said. The bond with maturity of 3 years and 1 month carries 7.35 per cent per annum. The bonds are unrated and will be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

1047) The Finance Ministry appointed A. V. Girija Kumar as the Chairman and Managing Director of which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Life Insurance Corporation
- b) New India Assurance
- c) United India Insurance
- d) National Insurance

The Finance Ministry has approved United India Insurance, Director and General Manager A V Girija Kumar holding additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect. Girija Kumar, who began his career with New India Insurance in 1980, is a direct recruit officer and has 37 years of experience in general insurance industry. "The Ministry of Finance has approved the assignment of additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director to A V Girija Kumar, Director and General Manager", a press release from United India Insurance said. He assumed charge with immediate effect. In 2015, Kumar joined United India Insurance as its General Manager. (March 21, 2017)

1048) Who among the following was appointed as Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator SEBI in March 2017?

- a) Ravindra H. Dholakia
- b) Mukulita Vijaywargiya
- c) Suman Saxena
- d) Madhabi Puri Buch

Madhabi Puri Buch was on March 21, 2017 appointed as a Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator SEBI. She is founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd and currently at the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China. Buch has been appointed to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) post for a period of three years.

1049) Construction of 1.17 lakh new houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) was sanctioned by the government in March 2017. Under the “Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private Sectors”, central assistance at the rate of _____ per house for EWS category is provided.

- a) Rs 50,000
- b) Rs 75,000
- c) Rs 1 lakh
- d) Rs 1.5 lakh

1050) Which of the following is the leading state in implementation of PMAY (Urban) in the country with the maximum of 2.277 lakh houses sanctioned till March 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation on March 21, 2017 approved construction of 1,17,814 affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor in six States at a total cost of Rs.5,773 cr for which central assistance of Rs.1,816 cr has been approved, under the Prime Minister’s Awas Yojana (Urban).

Bihar has been sanctioned 25,221 new houses. Jharkhand has been sanctioned 20,099 new houses while Odisha has got 2,115 new houses. Karnataka has been sanctioned 31,424 houses and Kerala-11,480 houses. Madhya Pradesh has been sanctioned a total of 27,475 new houses. With the recent sanction, MP has so far been sanctioned 2,09,036 houses and is closely behind Tamil Nadu which is leading in implementation of PMAY (Urban) with the maximum of 2,27,700 houses sanctioned.

Under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY (U), beneficiaries are assisted to build own houses on the land available with them or take up improvement works for increasing living space and other amenities. Under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) component of PMAY (U), State Government provides the land to house urban poor. Under both these components, central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakh is provided for each beneficiary.

With the approvals on March 21, total number of houses being taken up for construction for the benefit of urban poor under PMAY(Urban) has gone up to 17,60,507 with total project cost of Rs.96,018 cr for which central assistance of Rs.27,714 cr has been approved.

1051) The Union Cabinet on March 22, 2017 approved an increase in the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 5,000 crore to:

- a) Rs. 10,000 crore
- b) Rs. 20,000 crore
- c) Rs. 30,000 crore
- d) Rs. 40,000 crore

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22, 2017 approved amendments to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981 to increase the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore and to increase it beyond Rs. 30,000 crore in consultation with RBI, as deemed necessary from time to time. It also approved the transfer of 0.4 per cent equity of RBI in NABARD amounting to Rs. 20 crores to the Government of India.

The proposed amendments in NABARD Act, include, certain other amendments including changes in long title and certain Sections to bring Medium Enterprises and Handlooms in NABARD’s mandate.

1052) Which of the following is the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme for passengers in waiting list launched by Railways in March 2017?

- a) Sahaj

- b) Vikalp
- c) Pratham
- d) Sankalp

From April 1, waitlisted passengers can avail the opportunity of travelling in premier trains like Rajdhani or Shatabdi even if they have booked tickets in other mail or express trains for the same destination. Widening the scope of availing confirmed berths in trains, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on March 22, 2017 launched the alternate train accommodation scheme -- Vikalp -- to be effective from April 1. As of now, the scheme will be available in online bookings and later extended to counters. Under this scheme, waitlisted passengers can get confirmed berths in the next alternate train if they opt for it while booking their tickets. There would be no extra charges or any refund provided for the difference of fares.

1053) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on March 22, 2017 approved closure of jatropha plantation joint ventures floated by state-owned oil companies. These joint ventures were launched by which state's government?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chhattisgarh

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on March 22, 2017 approved closure of jatropha plantation joint ventures floated by state-owned oil companies. The CCEA approved shutting down of CREDA HPCL Biofuel Ltd (CHBL) and IndianOil - Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA) Biofuels Limited (ICBL). Joint ventures were formed for carrying out energy crop (jatropha) plantation and production of bio-diesel in 2008-09. The CREDA, an arm of Chhattisgarh govt., had provided wasteland to CHBL and ICBL for plantation of jatropha. Due to various constraints such as poor seed yield, limited availability of wasteland, high plantation maintenance cost etc, the project became unviable and jatropha plantation activities were discontinued.

1054) The 'Media and Entertainment Industry Report 2017' report was jointly by FICCI and which consultancy in Mumbai in March 2017?

- a) E&Y
- b) FIS
- c) BCG
- d) KPMG

The Indian media and entertainment sector is expected to grow at 14 per cent in the next five years but it will be slower in 2017 due to demonetisation and GST related uncertainties, according to the 'Media and Entertainment Industry Report 2017' report released jointly by FICCI and KPMG in Mumbai on March 21, 2017. FICCI M&E Committee Chairman Uday Shankar said building solid infrastructure and continued government support will help the industry reach the potential it holds for employment and creating socio-economic value for the country.

1055) Which of the following will be established by the Centre in all the states to provide market-opportunity to master artisans belonging to Minority communities?

- a) Yuva Hub
- b) Vikas Hub
- c) Hunar Hub
- d) Tarakki Hub

The Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that "Hunar Hub" will be established in all the states to provide market-opportunity to master artisans belonging to Minority communities to preserve and propagate their heritage. A "data bank" of artisans/craftsmen from Minority communities is also being prepared. Naqvi stated it while addressing the conference of Principal Secretaries/Secretaries-In charge of minority welfare in states/UTs to review progress of implementation of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme, scholarships & other schemes of Minority Affairs Ministry in New Delhi, on March 24, 2017.

1056) Fortune released its fourth annual list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in March 2017. Who among the following is the only Indian in the list?

- a) Nita Ambani

- b) Chanda Kochhar
- c) Shikha Sharma
- d) Arundhati Bhattacharya

1057) Fortune released its fourth annual list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in March 2017. The list has been topped by Theo Epstein. He is in which business?

- a) Films
- b) Sports
- c) Retailing
- d) Fast food :

Fortune released its fourth annual list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders on March 23, 2017 which has SBI's Arundhati Bhattacharya in 26th place. Theo Epstein, President of Chicago Cubs, tops the ranks of the greatest global leaders in business, government, philanthropy, and the arts. Chicago Cubs is an American professional baseball team based in Chicago, Illinois. Epstein is followed by Alibaba founder Jack Ma, Pope Francis, Melinda Gates, and Jeff Bezos, the Amazon chief and owner of The Washington Post. Film Director and Screenwriter Ava DuVernay is ranked sixth while President Donald Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, is seventh. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen is eighth. Republican Senator John McCain is ninth while German Chancellor Angela Merkel is at the tenth position. Bhattacharya is the only Indian in the list.

1058) Who among the following is the owner of telecom company America Movil? He is the fourth richest person in the world according to Forbes magazine list of the world's richest billionaires in March 2017.

- a) Amancio Ortega
- b) Larry Ellison
- c) Carlos Slim Helu
- d) Charles Koch

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates once again topped the Forbes magazine list of the world's richest billionaires, the magazine said on March 20, 2017. Gates, whose wealth is estimated at \$86 billion, led the list for the fourth straight year. He was followed by Berkshire Hathaway chief Warren Buffett among the top 10 billionaires. Buffett's wealth was estimated at USD 75.6 billion. Others in the top 10 included Amazon founder Jeff Bezos at number three, Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg at number five and Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison at number seven. Amancio Ortega of Inditex, which owns Spanish apparel chain Zara, was fourth, Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim of America Movil was sixth, Charles Koch and David Koch of Koch Industries, were eighth and ninth and former New York City mayor and Bloomberg News founder Michael Bloomberg was 10th.

1059) Dilip Shanghvi was named as the third richest Indian after Mukesh Ambani and SP Hinduja & family by Hurun Global Rich List 2017 in March 2017. He is the owner of the following pharmaceutical companies?

- a) Cipla
- b) Alembic
- c) Wockhardt
- d) Sun Pharma

Beijing-based Hurun Report on March 7 released the Hurun Global Rich List 2017, a ranking of the US dollar billionaires currently found in the world. Wealth calculations are a snapshot of 15 January 2017. This is the sixth year that Hurun Report has released a ranking of the dollar billionaires in the world. Bill Gates, 61, is still the richest man in the world, despite only growing 1% to US\$81bn. In December 2016, he launched a US\$1 billion fund to invest in new forms of clean energy with aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero.

Hurun Global Rich List 2017: India's Top 10

Rank (Global Rank)	Name	Net worth Rs. Crores (US\$bn)	Company
1 (28)	Mukesh Ambani	175,400 (26)	Reliance
2 (74)	SP Hinduja & family	101,000 (14)	Hinduja Group
3 (74)	Dilip Shanghvi	99,000 (14)	Sun Pharma
4 (97)	Pallonji Mistry	82,700 (12)	Shapoorji Pallonji
5 (97)	Lakshmi N Mittal	81,800 (12)	ArcelorMittal
6 (97)	Shiv Nadar	81,200 (12)	HCL Enterprise

7 (106)	Cyrus Poonawalla	75,400 (11)	Serum Institute of India
8 (135)	Azim Premji	66,300 (9.7)	Wipro
9 (138)	Uday Kotak	49,200 (7.2)	Kotak Mahindra bank
10 (207)	David Reuben	45,600 (6.7)	Global Switch
10 (207)	Simon Reuben	45,600 (6.7)	Global Switch

Hurun Global Rich List 2017: World's Top 10

Rank	Name	Net worth Rs (US\$bn)	Company
1	Bill Gates	551,800 (81)	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	531,400 (78)	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Jeff Bezos	490,500 (72)	Amazon
4	Amancio Ortega	470,100 (69)	Inditex (Zara)
5	Mark Zuckerberg	395,100 (58)	Facebook
6	Larry Ellison	327,000 (48)	Oracle
7	Carlos Slim Helu & family	313,400 (46)	America Movil
8	Charles Koch	292,900 (43)	Koch Industries
8	David Koch	292,900 (43)	Koch Industries
10	Michael Bloomberg	286,100 (42)	Bloomberg

1060) What was India's rank among 187 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index released in March 2017?

- a) 131
- b) 133
- c) 135
- d) 137

1061) The UNDP Human Development Index released in March 2017 has put India into which category?

- a) Very high human development
- b) High human development
- c) Medium human development
- d) Low human development

1062) Which of the following has topped the UNDP Human Development Index released in March 2017?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

India slipped down one place from 130 to 131 among the 188 countries ranked in terms of human development, says the 2016 Human Development Report (HDR) released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on March 21, 2017. The report classifies countries into four categories: very high human development, high human development, medium human development and low human development. India's human development index (HDI) value of 0.624 puts it in the "medium human development" category. The world's top three countries in HDI are Norway (0.949), Australia (0.939) and Switzerland (0.939). The HDI is a measure for assessing progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and access to a decent standard of living.

1063) Which is the happiest country in the world in UN's World Happiness Report 2017?

- a) Iceland
- b) Myanmar
- c) Norway
- d) Canada

1064) What is India's rank among 155 countries in UN's World Happiness Report 2017?

- a) 92nd
- a) 102nd
- a) 112th
- d) 122nd

1065) . The International Day of Happiness was celebrated on:

- a) March 14
- b) March 16
- c) March 18
- d) March 20

Norway ranks as the happiest country in the world, according to The World Happiness Report 2017, which ranks 155 countries by their happiness levels. Norway jumped three spots from last year, displacing Denmark, which had held the top spot for three out of the past four years. Rounding out the rest of the top ten in order were Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden. The report has been published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

India comes in on the 122nd spot, down from 118 in the 2013-2015 report, which maps happiness on the parameters of GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption. The report was released at the United Nations on March 20, 2017 at an event celebrating International Day of Happiness. It is the fifth report to come out since 2012.

The World Happiness Report 2017 looks at trends in the data recording how highly people evaluate their lives on a scale running from 0 to 10. The rankings, which are based on surveys in 155 countries covering the three years 2014-2016, reveal an average score of 5.3 (out of 10).

1066) Which of the following is the most expensive city in the world according to the Worldwide Cost of Living 2017 released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in March 2017?

- a) Oslo
- b) Sydney
- c) Hong Kong
- d) Singapore

1067) Which of the following is the cheapest city in the world according to the Worldwide Cost of Living 2017 released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in March 2017?

- a) Lagos
- b) Almaty
- c) Ulan Bator
- d) Lusaka

Four Indian cities are among the cheapest to live in globally, while Singapore has been ranked as the most expensive for the fourth consecutive year, according to the Worldwide Cost of Living 2017 released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on March 21, 2017. Bangalore (3rd place), Chennai (6th), Mumbai (7th) and New Delhi (10th) have been ranked by EIU among the 10 cheapest cities in the world. Almaty has been ranked as the cheapest city in the world followed by Lagos. Karachi was placed 4th, Algiers (5th), Kiev (8th) and Bucharest (9th) rank.

Singapore retained its title as the world's most expensive city for the fourth consecutive year, while Hong Kong remained second, closely followed by Zurich at the 3rd place. Others in the 10 most expensive list include Tokyo at the 4th position, Osaka (5th), Seoul (6th), Geneva (7th), Paris (8th), New York (9th) and Copenhagen at 10th place.

The Worldwide Cost of Living is a bi-annual (twice yearly) EIU survey that compares more than 400 individual prices across 160 products and services. These include food, drink, clothing, household supplies and personal care items, home rents, transport, utility bills, private schools, domestic help and recreational costs.

1068) Italy has been ranked as the healthiest country on Earth in the _____ Global Health Index of 163 countries released in March 2017.

- a) Lancet
- b) Bloomberg
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) WHO

Italy has been ranked as the healthiest country on Earth in the Bloomberg Global Health Index of 163 countries. The index, released on March 20, 2017, graded 163 countries based on variables such as life expectancy, causes of death and health risks such as high blood pressure, malnutrition, the availability of clean water and tobacco use. A baby born in Italy can expect to live to be an octogenarian. But 2,800 miles south in Sierra Leone, the average newborn will die by 52. Iceland, Switzerland, Singapore and Australia rounded out the top five most-healthy countries in the index.

1069) Which telecom service provider said in March 2017 that it will merge with Idea Cellular?

- a) Reliance Communications
- b) Tata Teleservices
- c) Reliance Jio Infocomm
- d) Vodafone

Vodafone India and Idea Cellular on March 20, 2017 agreed to merge their operations to create the country's largest mobile phone operator worth more than USD 23 billion with a 35 per cent market share. The combined entity of Vodafone and Idea Cellular, which are India's number 2 and 3 mobile players, respectively, will overtake Bharti Airtel. The new company will have Kumar Mangalam Birla as Chairman while Vodafone will have the right to appoint chief financial officer. Vittorio Colao, CEO of Vodafone, the world's second-biggest mobile operator by subscribers, said the two companies will continue to operate under their current brands indefinitely, but will eventually work under the same name.

1070) Which of the following launched India's first mobile alerting platform that will deliver weather alerts without internet in March 2017?

- a) Facebook
- b) Google
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM

In a bid to connect people in areas with lower connectivity and data availability, IBM and The Weather Company, owned by IBM Business, on March 20, 2017 launched the country's first mobile alerting platform that will deliver weather alerts without internet. The technology uses peer-to-peer connections on a "mesh network" to send critical weather alerts to people in remote areas. The technology links other nearby phones to extend the signal to help keep citizens connected and informed.

1071) Which of the following launched mobile payments service in India in March 2017?

- a) LG
- b) Apple
- c) Lenovo
- d) Samsung

Samsung Electronics on March 22, 2017 announced the launch of its flagship mobile payments service in the country. Apart from allowing users to simply tap and pay on the go using their registered cards, the service, Samsung Pay, has integrated Paytm as well as the government's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) into the application. Samsung Pay provides a mobile payment option built natively on the UPI, a payment system launched by the National Payments Corporation of India.

1072) Which metals company announced a dividend of Rs 27,157 crore in 2016-17, the largest such payout by any company in the country?

- a) MMTC
- b) Tata Steel
- c) Hindustan Zinc
- d) Hindalco

Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc (HZL) on March 22, 2017 announced a special dividend of Rs 13,985 crore for 2016-17, taking the aggregate amount paid by it for the fiscal to Rs 27,157 crore, the largest such payout by any company in the country. "Together with the golden jubilee dividend paid in April last year and the interim dividend in October 2016, the aggregate dividend being paid by Hindustan Zinc during this financial year will be Rs 27,157 crore, including DDT, which is the largest dividend outflow by any company in India in a single financial year," the company said in a statement. Hindustan Zinc is one of the largest integrated producers of zinc and lead and a leading producer of silver.

1073) Which of the following released a road safety index covering 8 major cities on March 20, 2017?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on March 20, 2017 released a road safety index, covering eight cities including the national capital and Mumbai. The index, compiled across several categories on the basis of citizen views and ground level surveys, rates cities across the country on road safety on various parameters like road lighting, maintenance and infrastructure. The names of winner cities were announced by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

1074) Which of the following launched an internship initiative called 'Take Two' programme in India to help women professionals resume their career post sabbatical in March 2017?

- a) HSBC
- b) Citibank
- c) Barclays Bank
- d) Bank of America

HSBC India has launched an internship initiative called 'Take Two' programme to help women professionals resume their career post sabbatical. 'Take Two' programme is aimed at women professionals with at least six years of work experience, who have taken a break from work, HSBC India said in a release issued in Mumbai on March 19, 2017.

1075) Which company's 13 former employees were awarded life sentence by a court in Gurgaon in March 2017 for violence at its factory in Manesar in 2012?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp
- d) Maruti Suzuki

A Gurgaon court on March 18, 2017 awarded life sentence to 13 former employees of Maruti-Suzuki India Limited, who it had found guilty of murder, in connection with the violence at the automobile giant's Manesar plant in 2012 in which a senior company officer had died. Violence had erupted at the facility in August 2012 over disciplinary action against an employee during which agitated workers went on rampage, torching a part of the factory, setting senior human resource manager Awanish Kumar Dev on fire, and beating up and bludgeoning with rods 100 others.

1076) Which of the following is setting up its first greenfield training facility in Asia in New Delhi? The ground-breaking ceremony was performed on March 17, 2017?

- a) Airbus
- b) United Aircraft Corporation
- c) BAE Systems
- d) Boeing

Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju performed the ground-breaking for Asia's first greenfield training facility being set up by the European aviation major Airbus in New Delhi on March 17, 2017. The Airbus India Training Centre (AITC) will support India's growing need for Airbus aircraft pilots and maintenance engineers. Airbus has more than 250 aircraft in service in India and over 570 are on order by Indian airlines.

1077) Which telecom service provider said in March 2017 that it will acquire 4G business of Tikona Networks?

- a) Reliance Communications
- b) Tata Teleservices
- c) Reliance Jio Infocomm
- d) Bharti Airtel

Telecom major Bharti Airtel on March 23, 2017 said it will acquire 4G business of Tikona Networks, including broadband spectrum and 350 sites across 5 circles, for about Rs 1,600 crore.

1078) Which of the following announced 'Digital Payment Security alliance' in association with Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in March 2017 to create community awareness on safe and secure digital practices?

- a) Facebook
- b) Google
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM

Google and Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) on March 23, 2017 announced 'Digital Payment Security alliance' initiative that aims to create community awareness on safe and secure digital practices. Under this initiative, banks, Fintech companies and government will work together to create awareness as users adopt digital and mobile payments. Google, in collaboration with the MeitY also announced "Digital Unlocked" initiative that aims to train one lakh artisans per year across India and enable them to tap into newer markets through improved visibility of their products on internet. The artisans will be trained by National Institute of Electronics and Information technology (NIELIT).

1079) Which of the following has launched Lexus car models in India at prices starting Rs. 55.27 lakh?

- a) Audi
- b) BMW
- c) Toyota
- d) Mercedes-Benz

Toyota has launched of three Lexus models — RX Hybrid priced at Rs. 1.07 crore, RX F Sport hybrid at Rs. 1.09 crore, and ES 300h hybrid sedan priced at Rs. 55.27 lakh (all ex-showroom prices) in New Delhi on March 24, 2017.

1080) Which of the following announced Rio Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu as brand ambassador for its sports drink Gatorade in March?

- a) Nestle
- b) Danone
- c) PepsiCo
- d) Coca Cola

Soft drink major PepsiCo has roped in Rio Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu as brand ambassador for its sports drink Gatorade. Gatorade India on March 20, 2017 announced that it has signed Sindhu as its brand ambassador.

1081) "A Handful of Sunshine" is a book authored by who among the following film Directors?

- a) Shoojit Sircar
- b) Rajkumar Hirani
- c) Anurag Kashyap
- d) Vikram Bhatt

Bollywood director Vikram Bhatt best known for films like "Ghulam" and "1920: Evil Returns", has turned writer with his new book "A Handful of Sunshine". Published by Penguin Random House India, the book will hit stands in April this year. (March 21, 2017).

1082) Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the 21st chief minister of Uttar Pradesh on March 19, 2017. He won Lok Sabha elections from which constituency in 2014?

- a) Maharajganj
- b) Gorakhpur
- c) Kushi Nagar
- d) Deoria

BJP's five-time Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur, Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the 21st chief minister of Uttar Pradesh by Governor Ram Naik in Lucknow on March 19, 2017, heading a 47-member council of ministers that includes two deputy CMs. Cricketer-turned-politician Mohsin Raza, who was sworn in as a minister of state, is the lone Muslim face in the state government. BJP had not fielded any Muslim candidate in the Assembly polls. The Chief Minister, his two deputies -- BJP state unit chief Keshav Prasad Maurya (47) and party's national vice president Dinesh Sharma (53) -- and Raza (49) are not members of either House of the UP legislature.

1083) . Who among the following was sworn in as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in March 2017?

- a) Ganesh Joshi
- b) Trivendra Singh Rawat
- c) Premchand Agrawal
- d) Madan Kaushik

Trivendra Singh Rawat was sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of the fourth BJP-led government in Uttarakhand by Governor K. K. Paul in Dehradun on March 18, 2017. Rawat won from Doiwala constituency by a margin of over 24,000 votes.

1084) Which of the following on March 20, 2017 declared that the rivers Ganga and Yamuna were “living persons”?

- a) Allahabad High Court
- b) Calcutta High Court
- c) Delhi High Court
- d) Uttarakhand High Court

In a first in the country, on March 20, 2017 the Uttarakhand High Court in Dehradun, declared that the rivers Ganga and Yamuna were “living persons”. On March 15, New Zealand river Whanganui became the first in the world to be granted a legal human status.

1085) Which state announced 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs in March 2017?

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

Punjab cabinet has decided to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs. The decision was taken in the first cabinet meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh at Chandigarh on March 19, 2017. The cabinet also decided to increase representation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies from the present 33 per cent to 50 per cent.

1086) A police station in which state became the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Sanjauli police station has become the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a nationwide online tracking system. Chief minister Virbhadra Singh inaugurated the system on March 15, 2017. The police posts of Manikaran in Kullu, Solan city and Dada Siba in Kangra were also simultaneously linked to CCTNS.

1087) Which of the following announced in March 2017 that widows in the state will be referred to as “Kalyanis” in all official documents?

- a) Goa
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

In order to bring in more sensitivity and respect towards widows, the Madhya Pradesh government announced in March 2017 that widows in the state will be referred to as “Kalyanis” in all official documents. In line with the Prime Minister’s call to use the word ‘Divyang’ instead of ‘Viklang’ while referring to a person with physical disabilities, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced that widows in the state will be referred to as “Kalyani’s” in all official documents and welfare related schemes. The state govt has stressed on the point of empowerment of women and also called for the portrayal of widows in a positive light.

1088) Advocate General of which state was chosen for the 'National Law Day award' for his expertise in constitutional law in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Jharkhand Advocate General Vinod Poddar has been chosen for 'National Law Day award' for his expertise in constitutional law, an official release said in Ranchi on March 20, 2017. Poddar will get the award at the International Conference of Jurists function on March 25 in Mumbai. The function is organised by International Council of Jury (ICJ), All India Bar Association (AIBA) and Indian Council of Jurists,.

1089) Ashokamitran aged 86 in Chennai on March 23, 2017. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Arjuna Award
- b) Magsaysay Award
- c) National Film Award
- d) Sahitya Akademi Award

Prominent Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Ashokamitran, who powerfully portrayed the lives and struggles of the urban middle-class life in his literary works, died, aged 86, in Chennai on March 23, 2017. He was given the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996 for his work 'Appavin Snegidhar', a collection of short stories.

1090) Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution in March 2017 to rename which of the following airports after former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao?

- a) Cuddapah Airport
- b) Rajahmundry Airport
- c) Tirupati Airport
- d) Vijayawada Airport

The Andhra Pradesh legislature on March 21, 2017 passed resolutions urging the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to rename Tirupati and Vijayawada airports, after Lord Venkateswara and legendary Telugu actor and former CM Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, respectively. The resolutions to rename both the existing airports were moved, on behalf of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, first in the Legislative Assembly and later in the Legislative Council, and were approved unanimously.

1091) The Government on March 20, 2017 designated 12 Olympians as National Observers. Which of the following is not matched correctly?

- a) Akhil Kumar: Wrestling
- b) Anju Bobby George: Athletics
- c) Sanjeev Kumar Singh: Archery
- d) Aparna Popat: Badminton

1092) The Government on March 20, 2017 designated 12 Olympians as National Observers. Which of the following is not matched correctly?

- a) Jagbir Singh: Hockey
- b) Khajan Singh: Swimming
- c) Karnam Malleshwari: Archery
- d) Sushil Kumar: Wrestling

The Government on March 20, 2017 designated 12 Olympians as National Observers to assist the Government, Sports Authority of India, and National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned including Indian Olympic Association in the preparation and implementation of the long term development plan with respect to high priority and priority sports. They are: Athletics: P.T. Usha and Anju Bobby George, Archery: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Badminton: Aparna Popat, Boxing: Mary Kom and Akhil Kumar, Hockey: Jagbir Singh, Shooting: Abhinav Bindra, Tennis: Somdev Devvarman, Weightlifting: Karnam Malleshwari, Wrestling: Sushil Kumar, Football: I. M. Vijayan, Swimming: Khajan Singh, Table Tennis: Kamlesh Mehta

1093) Cheteshwar Pujara created a new record for most balls faced by an Indian in a Test innings in March 2017.

Whose record did he break?

- a) Rahul Dravid
- b) Sachin Tendulkar
- c) Dilip Vengsarkar
- d) Sunil Gavaskar

29-year-old Cheteshwar Pujara broke Rahul Dravid's record during the third test against Australia at Ranchi on March 19 when he faced the most balls by an Indian in a Test innings. Dravid had faced 495 balls during his 270 against Pakistan in 2004. Pujara finished with 202 in 525 balls, a new record for India. The double hundred was his second against Australia and third overall. Len Hutton's 364 off 847 balls against Australia in 1938 is the longest Test innings.

1094) Which state won the Vijay Hazare Trophy in March 2017?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Gujarat

Dinesh Karthik produced an innings of character before Tamil Nadu's disciplined bowling effort saw them beat Bengal by 37 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final, in New Delhi on March 20, 2017. Karthik (112) was the only significant scorer for the Vijay Shankar-led Tamil Nadu en route to their meagre total of 217 in 47.2 overs as Mohammed Shami bowled with a lot of fire, scalping 4 for 26. Ashok Dinda (3/36) also rattled the top order. But Tamil Nadu bowlers bowled out Manoj Tiwary-captained Bengal for 180 in 45.5 overs. Sudip Chatterjee was the top scorer with 58.

1095) Who among the following was appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup?

- a) Misbah-ul-Haq
- b) Younis Khan
- c) Umar Akmal
- d) Shahid Afridi

Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup. The announcement was made on March 17, 2017 by the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC).

1096) Santiago Nieva was appointed as new coach of Indian Men's team in which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing
- c) Wrestling
- d) Archery

Argentina's Santiago Nieva will be India's new foreign coach for men boxers, filling a position left vacant by Cuban B I Fernandes in 2014. This was announced by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh on March 19, 2017. Nieva was attached with the Swedish men's team until 2016. The 42-year-old represented Argentina during his competitive days.

1097) Vidya Pillai won silver medal in Women's World Championship in which sport in March 2017?

- a) Table tennis
- b) Bridge
- c) Snooker
- d) Chess

India's Vidya Pillai produced a spirited performance before settling for silver in the World Women Snooker Championship in in Singapore on March 19, 2017. She lost to former World Champion Ng On Yee of Hong Kong.

1098) Who among the following won gold medal for India at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in the double trap event at Acapulco (Mexico) in March 2017?

- a) Jitu Rai
- b) Vijay Kumar
- c) Ankur Mittal

d) Amanpreet Singh

Ankur Mittal clinched the gold medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in the double trap event at Acapulco (Mexico) in March 2017.

1099) India won its first football match overseas after 11 years by defeating which of the following in a friendly on March 22, 2017?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Cambodia
- c) Mongolia
- d) Singapore

The Indian football team broke an 11-year-old jinx of not winning a match away from home as they beat lower ranked Cambodia 3-2 in an international friendly in Phnom Penh on March 22, 2017. Playing in their first international friendly this year, India -- currently at 132nd in the FIFA rankings -- were given a tough fight by the Cambodians, who are 41 places below them. The last time India emerged victorious in an away international friendly was way back in 2006, when the team eked out a solitary goal win over Pakistan. Sunil Chhetri (35th minute), Jeje Lalpekhua (49th) and Sandesh Jhingan (52nd) found the target for India while Cambodia scored through Khoun Laboravy (36th) and Chan Vathanaka (62nd).

1100) Which of the following hosted the third World Conference on Environment organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on March 25-26, 2017?

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

The third World Conference on Environment was organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi on March 25-26, 2017. The conference had ten technical sessions on various issues like air pollution, water pollution, economics and clean technology, and the role of courts and tribunals

1101) Which of the following is the online film certification system launched by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry in March 2017?

- a) e-cinepath
- b) e-cinepranam
- c) e-cinepratham
- d) e-cinepramaan

1102) Who among the following retired judges is the Chairperson of the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT)?

- a) Mukul Mudgal
- b) Dalveer Bhandari
- c) Shivaraj V. Patil
- d) Manmohan Sarin

Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu on March 27, 2017 launched the online film certification system, 'e-cinepramaan', with an aim to censor corruption and promote clean cinema. Naidu said the new online certification system of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) will be an important step in making the CBFC office paper less and would enable effective monitoring and real time progress tracking for both CBFC officials and the applicant (producers). The payments made during the process by the producers will go to Bharatkosh portal. Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) Chairperson Justice Manmohan Sarin, Minister of State I&B Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Secretary I&B Ajay Mittal and CBFC CEO Anurag Srivastava were also present during the launch of the e-cinepramaan.

1103) Which of the following states has been totally exempted from the ban on liquor shops along national and state highways by the Supreme Court in March 2017?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur

1104) The Supreme Court in March 2017 modified its order on allowing liquor shops on the either side of national and state highways. For municipal/local bodies with 20,000 or less population falling along the highways the shops should be located at what minimum distance from the highways?

- a) 120 metres
- b) 220 metres
- c) 320 metres
- d) 420 metres

The Supreme Court on March 31, 2017 said hotels and restaurants falling within 500 metres on either side of the national and state highways cannot serve liquor. The apex court by its December 15, 2016 order had banned the liquor shops within 500 metres on the either side of the national and state highways. However, the court relaxed the ban on the location of liquor shops by reducing it to 220 metres in respect of municipal/local bodies with 20,000 or less population falling along the highways. Besides, the top court exempted Sikkim and Meghalaya from the ban order altogether. The top court order on March 31 came on a batch of applications filed by some state governments and the owners of hotels and restaurants located on the highways seeking modification of the December 15, 2016 order.

1105) Which Article of the Indian Constitution covers 'laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights'?

- a) Article 3
- b) Article 7
- c) Article 11
- d) Article 13

The Supreme Court on March 30, 2017 fixed the Constitution Bench hearings on a batch of petitions challenging whether triple talaq and polygamy violate the fundamental rights of Muslim women from May 11. The Constitution Bench will examine if these personal law practices are the "fundamental traits" of the minority religion. The Centre has sought the court to re-open the debate as to whether personal laws can be brought under the ambit of Article 13 (laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights) of the Indian Constitution.

1106) The first ship of a new class of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) vessels was commissioned into the Navy on March 28, 2017. It has been built by which of the following?

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

The first ship of a new class of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) vessels was commissioned into the Navy on March 28, 2017 by Vice Admiral B K Verma, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command at Port Blair. The LCU Mark IV ship, named L 51, has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.

1107) The Indian Navy de-inducted TU142M long-range maritime patrol aircraft after its 29 years of service on March 29, 2017. TU refers to which of the following?

- a) Turov
- b) Tupolev
- c) Tumasov
- d) Turgenev

1108) Which of the following is the Indian naval operation that averted a coup d'état against Maldivian Government in 1988?

- a) Operation Jupiter
- b) Operation Shield
- c) Operation Bolster
- d) Operation Cactus

The Indian Navy de-inducted TU142M long-range maritime patrol aircraft after its 29 years of service at a special ceremony held on March 29, 2017 at INS Rajali, India's premiere Naval Air Station in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu. The

aircraft was formally de-inducted by Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba. The role of TU142M will now be taken on by the newly inducted P-8I aircraft, which has proven all its systems and has been fully integrated into the operational grid of the Indian Navy. The aircraft saw action during operation 'Cactus' and participated in operational missions off Sri Lanka to provide airborne surveillance. In 1988, in an operation called 'Operation Cactus', India successfully thwarted a coup d'état against Maldivian Government.

1109) The Integrated Automatic _____ Meteorological System (IAAMS) was launched at Rajali Air Station in Tamil Nadu by the Indian Navy on March 28, 2017.

- a) Active
- b) Aviation
- c) Advanced
- d) Augmented

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on March 28, 2017 unveiled an integrated aviation meteorological system which is expected to bring accuracy in weather monitoring mechanism in the Indian Navy. The Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS) was launched at Rajali Air Station in Tamil Nadu. The aim of IAAMS is to modernise the meteorological infrastructure of the nine Naval Air Stations (NAS).

1110) The Coast Guard Eastern Region received two new Interceptor Boats C-431 and C-432, costing Rs 23 crore each, in March 2017. These have been built by which private sector company?

- a) Reliance Defence
- b) Godrej & Boyce
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) Tata Advanced Systems

The Coast Guard Eastern Region has received two new Interceptor Boats that would be utilised during the patrol and surveillance of coastal security. The boats, C-431 and C-432, costing Rs 23 crore each, would be manned by 12-member crew, a Coast Guard press release said in Chennai on March 30, 2017. The boats would be based in Chennai and Karaikal. The boats were part of the 36 Interceptor Boats project contract signed Defence Ministry and Larsen & Toubro Shipyard.

1111) The government approved the establishment of the Centre on _____ Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIDRAP) in March 2017. CIDRAP has been promoted by FAO.

- a) Indian
- b) Interactive
- c) Integrated
- d) Indigenous

1112) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) is based at:

- a) Mumbai
- b) Hyderabad
- c) Delhi
- d) Chennai

The government on March 31, 2017 approved the establishment of a unit of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, for exchange of best practises with other countries in the areas of rural development. CIRDAP is a regional Inter-Governmental and autonomous institution which came into existence at the initiative of the countries of Asia Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN).

1113) Which of the following on March 27, 2017 ruled that 'Sahitya Akademi awardees are not eligible to return their awards'?

- a) Allahabad High Court
- b) Calcutta High Court
- c) Delhi High Court
- d) Rajasthan High Court

Sahitya Akademi awardees are not eligible to return their awards as they are granted after considerable deliberations, the Delhi High Court noted on March 27, 2017. A bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal said that the executive board of the Akademi in 2015 had resolved that awards once granted cannot be taken back and therefore, there was no need to formulate guidelines against the return of the awards.

1114) What is the representation of women police personnel at all India level as on January 1, 2016 according to the government?

- a) 1.1%
- b) 7.1%
- c) 17.1%
- d) 27.1%

1115) Which is the first state to have launched Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) scheme in the country? The MPVs act as a link between police and community and help women in distress.

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

“As on January 1, 2016, the representation of women police personnel is 7.10 per cent at all India level,” Minister of State for Home Hansraj G Ahir said in a written reply to Lok Sabha on March 28, 2017. He said the Union Home Ministry has also issued advisories in 2009 and 2012 to “all the state governments and Union Territories administrations to increase the strength of women police personnel up to 33 per cent of the total strength”. The Minister said his ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has envisaged engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) in states and UTs who will act as a link between police and community and help women in distress. “Haryana has become the first state to operationalise the MPV scheme. It was launched jointly by the Ministry of WCD and Government of Haryana at Karnal on December 14, 2016 for the districts of Karnal and Mahendragarh,” he said.

1116) Predictions on election results by who among the following cannot be published/broadcast by the media, according to an Election Commission advisory issued on March 30, 2017.

- I. Astrologers
 - II. Tarot readers
 - III. Political Analysts
- a) I and II only
 - b) II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) I, II and III

Predictions by astrologers, tarot readers and political analysts on results cannot be published or broadcast by the media, bypassing the Representation of the People Act provision that bars exit polls during the conduct of elections, according to an Election Commission advisory issued on March 30, 2017. The EC observed that despite its notification prohibiting exit polls from February 4 till March 9 evening, some TV channels aired programmes projecting the number of seats likely to be won by political parties in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

1117) Who among the following sports journalists is the author of ‘A History of Indian Sport Through 100 Artefacts’ released recently?

- a) Ayaz Memon
- b) Alam Srinivas
- c) Rohit Brijnath
- d) Boria Mazumdar

1118) . ‘Home of the Brave’, a book authored by Nitin A Gokhale and Brig S K Chatterji (Retired), was released on March 28, 2017. The book is on which of the following?

- a) SSB
- b) Rashtriya Rifles
- c) Assam Rifles
- d) BSF

'Home of the Brave', a book on Rashtriya Rifles (RR) authored by Nitin A Gokhale and Brig S K Chatterji (Retired), was released on March 28, 2017.

1119) Who among the following well-known lyricists is the author of 'Apne Baare Mein (About Myself)' released recently?

- a) Gulzar
- b) Sameer
- c) Ghazal Srinivas
- d) Javed Akhtar

1120) "The Hit Girl" is the forthcoming autobiography of which veteran actress?

- a) Waheeda Rehman
- b) Sharmila Tagore
- c) Hema Malini
- d) Asha Parekh

Veteran actress Asha Parekh's autobiography, "The Hit Girl", will be released in April 2017.

1121) Tanushree Pareek became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in which paramilitary force in March 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Tanushree Pareek on March 25, 2017 became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in the 51-year history of the BSF, India's largest border guarding force. Pareek (25) also led the passing out parade of 67 trainee officers that was reviewed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at the Border Security Force camp at Tekanpur in Gwalior district of MP.

1122) Consider the following statements regarding the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 passed by Parliament in March 2017.

- I. A person who attempts suicide shall face charges under the Indian Penal Code
 - II. A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time
 - III. A person with mental illness will have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health and treatment
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

The Parliament has passed the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 with the Lok Sabha approving it on March 27, 2017. The bill seeks to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of healthcare services. The bill also states that a person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time and will not be punished under the Indian Penal Code. A person with mental illness will have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health, mental healthcare, treatment and physical healthcare. Under the bill, a child under the age of three years will not be separated from his or her mother, if the mother is receiving care, treatment or rehabilitation at a mental health establishment. The bill also provides for a penalty and imprisonment in case of violation of its provisions. Replying to a debate on the bill, Health Minister J P Nadda described the legislation as progressive and patient centric.

1123) T. R. Andhyarujina passed away in Mumbai at 84 on March 28, 2017. He was well-known for expertise in which field?

- a) Law
- b) Aviation
- c) Medicine

d) Economics

Eminent jurist and senior advocate T R Andhyarujina passed away in Mumbai on March 28, 2017. Andhyarujina, 84, who also served as Solicitor General during 1996-98, was part of the team of constitutional law expert H M Seervai in his initial days as a lawyer and witnessed from close-quarters the history-defining hearings in the 'The Kesavananda Bharati Case'. Seervai had appeared for the Kerala government in the famous Kesavananda Bharati case. The apex court had laid down the doctrine of "basic structure of the Constitution" and held that the executive cannot amend the Constitution in a way which may tamper with its "basic structure".

1124) Arun Sarma passed away on March 27, 2017 in New Delhi at the age of 87. He was a well-known:

- a) Scientist
- b) Playwright
- c) Diplomat
- d) Painter

Renowned Assamese playwright and litterateur Arun Sarma passed away on March 27, 2017 in New Delhi at the age of 87 years. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2010 in recognition of his contributions to Assamese literature. He had the rare distinction of having won the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2003 for his contributions to drama and the Sahitya Akademi award in 1998 for literature for the novel 'Ashirbadar Rong'.

1125) Justice C S Karnan on March 31, 2017 appeared in the Supreme Court in the contempt case against him. He is serving at which of the following?

- a) Delhi High Court
- b) Madras High Court
- c) Patna High Court
- d) Calcutta High Court

Embattled Calcutta High Court judge Justice C S Karnan on March 31, 2017 appeared in the Supreme Court in the contempt case against him, a first in Indian judicial history, and sought restoration of his powers as a condition for his re-appearance, but the plea was rejected. A defiant Justice Karnan told the court he would not appear before it again even if he was arrested and put in jail. A seven-judge bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, granted him four weeks to respond to the contempt notice while refusing to restore his judicial and administrative powers as a serving High Court judge.

1126) Consider the following:

- I. Film (F) visa
- II. Intern (I) visa
- III. Sports (S) visa

Which of the above is/are among the new visas introduced by the government from April 1, 2017?

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

1127) The government launched new visa regime from April 1, 2017. The window for application under e-visa scheme has been increased to how many days?

- a) 60 days
- b) 90 days
- c) 120 days
- d) 150 days

1128) The government launched new visa regime from April 1, 2017. The duration of stay on e-visa has been increased to how many days?

- a) 60 days
- b) 90 days
- c) 120 days
- d) 150 days

1129) E-visa facility has been extended to nationals of 161 countries for entry through 24 airports and three seaports: Cochin, Goa and _____ from April 1, 2017.

- a) Kollam
- b) Mundra
- c) Mumbai
- d) Mangalore

1130) The government launched new visa regime from April 1, 2017. Nationals of how many countries are now covered under the e-visa facility?

- a) 91
- b) 121
- c) 141
- d) 161

The government has further liberalised its visa regime aimed at bringing more tourists and business travellers to the country. The new changes approved by the cabinet will be rolled out from April 1, 2017. Following are the major changes announced:

- With effect from April 1, e-visa has been sub-divided into 3 categories -- e-tourist visa, e-business visa and e-medical visa. Till now, e-visa was only for tourists
- E-visa facility has been extended to nationals of 161 countries for entry through 24 airports (earlier granted through 16 airports) and three seaports: Cochin, Goa and Mangalore.
- The window for application under e-visa scheme has been increased from 30 days to 120 days and duration of stay on e-visa has been increased from 30 days to 60 days with double entry on e-tourist and e-business visa and triple entry on e-medical visa.
- The multiple-entry tourist and business visas for a period of 5 years will now be available to nationals of most of the countries. Upon urgent requests, business visa and medical visa will be granted within 48 hours of application.
- A new category of visa titled intern (I) visa has been rolled out with effect from March 1, 2017 to a foreigner intending to pursue internship in Indian companies, educational institutions and NGOs. The period of visa is restricted to the duration of internship programme or one year, whichever is less.
- Another new category of visa, titled film (F) visa has also been introduced with maximum duration of one year with multiple entry facility.
- The minimum salary limit of for grant of employment visa, which is presently US \$ 25,000 per annum, has also been modified. This will facilitate foreign nationals engaged as teaching faculty by the central higher educational institutions.

1131) Who among the following was appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN offices in Geneva in March 2017?

- a) Vishnu Prakash
- b) Smita Purushottam
- c) Ruchira Kamboj
- d) Rajiv Kumar Chander

Rajiv Kumar Chander, a 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was on March 30, 2017 appointed the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN offices in Geneva.

1132) 33. Which neighbouring country conferred the title of honorary general on Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on March 29, 2017?

- a) Nepal

- b) Bhutan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Myanmar

Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat was on March 29, 2017 conferred the title of honorary general of the Nepal Army by Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu.

1133) The government has created a project development fund (PDF) to facilitate Indian investment in CMLV. CMLV is a group of countries on which continent?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) North America

The government on March 29, 2017 said it has created a project development fund (PDF) to facilitate Indian investment in four countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV). "The government has created a PDF for CLMV countries to facilitate Indian investment and broaden manufacturing base of Indian companies in the region," Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

1134) Which of the following hosted the third Meeting of the G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) on March 28-29, 2017?

- a) Patna
- b) Ranchi
- c) Varanasi
- d) New Delhi

The third Meeting of the G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) was organised at Varanasi by the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 28-29, 2017. Participants at the Meeting discussed the current state of the global economy as well as G-20 agenda on Inclusive Growth among others. The G-20 FWG is one of the core Working Groups of G-20 and deliberates on matters related to global economy. India co-chairs this group with Canada.

1135) Indian Parliament will assist which African nation in the capacity building of its Parliamentary officials and lawmakers? An announcement to this effect was made by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on March 27, 2017.

- a) Lesotho
- b) Namibia
- c) Swaziland
- d) Botswana

Indian Parliament will assist Namibia in the capacity building of its Parliamentary officials and lawmakers, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said on March 27, 2017. She stated this while receiving Speaker of Namibian National Assembly Peter H Katjavivi and her delegation of MPs in the Parliament House in New Delhi. The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) conducts regular training programmes for Parliamentary staff from various countries.

1136) Which of the following US cities hosted the 'Make in India -The Inside Story' conference on March 24-25, 2017?

- a) Houston
- b) Washington
- c) Chicago
- d) New York

A first-ever conference was held in Houston (USA) bringing together various constituencies that have an interest in India and discussing the latest developments and the best practices of doing business in India. The two-day Houston India Conference was hosted by Asia Society Texas Center on March 24-25, 2017. The theme of the Conference is 'Make in India: The Inside Story'.

1137) Nicola Sturgeon is the leading politician in which constituent of United Kingdom?

- a) England

- b) Northern Ireland
- c) Scotland
- d) Wales

The Scottish government on March 31, 2017 formally asked British Prime Minister Theresa May for a second referendum on independence, deepening a constitutional crisis sparked by the Brexit vote. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the ruling Scottish National Party, wrote a letter to May telling her that Scotland did not want to leave Europe's single market, two days after Britain launched the process of leaving the European Union. "The people of Scotland must have the right to choose our own future," Sturgeon, leader of the ruling Scottish National Party, said in the letter.

1138) Which of the following launched 'Operation Hit Back' to flush out militants from their hideouts across the country in March 2017?

- a) Iraq
- b) Colombia
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Bangladesh

Bangladesh on March 30, 2017 launched 'Operation Hit Back' to flush out militants from their hideouts as the army intensified its crackdown on Islamist terrorists by conducting multiple raids across the country. This operation was launched after the chief of neo-JMB, a terror outfit linked to the country's worst attack in Dhaka, was killed along with three terrorists in 'Operation Twilight' in Sylhet.

1139) Which European country was accepted as 29th member of NATO by the US Senate in March 2017?

- a) Kosovo
- b) Moldova
- c) Serbia
- d) Montenegro

The US Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve Montenegro as NATO's 29th member in Washington on March 28, 2017.

1140) The Unity for Security Forum was organised by the Interpol Foundation for a Safer World on March 28-30, 2017 at which of the following places?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Abu Dhabi

1141) . Who among the following is the Secretary General of Interpol?

- a) Marcel Sicot
- b) Jürgen Stock
- c) Jean Népote
- d) André Bossard
- e) Raymond Kendall

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pledged a contribution of \$54 million to the Interpol Foundation for a Safer World to support seven projects designed to combat global crime and terrorism. The first Unity for Security Forum was held in Abu Dhabi in partnership with the UAE government from March 28 to 30, 2017. Interpol Secretary-General Jurgen Stock said the contribution comes at a time when the world policing body is being encouraged to play a larger role in improving global security. The forum brought together ministers, senior government officials, and representatives from the private sector, to collectively discuss and address common issues and identify their responsibilities in combating future security threats. The seven Interpol projects focus on counter-terrorism, cybercrime, cultural heritage, vulnerable communities, vehicle crime, drugs and illicit goods.

1142) Which continent was affected by Cyclone Debbie in March 2017?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) Australia

Thousands of people including tourists were evacuated on March 27, 2017 as northeast Australia braced for a powerful cyclone packing destructive winds, with warnings of major structural damage and surging tides. Cyclone Debbie has been forming off the coast of Queensland state over recent days.

1143) Which of the following was observed on March 27, 2017?

- a) World Dance Day
- b) World Poetry Day
- c) World Music Day
- d) World Theatre Day
- e) World Short Story Day

The World Theatre Day was celebrated on March 27, 2017. Created in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the day is designed to draw attention to the power of the stage. It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community. Various national and international theatre events are organized to mark this occasion

1144) Who among the following elected as the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in March 2017?

- a) Matthew Cheung
- b) Carrie Lam
- c) Sarah Liao
- d) Michael Suen

1145) Hong Kong became a part of China in which year?

- a) 1967
- b) 1977
- c) 1987
- d) 1997

China-backed bureaucrat Carrie Lam was on March 26, 2017 elected as Hong Kong's first woman Chief Executive. Lam, 59, won 777 votes from the 1,194-member Election Committee. In Hong Kong, chief executive is not chosen by public vote, but by a committee dominated by pro- Beijing electors. Hong Kong merged with Chinese mainland in 1997 under the 'one country two systems' principle worked out between Britain and China. The principle grants certain degree of autonomy from Beijing to Hong Kong which is officially called the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

1146) Who among the following was appointed as the new Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) in March 2017?

- a) Mark Sanford
- b) Frank Keating
- c) Carroll Campbell
- d) David Beasley

Former South Carolina Governor David Beasley was on March 28, 2017 appointed as the new Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

1147) Four teams of ISRO have joined the 36th scientific mission to Antarctica, organised by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR). Which of the following is matched correctly?

- a) Space Applications Centre: Ahmedabad
- b) National Remote Sensing Centre: Hyderabad
- c) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing: Dehradun
- d) All the above

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), on March 22, 2017 said it has joined the 36th scientific mission to Antarctica, organised by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR). This year, four teams from ISRO—one team from Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad and one team each from the National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun and the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), Thiruvananthapuram—are participating.

1148) NISAR is a joint project of NASA and India's ISRO. 'R' in NISAR refers to:

- a) Rapid
- b) Radar
- c) Resource
- d) Regional

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are jointly working on the development of Dual Frequency (L and S band) Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging Satellite named as NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). (March 29, 2017)

1149) Who among the following created a new record for the most spacewalks by a woman in March 2017?

- a) Nicole Stott
- b) Peggy Whitson
- c) Sandra Magnus
- d) Eileen Collins

American astronaut Peggy Whitson made history when she floated outside the International Space Station on March 30, 2017, breaking the record for the most spacewalks by a woman. Whitson, 57, made her eighth career spacewalk, surpassing the record of seven previously held by American Sunita Williams.

1150) Which browser was created by Mozilla?

- a) Safari
- b) Chrome
- c) Navigator
- d) Firefox

A Mumbai-based initiative to offer affordable rural broadband services has won Mozilla's Equal Rating Innovation Challenge, the non-profit organisation behind the open source browser Firefox said. In its bid to both bridge the digital divide and empower unconnected communities, 'Project Gram Marg Solution for Rural Broadband' has created a technology that utilises unused white space on the TV spectrum to backhaul data from village wifi clusters to provide broadband access. The win entitles Project Gram Marg to \$125,000 (Rs 82 lakh) in funding, Mozilla said at an event in Brussels on March 29, 2017.

1151) Dr B C Roy National Awards for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 were presented at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 28, 2017. Dr B C Roy was:

- a) Founder of AIIMS
- b) Former Mayor of Kolkata
- c) Former Speaker of Lok Sabha
- d) Former Chief Minister of West Bengal

President Pranab Mukherjee on March 28, 2017 honoured the Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Randeep Guleria along with 48 other doctors, with national awards for excellence in the field of medicine. The Dr B C Roy National Awards for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 were presented at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The B.C. Roy Awards were instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1976 in memory of renowned physician and former West Bengal Chief Minister Bidhan Chandra Roy. Doctor Roy was honoured with the highest civilian honour of Bharat Ratna in 1961.

1152) Who among the following was selected the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2017?

- a) Anil Sutar
- b) Susanta Roy
- c) Himmat Shah
- d) Sitaram Swain

Odisha-based installation artist Sitaram Swain has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2017. The sixth recipient of the honour, Swain will represent India at the Glenfiddich Artists in Residence (AiR) programme where he will spend three months at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Scotland with seven artists from around the world. The

artist will be also awarded Rs 10 lakh, which includes an international allowance of Rs 1,20,000 per month and a work allowance of Rs 500,000, besides being given a solo show at Bestcollegeart.Com Gallery in New Delhi. (March 28, 2017)

1153) . Who among the following Chief Ministers was given the 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016' by Jain Swetambhar Terapanth Dharma Sangh Anuvrata Mahasamiti in March 2017?

- a) Nitish Kumar
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on March 28, 2017 bestowed with the 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016' for implementing total prohibition in the state. The Chief Minister was bestowed with the award by prominent Jain priest Acharya Mahashraman in Patna. The Anuvrata Puruskar was given by Jain Swetambhar Terapanth Dharma Sangh Anuvrata Mahasamiti.

1154) The Reserve Bank of India on March 30, 2017 decided to continue its measures to promote digital transactions. Merchant discount rate (MDR) for transactions up to Rs. 1,000 has been capped at:

- a) 0.25%
- b) 0.50%
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%

1155) The Reserve Bank of India on March 30, 2017 decided to continue its measures to promote digital transactions. Merchant discount rate (MDR) for transactions above Rs. 1,000 and up to Rs. 2,000 has been capped at:

- a) 0.25%
- b) 0.50%
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%

The Reserve Bank of India on March 30, 2017 said its mid-December 2016 'special measures' on rationalisation of merchant discount rate (MDR) for transactions up to Rs. 2,000 will continue. The instructions were issued to facilitate wider acceptance of debit card payments. The measures, whereby MDR for transactions up to Rs. 1,000, and above Rs. 1,000 and up to Rs. 2,000 were capped at 0.25 per cent and 0.50 per cent, respectively, of the transaction value, were effective from January 1, 2017 till March 31, 2017. The RBI said it will continue with the measures till the issuance of final instructions on MDR for debit card transactions. MDR is the commission charged by the acquirer bank to the merchant (trader/service provider).

1156) The Finance Ministry on March 31, 2017 notified the interest rates for different small savings schemes for the quarter ending June 2017. The highest rate is available on which of the following?

- a) Kisan Vikas Patra
- b) Public Provident Fund
- c) 5-year recurring deposit
- d) Sukanya Samriddhi Account

1157) . The Finance Ministry on March 31, 2017 notified the interest rates for different small savings schemes for the quarter ending June 2017. Which of the following has remained unchanged?

- a) Kisan Vikas Patra
- b) Public Provident Fund
- c) 5-year recurring deposit
- d) Post Office Savings Account

The government on March 31, 2017 lowered the interest rate on small savings schemes by 0.1% for April 1-June 30 period. Accordingly, interest rates for small savings schemes are to be notified on quarterly basis. For the April-June quarter, the interest rate on **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** has been reduced to 7.9% from the earlier 8%. Interest rate on **Kisan Vikas Patra** has been reduced to 7.6% (which will mature in 113 months) from the earlier 7.7% (with maturity in 112 months). The **Sukanya Samriddhi Account Yojana** interest rate has been reduced to 8.4% from the earlier 8.5%. The interest rates on **five-year Recurring Deposit (7.2%)**, **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (8.4%)**, **Monthly Income**

1158) Which of the following will receive Euro 200 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to fund solar power projects? The approval was announced in March.

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved Rs 1,400 crore (EUR 200 million) loan to State Bank of India to fund solar power projects. The long-term loan will support total investment of EUR 650 million in five different large-scale photo-voltaic solar power projects, EIB said in a statement. This will contribute to India's National Solar mission and reduce dependence on fossil fuel power generation. The 20-year long-term EIB loan will support individual projects. This funding will be in addition to financing from Indian banks and project promoters. Owned by the 28 member states of the European Union, EIB is the world's largest international public bank. (March 31, 2017)

1159) Which of the following is the credit card introduced by SBI Cards in March 2017 for its customers, including Jan Dhan account holders, throughout the country?

- a) SBI Card Vikas
- b) SBI Card Yuva
- c) SBI Card Mudra
- d) SBI Card Unnati

SBI Card on March 30, 2017 announced the launch of a credit card, 'SBI Card Unnati', targeted at all State Bank of India (SBI) customers, including Jan Dhan account holders, throughout the country. To encourage adoption of credit cards and facilitate expansion in the reach of digital payments, the SBI Card Unnati will be offered free, at zero annual fees for four years.

1160) Who among the following took charge as whole-time Member in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on March 31, 2017?

- a) Ravindra Puranik
- b) Pradeep Subramanian
- c) Makrand Saxena
- d) Navrang Saini

Navrang Saini on March 31, 2017 has taken charge as a Whole Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). He would look after Registration & Monitoring wing at the board.

1161) The Finance Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament on March 30, 2017. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this regard?

- I. The ceiling on corporate donations to political parties has been increased
 - II. Aadhaar has been made compulsory for filing income tax returns
 - III. Cash transactions have been limited to Rs. 2 lakh
- a) I and II only
 - b) II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III only

The Finance Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament on March 30, 2017 with the Lok Sabha rejecting the amendments proposed by the Rajya Sabha. With this, the tax proposals in the Budget and the reform measures introduced later in Lok Sabha as amendments to the Finance Bill including merger of tribunals, a Rs. 2 lakh cap on cash transactions and mandatory use of Aadhaar for filing income tax returns from 1 July will become law. An amendment to Companies Act has **removed** the cap on company donations. Earlier political funding by companies could not exceed 7.5% of net profits for previous three financial years.

1162) CBDT launched a one-page simplified income-tax return form for individuals having income up to Rs 50 lakh I March 2017. What has it been named?

- a) Sahaj
- b) Saral
- c) Swayam
- d) Sulabh

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified income-tax return forms (ITR forms), including a one-page simplified ITR Form-1 (Sahaj), which can be used by individuals having income up to Rs 50 lakh. This initiative will benefit more than two crore taxpayers, who will be eligible to file their return of income in this simplified form. (March 31, 2017)

1163) What was India's external debt at end-December 2016 as per data disclosed by the Government on March 31, 2017?

- a) \$156.1 billion
- b) \$256.1 billion
- c) \$356.1 billion
- d) \$456.1 billion

1164) Consider the following statements on India's external debt at end-December 2016.

- I. Long-term debt was higher than short-term debt
- II. Government (Sovereign) debt was higher than non-Government debt
- III. US dollar denominated debt was more than half of total debt

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

According to the data released by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Finance Ministry on March 31, 2017, India's External Debt position at end-December 2016 is as follows:

- India's external debt stock fell by US\$ 29.0 billion (6.0 per cent) to US\$ 456.1 billion, at end-December 2016 over the level at end-March 2016.
- At end-December 2016, long-term external debt accounted for 81.6 per cent of India's total external debt, while the remaining 18.4 per cent was short-term debt.
- The shares of Government (Sovereign) and non-Government debt in the total external debt were 19.6 per cent and 80.4 per cent respectively, at end-December 2016.
- The share of US dollar denominated debt was 54.7 per cent of the total external debt at end-December 2016, followed by the Indian rupee (31.1 per cent), SDR (5.9 per cent), Japanese yen (4.4 per cent), Euro (2.7 per cent), Pound Sterling (0.7 per cent) and Others (0.5 per cent).

1165) Five airlines won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) on March 30, 2017. The maximum fare on flight on these routes is capped at _____ for one-hour flights for 50% of the seats.

- a) Rs. 2000
- b) Rs. 2500
- c) Rs. 3000
- d) Rs. 3500

1166) Five airlines won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) on March 30, 2017. Which of the following got the maximum number of routes?

- a) SpiceJet
- b) Air Deccan
- c) Air Odisha Aviation
- d) Airline Allied Services

Five airlines on March 30, 2017 won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports of which 31 are unserved under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik). Fares for 50% of the seats are capped at Rs 2,500 for one-hour flights on these routes.

Air Odisha Aviation got maximum number of 50 routes followed by Air Deccan (34) and Turbo Megha Airways (18). The AI subsidiary Airline Allied Services would operate on 15 routes while SpiceJet won bids for 11 routes. The first flight under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is expected to start in April 2017.

Under UDAN, the operators would be extended viability gap funding -- for which money is partly raised through a levy of up to Rs 8,500 on flights operating in major routes like Delhi and Mumbai. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said criteria for selecting the winning bidders was based on the level of viability gap funding each of them sought per seat.

The scheme also provides for various benefits including no airport charges and three-year exclusivity on the routes. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency for UDAN.

1167) The government allowed unrestricted exports of all certified organic agricultural products from March 31, 2017.

10. APEDA is Agricultural and _____ Food Products Export Development Authority

- a) Primary
- b) Preserved
- c) Precooked
- d) Processed
- e) Pasteurised

The government on March 31, 2017 allowed unrestricted exports of all certified organic agricultural products, a move that would help in boosting shipments. However, the government said in view of acute shortage in the country, the quantitative ceiling on shipments of organic pulses and lentils will continue. But the ceiling was enhanced from 10,000 tonnes to 50,000 tonnes. All organic products exports are certified by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). India's export of organic goods have increased from USD 12.4 million in 2002-03 to USD 298 million in 2015-16. India mainly exports organic wheat, non-basmati rice and sugar.

1168) India's relationship with the International Energy Agency (IEA) was elevated from Partnership Status to Association Status in March 2017. Where is the IEA based?

- a) Doha
- b) Riyadh
- c) Berlin
- d) Paris

1169) India's relationship with the International Energy Agency (IEA) was elevated from Partnership Status to Association Status in March 2017. Who among the following is the Executive Director of IEA?

- a) Fatih Birol
- b) Paul Simons
- c) Claude Mandil
- d) Nobuo Tanaka

The Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan met Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of International Energy Agency (IEA) on March 30, 2017. Dr Birol was on visit to India to jointly announce the Activation of 'Association Status' of India with IEA. During the meeting, Pradhan welcomed the elevation of India's relationship with IEA from Partnership Status (2013) to Association Status. IEA is a Paris based autonomous organisation established in 1974. It's mandate is to work towards ensuring reliable, affordable and clean energy mainly for its 29 member countries by coordinating collective response to major disruptions in oil supply through release of oil stocks into the global markets.

1170) . The stamping of passengers' hand baggage at seven major airports will end from April 1. The airports covered are Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and _____.

- a) Patna
- b) Jaipur
- c) Cochin
- d) Lucknow

1171) Which paramilitary force is in charge of security at airports in India?

- a) BSF

- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Stamping of passengers' hand baggage at seven major airports, including Delhi and Mumbai, will be done away with from April 1, the CISF said on March 30, 2017. The other airports that will begin the new procedure from the morning of April 1 include the ones in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Cochin and Ahmedabad. "The procedure of stamping and putting tags on the hand baggage of passengers will be dispensed with from April 1 at seven airports. We have put in place the required security systems that will help us in ushering in this passenger- friendly move," CISF Director General O P Singh said.

1172) . Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in March 2017?

- a) Punita Krishnan
- b) Najib Shah
- c) Vanaja N. Sarna
- d) Ram Tirath

Senior bureaucrat Vanaja N Sarna was on March 30, 2017 appointed as Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

1173) R K Bahuguna was appointed as the Vice Chairman of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in March 2017. He is the CMD of which of the following CPSEs?

- a) MMTC
- b) ONGC
- c) NTPC
- d) BHEL

The apex body of central public sector units SCOPE on March 28, 2017 said Ved Prakash has been elected as its new chairman. Prakash is also CMD of government-run trading firm MMTC Ltd. R K Bahuguna has been elected as Vice Chairman of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE). The new executive board of SCOPE will assume office from April 1.

1174) Vehicles sold after March 31, 2017 must comply with which of the following emission norms?

- a) Bharat Stage-II
- b) Bharat Stage-III
- c) Bharat Stage-IV
- d) Bharat Stage-V

In a blow to automobile firms, the Supreme Court on March 29, 2017 banned sale and registration of vehicles, which are not BS-IV (Bharat Stage-IV) compliant, in India from April 1 when the new emission norms come into force. "All the vehicle registering authorities under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are prohibited for registering such vehicles on and from April 1, 2017 that do not meet BS-IV emission standards, except on proof that such a vehicle has already been sold on or before March 31, 2017", the court said.

1175) What was India's position in terms of overall air passenger traffic (domestic + international) in 2016 according to Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) in March 2017?

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

1176) What was India's position in terms of domestic passenger traffic in 2016 according to Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) in March 2017?

- a) Second
- b) Third
- c) Fourth

d) Fifth

India has become the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic, Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) said in its latest report on March 26, 2017. India's domestic air passenger traffic stood at 100 million in 2016 and was behind only the US (719 million) and China (436 million). India enjoyed the fourth position in terms of overall air passenger traffic (both domestic and international) along with the UK. Japan, which flew 141 million passengers in 2016, was ahead of India whose total air passenger traffic was 131 million. United States with 815 million passengers in 2016 enjoyed the top position, followed by China with 490 million.

1177) The government has decided to rename Central Board of Excise and Customs as which of the following?

- a) Central Board of Indian Taxes and Customs
- b) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
- c) Central Board of Implied Taxes and Customs
- d) Central Board of Indigenous Taxes and Customs
- e) Central Board of International Taxes and Customs

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) will be reorganised for the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and will be renamed the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) following Parliamentary approval. "Reorganisation of the field formations of CBEC for the implementation of GST has been approved by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The existing formations of Central Excise and Service Tax under the CBEC have been re-organised to implement and enforce the provisions of the proposed GST Laws," the Finance Ministry said on March 25, 2017.

1178) How much has the government raised through disinvestment in 2016-17?

- a) Rs. 16,247 crore
- b) Rs. 26,247 crore
- c) Rs. 36,247 crore
- d) Rs. 46,247 crore

1179) SUUTI is _____ Undertaking of Unit Trust of India.

- a) Senior
- b) Specified
- c) Securities
- d) Systematic

The government has raised a record Rs 46,247 crore through disinvestment. With this, the disinvestment proceeds of 2016-17 has exceeded the revised estimates (RE) of Rs 45,500 crore set in 2017-18 Budget. Record achievement of Rs 46,247 crore include Rs 35,468 crore from CPSE disinvestment and Rs 10,779 crore from strategic disinvestment and SUUTI's investment. SUUTI is Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India.

1180) Which of the following is not among the eight industries that comprise Core Sector?

- a) Coal
- b) Crude oil
- c) Cement
- d) Engineering goods

The growth of eight core sectors slipped to over one-year low of 1 per cent in February mainly due to decline in output of crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers and cement. The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity was 9.4 per cent in February 2016. The core sectors, which contribute 38 per cent to the total industrial production, expanded 4.4 per cent in April-February this fiscal compared to 3.5 per cent growth in the same period previous financial year, according to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry on March 31, 2017. However, coal and steel recorded positive growth while the output of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers and cement contracted during the month under review.

1181) Siddhartha Lal won the CEO of the Year award at the Business Standard Annual Awards in March 2017. He is the CEO of:

- a) Hindustan Motors
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Maruti Suzuki
- d) Eicher Motors

1182) Y C Deveshwar was presented the Lifetime Achievement award at the Business Standard Annual Awards in March 2017. He is the non-executive chairman of:

- a) Exide
- b) L&T
- c) HCL
- d) ITC

1183) Sanjit 'Bunker' won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Business Standard Annual Awards in March 2017. He is associated with which NGO?

- a) Deepalaya
- b) Akshara Network
- c) Barefoot College
- d) Lok Biradari Prakalp

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Business Standard Annual Awards in Mumbai on March 25, 2017.

- IndiGo won the Company of the Year award
- Siddhartha Lal of Eicher Motors won the CEO of the Year award.
- Y C Deveshwar, non-executive chairman of ITC, was presented the Lifetime Achievement award.
- The Banker of the Year award went to HDFC Bank MD & CEO Aditya Puri.
- Maruti Suzuki received the Star MNC of the Year award.
- NTPC got the Star PSU of the Year award.
- Dr Lal PathLabs is the winner of Star SME of the Year award.
- Freshdesk was selected as Start-Up of the Year.
- Sanjit 'Bunker' Roy of Barefoot College won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award.
- Axis Bank won the Socially Aware Corporate of the Year award.
- The Social Enterprise of the Year was given to Pratham Education Foundation, one of the biggest non-government interventions in India's education sector, which reaches close to six million students across the country today.
- ISRO received the Innovative Organisation of the Year award.

1184) Who among the following bankers is the only Indian company executive in the list of world's 30 best chief executive officers (CEO), published by American financial magazine Barron's in March 2017?

- a) Aditya Puri
- b) Uday Kotak
- c) Rana Kapoor
- d) Shikha Sharma

1185) Shantanu Narayen is the CEO of which of the following?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) MasterCard
- d) Adobe

HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri's name has featured in the list of world's 30 best chief executive officers (CEO), published by American financial magazine Barron's on March 25, 2017. Indian-origin CEOs in the list are Satya Nadella (Microsoft CEO) and Shantanu Narayen (Adobe Systems CEO).

1186) Which of the following launched EasySix vaccine for protection against six diseases— diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, hepatitis B and polio – in March 2017?

- a) Piramal Life Sciences
- b) Biocon
- c) Serum Institute of India
- d) Panacea Biotec

Drug firm Panacea Biotec on March 29, 2017 announced launch of EasySix, a liquid hexavalent combination vaccine indicated for immunisation of newborn babies against common preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, hepatitis B and polio.

1187) Which mobile phone company introduced Bixby smart voice assistant along with its latest series of smartphones launched in March 2017?

- a) LG
- b) Apple
- c) Lenovo
- d) Samsung

South Korean giant Samsung on March 29, 2017 launched its flagship device, Galaxy S8. The device comes in two variants with different screen sizes -- the 5.8-inch Galaxy S8 and 6.2-inch Galaxy S8 Plus. Samsung also revealed Bixby, a smart voice assistant to rival Apple's Siri and Google's Assistant.

1188) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached assets worth Rs 263 crore of which of the following media groups in March 2017 over bank loan defaults?

- a) Indian Express
- b) Hindustan Times
- c) Malayala Manorama
- d) Deccan Chronicle

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 263 crore, including land and bank accounts of the Hyderabad-based Deccan Chronicle group, in connection with a money laundering case related to a bank fraud. (March 28, 2017)

1189) Which of the following MNCs lost a trademark case on genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds to India's Nuziveedu Seeds Limited in March 2017?

- a) Cargill
- b) Monsanto
- c) DuPont
- d) Syngenta

The Delhi High Court on March 28, 2017 dismissed Monsanto Technology LLC's trademark infringement suit against Nuziveedu Seeds Limited, after concluding that the American biotechnological company's termination of a sub-licensing agreement with the Indian seed manufacturer was illegal and arbitrary. The sub-licensing agreement allowed Nuziveedu Seeds to use the company's genetically modified hybrid cotton seed technology. The court ruled that the agreement still continued to be in force and binding on both parties. The decision now allows Nuziveedu to continue to use Monsanto's Bollgard and Bollgard II trademarks.

1190) Who among the following Indian businesspersons has been inducted on the International Advisory Board of global think-tank Atlantic Council in March 2017?

- a) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- b) Anil Ambani
- c) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- d) Subhash Chandra

Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani has been inducted on the International Advisory Board of global think-tank Atlantic Council that has among its members former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew K. Brzezinski and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, the company said on March 28, 2017. The Atlantic Council is a foreign policy think-tank headquartered in Washington, DC. Among the 10 regional and thematic centres, the Atlantic Council's South Asia Centre manages sustainable and innovative programmes that are focused on fostering development and cooperation.

1191) Who among the following sportswomen was named brand ambassador of Panasonic Batteries in March 2017?

- a) Sakshi Malik
- b) Sania Mirza
- c) Mary Kom
- d) P. V. Sindhu

P V Sindhu, currently ranked world number 6, has been roped in as the brand ambassador of Panasonic Energy India, manufacturer and supplier of dry cell batteries and lighting products. The 21-year-old badminton player has been signed in for Panasonic's Battery division for the next three years. (March 28, 2017)

1192) Food regulator FSSAI tied up with which of the following in March 2017 to train 50,000 street food vendors over the next three years under its 'Clean Street Food' campaign?

- a) Dominos
- b) Vadilal
- c) PepsiCo
- d) Coca Cola

Food regulator FSSAI on March 27, 2017 tied up with Coca-Cola India to train 50,000 street food vendors over the next three years under its 'Clean Street Food' campaign. FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal said many companies are coming forward to participate under the initiative.

1193) Which of the following became the first state in the country to make cow slaughter punishable with life term in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Maharashtra

Punishment to those found guilty of cow slaughter in Gujarat has been enhanced to life term under a more stringent law passed by the state Assembly in Gandhinagar on March 31, 2017. With the passing of the amendment Bill, Gujarat becomes the first state in the country to make cow slaughter punishable with life term. Cow slaughter has also been made a non-bailable offence. The Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill approved by the Legislative Assembly also has a provision for ten-year imprisonment for transportation, storage or sale of beef.

1194) The Indu Mills land in Mumbai has been handed over to the Maharashtra government by the Centre for building a memorial for who among the following?

- a) Jyotiba Phule
- b) Veer Savarkar
- c) Jaiprakash Narayan
- d) Babasaheb Ambedkar
- e) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Decks have been cleared for the construction of memorial of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar near Chaityabhoomi in central Mumbai with the 12 acres of Indu Mill land being formally transferred to the state government on March 25, 2017. The transfer documents were handed over to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis by Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani and Union Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale at the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai.

1195) . Which of the following became the first state in the country to conclude a loan agreement with the Shanghai-based New Development Bank in March 2017?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh

India on March 30, 2017 signed the first loan agreement with the Shanghai-based New Development Bank for USD 350 million for development and upgradation of road project in Madhya Pradesh. The project is to be implemented over 5 years. The agreement was signed between Government of India and the Shanghai-based New Development Bank (NDB) and this is the first loan agreement for NDB assisted project in India. The objective of the project is upgradation of major district roads in MP to improve connectivity of the interior areas of the state with the national and state highway networks.

1196) Which state has built the most number of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched in June 2015?

- a) Goa

- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Maharashtra

Gujarat is far ahead of other States in construction of affordable houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched by the Prime Minister on June 25, 2015. In Gujarat, 25,873 houses have so far been built for the benefit of urban poor accounting for 32% of the total 82,048 such houses built under PMAY (Urban) in 30 States and Union Territories. According to the written information furnished by Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M. Venkaiah Naidu in Rajya Sabha on March 30, 2017, Gujarat is followed by Rajasthan with 10,805 houses constructed so far (13.17% of total).

1197) Which of the following announced free power connections for all below poverty line (BPL) households in the state in March 2017?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh

All below poverty line (BPL) households in the urban and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh will get free power connection while homes above poverty line (APL) will be given 100 per cent financing option with easy EMIs. (March 27, 2017) These electricity connections would be given without any discrimination on caste or religious lines and would be based on the latest Socio-Economic Census data, it said.

1198) Which of the following became the first tiger reserve in the country to officially introduce a mascot — Bhoorsingh the Barasingha (swamp deer) — in March 2017?

- a) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- b) Panna Tiger Reserve
- c) Satpura Tiger Reserve
- d) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Kanha has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot — Bhoorsingh the Barasingha — to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction. Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The Kanha tiger reserve, spread over Mandla and Balaghat districts, is the only place in the world where the species exists. (March 29, 2017)

1199) Which of the following hosted the five-day-long Namami Brahmaputra river festival in April 2017?

- a) Tripura
- b) West Bengal
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

President Pranab Mukherjee on March 31, 2017 inaugurated the five-day-long Namami Brahmaputra river festival at Guwahati in Assam. The five-day-long river festival is being organised across 21 districts of Assam through which the mighty Brahmaputra river passes.

1200) Consider the following regarding India-Australia test series that concluded on March 28, 2017.

- I. Most runs in the Series: Steve Smith
- II. Most wickets in the Series: Ravichandran Ashwin
- III. Man of the Series: Ravindra Jadeja

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only

1201) Which trophy was given to the winner of India-Australia Test Series in March 2017?

- a) Chappell-Mankad Trophy

- b) Bradman-Hazare Trophy
- c) Border-Gavaskar Trophy
- d) Ganguly-Taylor Trophy

India defeated Australia by eight wickets in the fourth and final cricket Test to claim the four-match series 2-1 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on March 28, 2017. India got the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for winning the series. Ravindra Jadeja was declared Player of the match as well as Player of the series. Most runs in the series were scored by Australian captain Steve Smith (499) while Jadeja was the highest wicket taker with 25 wickets.

1202) Who among the following has won the ICC Test Championship mace and a cash award of \$1 million for finishing as top-ranked test side for the season ending April 1, 2017?

- a) India
- b) Pakistan
- c) Australia
- d) England

India on March 28, 2017 retained the ICC Test Championship mace and also won a cash award of USD one million for holding on to the top position in the Test Team rankings on the annual April 1 cut-off date. South Africa ended second while Australia was third. The side to finish second will get USD 500,000 while the side finishing third will receive USD 200,000. The fourth-placed team, which is England, will get USD 100,000.

1203) Who among the following won the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy in the final played at Bambolim in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Punjab
- d) West Bengal

West Bengal on March 26, 2017 lifted the Santosh Trophy for the 32nd time after Manvir Singh struck in the 119th minute for a 1-0 win over Goa at Bambolim, extending their domination in the premier domestic football tournament.

1204) STAIRS founder and Secretary General Siddhartha Upadhyay was appointed member of the governing body of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in March 2017. STAIRS is:

- a) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Reward through Sports
- b) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Renewal through Sports
- c) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Revolution through Sports
- d) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Recognition through Sports

Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Recognition through Sports (STAIRS) founder and Secretary General Siddhartha Upadhyay has been appointed member of the governing body of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Sport Minister Vijay Goel met Upadhyay in New Delhi on March 27, 2017 to discuss about bringing more transparency in sports.

1205) Who among the following was named the Asian Player of the Year 2016 by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) in March 2017?

- a) Nikkin Thimmaiah
- b) S.V Sunil
- c) Kothajit Singh
- d) Surender Kumar

Indian forward S.V Sunil has been named the Asian Player of the Year 2016 in the senior men's category by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF). Meanwhile, dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh has been named the Asian Promising Player of the Year 2016 in the junior men's category. The awards were announced by the AHF in Muscat (Oman) on March 31, 2017. Also Hockey India Chief Executive Officer Elena Norman was awarded with the Diploma of Merit by the AHF.

1206) Which of the following will host the 2018 Hockey World Cup?

- a) Odisha
- b) Rajasthan

- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on March 27, 2017 announced that Odisha will host the men's hockey World League Final 2017 and World Cup 2018, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The World League Final 2017 will be held from December 1 to 10 and the World Cup 2018 will be played from November 28 to December 16, 2018. The state government will spend around Rs 75 crore for organising the two mega hockey events.

1207) Who among the following won the Women's Team title at the Federation Cup Basketball championship in Coimbatore in March 2017?

- a) Railways
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

Defending Champions ONGC, Dehradun, retained the trophy for the third consecutive time by defeating arch rivals and last year runners IOB, Chennai 55-52 in the men's category of the 31st Federation Cup Basket Ball championship in Coimbatore on March 26, 2017. In the women's category Chhattisgarh emerged champions by defeating Southern Railways 77-67.

1208) Who among the following raced for Force India at the season-opening Formula One Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on March 26, 2017?

- a) Lewis Hamilton
- b) Sebastian Vettel
- c) Valtteri Bottas
- d) Sergio Perez

Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany won the season-opening Formula One Australian Grand Prix at the Albert Park street circuit in Melbourne on March 26, 2017 followed by Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) of Britain and Finland's Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) in second and third places respectively. Force India drivers Sergio Perez of Mexico and Esteban Ocon of France finished seventh and tenth respectively.

1209) 23-year old Srinath Narayanan of Chennai is known for which sport?

- a) Table tennis
- b) Bridge
- c) Snooker
- d) Chess

Chennai's Srinath Narayanan is set to become India's 46th Grandmaster after he defeated Spanish GM David Anton Guijarro at the Sharjah Masters 2017 chess tournament in March 2017.

1210) Which of the following is the top ranked University in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by HRD Ministry in April 2017?

- a) Jadavpur University
- b) University of Hyderabad
- c) Banaras Hindu University
- d) Indian Institute of Science Bangalore

1211) Which of the following is the top in Engineering in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by HRD Ministry in April 2017?

- a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- d) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

1212) 4. Which of the following is the top in Management in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by HRD Ministry in April 2017?

- a) Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
- b) Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
- c) Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
- d) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

The results of the second edition of the domestic ranking under the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** were announced by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on April 3, 2017. The NIRF outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.

The ranking parameters broadly cover: Teaching, Learning and Resources; Research and Professional Practices; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception. The ranking was released under six categories. The toppers are – **Overall:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; **Colleges:** Miranda House, Delhi; **Universities:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; **Management:** IIM-Ahmedabad; **Engineering:** IIT-Madras; **Pharmacy:** Jamia Hamdard University. Due to non-representative participation in some of the domains (like Architecture, Law, Medical etc.) no rankings were announced this year.

1213) Which of the following are the surface-to-air missiles being acquired from Rafael Advance Defense Systems for naval warships? The deal to purchase was cleared by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in April 2017.

- a) Barak
- b) Goliath
- c) Javelin
- d) Trojan

1214) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 'Expendable Bathythermograph Systems' for the Navy in April 2017 from which of the following? It is a small device that detects changes in water temperature.

- a) Israel
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Russia
- d) United States

The government on April 3, 2017 approved procurement of a fresh batch of Barak surface-to-air missiles for naval warships. A meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Arun Jaitley, approved capital acquisition proposals totalling over Rs 860 crore, including for the purchase of Barak missiles. The missiles will be procured under 'Buy Global' category from Rafael Advance Defense Systems Limited of Israel for around Rs 500 crore. The DAC also cleared procurement of 'Expendable Bathythermograph Systems', a small torpedo-shaped device that holds a temperature sensor and a transducer to detect changes in water temperature, for Indian Navy which will be acquired from the US.

1215) What was the theme of the World Health Day observed on April 7, 2017?

- a) From Farm to Plate, Make Food Safe
- b) Ageing and Health
- c) Non-communicable Diseases
- d) Depression: Let's Talk

The World Health Day was observed on April 7, 2017 with "Depression: let's talk" as the theme.

1216) Who among the following is the author of 'Matoshree' released recently?

- a) Sushma Swaraj
- b) Sumitra Mahajan
- c) Maneka Gandhi
- d) Vasundhara Raje

1217) Commanding officer Chetan Cheeta was discharged from AIIMS, Delhi after being in coma since getting injured in gun battle with terrorists in Kashmir on February 2017. He is from which of the following?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) Rashtriya Rifles
- d) ITBP

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer Chetan Cheetah was discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) I New Delhi on April 5, 2017. The CRPF commanding officer was in coma for two months after being hit by at least nine bullets during a gun battle with the terrorists in Kashmir's Bandipora on February 14.

1218) Acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away on April 3, 2017 at the age of 84. She belonged to which Gharana of classical music?

- a) Mewati
- b) Kirana
- c) Jaipur-Atrauli
- d) Banaras

1219) Which of the following was not an award won by acclaimed **Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar who passed away on April 3, 2017** at the age of 84?

- a) Padma Shri
- b) Padma Bhushan
- c) Padma Vibhushan
- d) Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away in Mumbai on April 3, 2017. She was 84. Born on April 10, 1932, Amonkar was recognised as one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani tradition and as an innovative exponent of the Jaipur-Atrauli gharana. Her mother was the well-known vocalist Mogubai Kurdikar. Amonkar received several national awards and civilian honours, including the Padma Bhushan, in 1987, and Padma Vibhushan in 2002. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 1985 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for 2009. In 2016, she was one of seven recipients of the M.S. Subbulakshmi Award for classical music.

1220) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Malaysia? He came on a visit to India in April 2017?

- a) Anwar Ibrahim
- b) Najib Abdul Razak
- c) Mahathir Mohamad
- d) Abdul Razak Hussein

1221) . Which of the following will conduct training programmes on behalf of the Human Resource Development, Malaysia? MoU to this effect was signed during the visit of Malaysian PM to India in April 2017?

- a) Xavier Labour Relations Institute
- b) Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
- c) Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- d) Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad

1222) Which of the following is the currency of Malaysia?

- a) Rupiah
- b) Ringgit
- c) Riel
- d) Kyat

India and Malaysia on April 1, 2017 inked seven pacts, including an air services agreement and a mutual recognition of educational qualifications of the two nations. The pacts were exchanged in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Abdul Razak in New Delhi. A pact was also inked wherein Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad will carry out training and other capacity building programmes on behalf of the Human Resource Development, Malaysia.

1223) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Greg Clark of United Kingdom who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Sushma Swaraj

1224) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Philip Hammond of United Kingdom who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Urjit Patel

India and the UK on April 4, 2017 decided to contribute 120 million pound each to a fund to finance clean energy projects in New Delhi. The Green Growth Equity Fund will be a sub-fund of National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF). Finance Minister Arun Jaitley held the ninth India-UK UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) with visiting UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond. In the first India-UK 'Energy for Growth' Dialogue in New Delhi on April 7, 2017, Power and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal and UK's Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark agreed on priority areas for further collaboration in the energy sector.

1225) Which of the following will host the UK India Clean Energy Research Institute (UKICERI) as per an announcement made in April 2017?

- a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- d) Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur

IIT-Kharagpur will lead a UK-India joint virtual centre in clean energy in partnership with a consortium to develop solutions for integration of renewable energy into Indian and UK power grid. The multi-institutional centre at IIT-KGP, which is named UK India Clean Energy Research Institute (UKICERI), will work towards technological innovations on a range of issues related to power network, storage and Solar PV systems, a spokesman of the Institute said on April 7, 2017.

1226) Indian embassy in which African nation organised the 'Women of Substance' reception on April 2, 2017 to honour ten women for bringing about social and economic change?

- a) Algeria
- b) Morocco
- c) Chad
- d) Egypt

MP and AI Azhar scholar Amna Nosseir, who took commendable steps to amend the anti-blasphemy law, and nine other distinguished women were honoured by the Indian Embassy in Egypt at the 'Women of Substance' reception held at India House in Cairo on April 2, 2017. The event was part of India by the Nile Festival, which is a celebration of Indian music, dance, theatre, visual arts, food and wellbeing.

1227) . What is the joint military exercise between India and Mongolia held in Mizoram in April 2017 named?

- a) Key Resolve
- b) Peninsular Drill
- c) Austere Challenge
- d) Nomadic Elephant

A 14-day India-Mongolia military training exercise began on April 5, 2017 at Vairengte in Mizoram. 'Exercise Nomadic Elephant - XII', it is aimed at training troops in counter-insurgency operations. It will continue till April 18.

1228) . Who among the following inaugurated a Yoga Club at the Japanese Parliament on April 5, 2017?

- a) Dalai Lama
- b) Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev
- c) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- d) Baba Ramdev

Art of Living's Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurated a Yoga Club at the Japanese Parliament by Ravi Shankar in Tokyo on April 5, 2017.

1229) Which of the following hosted the meeting of Finance Minister of the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) in April 2017?

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

India and six other South Asian countries on April 3, 2017 pledged to improve intra-regional connectivity to boost trade and tourism. Finance Ministers of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar met in New Delhi to reshape the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) and came out with a vision to guide the sub-region's development.

1230) Who among the following is the President of Bangladesh?

- a) Shaukat Ali
- b) Hanif Basit
- c) Abdul Hamid
- d) Shaukat Siddiqui

Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat called on Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid in Dhaka on April 1, 2017. Earlier, Gen Rawat met his Bangladesh counterpart Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq at the Army Headquarters.

1231) Which of the following hosted the 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from April 1 to 5, 2017?

- a) Colombo
- b) New Delhi
- c) Dhaka
- d) Islamabad

1232) The Inter-Parliamentary Union was set up in 1889. It is headquartered at which of the following places?

- a) Berne
- b) Basel
- c) Zurich
- d) Geneva

A delegation of Indian MPs led by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan attended the 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union organised in Dhaka from April 1 to 5, 2017. The Inter-Parliamentary Union was established in 1889 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The Union is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

1233) 31. Who among the following was appointed as India's new Ambassador to Germany in April 2017?

- a) Vishnu Prakash
- b) Smita Purushottam
- c) Ruchira Kamboj
- d) Mukta Dutta Tomar

Mukta Dutta Tomar was on April 7, 2017 appointed as new India's Ambassador to Germany.

1234) Who among the following is the King by Thailand? He signed new Constitution in April 2017?

- a) Maha Adulyadej
- b) Maha Vajiravudh
- c) Maha Prajadhipok
- d) Maha Vajiralongkorn

Thailand's king signed a new military-backed constitution in Bangkok on April 6, 2017 that puts the country on the path to polls after three years of junta rule. King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who ascended the throne following the October death of his widely revered father Bhumibol Adulyadej, signed the document in a televised ceremony in Bangkok.

1235) The US government announced cutting off USD 32.5 million funding to which of the following UN organisations in April 2017?

- a) FAO
- b) UNFPA
- c) WHO
- d) UNHCR

The Trump administration is cutting off US funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) over concerns about abortion. The State Department has determined that the UN agency falls under the “Kemp-Kasten amendment.” The amendment affects organizations that support or participate in coercive abortion programs or involuntary sterilization. The State Department says USD 32.5 million in funding will instead be shifted to a US Agency for International Development account for family planning and reproductive health. (April 4, 2017)

1236) Which province of China is affected by “religious extremism”? Wearing veils or growing “abnormal” beards was banned there from April 2017.

- a) Fujian
- b) Hunan
- c) Sichuan
- d) Xinjiang

China on April 1, 2017 banned wearing veils or growing “abnormal” beards in Xinjiang as part of a major crackdown aimed at curbing “religious extremism” in the restive Uygur Muslim majority province. China blames separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), an Al Qaeda affiliated group, for the spate of violent attacks in and out of the province.

1237) Which of the following will become world’s first country to allow sale of recreational marijuana in pharmacies from July 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) El Salvador
- d) Uruguay

Uruguay will become the first country in the world to allow recreational marijuana to be sold in pharmacies, starting in July, the office of President Tabare Vazquez said in capital Montevideo on April 6, 2017.

1238) . Which of the following announced an end to ‘Euphrates Shield’ military operation in Syria in March 2017?

- a) Jordan
- b) Israel
- c) Iran
- d) Turkey

Turkey has ended the “Euphrates Shield” military operation it launched in Syria, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on March 29, 2017.

1239) Which city in Russia was in news for explosion in subway train that killed 10 people on April 3, 2017?

- a) St. Petersburg
- b) Volgograd
- c) Samara
- d) Moscow

At least 10 people were killed and 50 others injured on April 3, 2017 when an explosion ripped through a subway train in St Petersburg in Russia.

1240) Which of the following was launched by Israel to counter medium-range missiles in April 2017?

- a) David’s Axe
- b) David’s Sling
- c) David’s Arrow

d) David's Trident

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched a joint US-Israeli missile interceptor in Jerusalem on April 2, 2017. David's Sling, meant to counter medium-range missiles, officially became operational at the ceremony, the military said. It marks the completion of the multi-tier system that includes the Arrow, designed to intercept long-range ballistic missiles in the stratosphere with an eye on Iran, and Iron Dome, which defends against short-range rockets from Gaza.

1241) Which of the following is the multinational military drill for peacekeeping organised in Nepal in March-April 2017?

- a) Exercise Shanti Pahal III
- b) Exercise Shanti Prayas III
- c) Exercise Shanti Abhyas III
- d) Exercise Shanti Parinam III

Exercise Shanti Prayas III, a multinational military drill for peacekeeping, concluded at Panchkhal in Nepal on April 3, 2017. The Exercise Shanti Prayas III is the latest in a continuing series of exercises in the Asia-Pacific region designed to promote regio

I peace and security and enhance the peacekeeping capabilities and capacity of nations participating in the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), according to the Nepal Army. As many 1,024 army personnel from 28 countries had taken part in the 15-day exercise, hosted by Nepal Army and United States Pacific Command.

1242) 4 Who among the following is the President of Colombia? The country was in news for deaths of more than 250 people due to heavy floods in April 2017?

- a) Alvaro Uribe
- b) Jose Mujica
- c) Borge Brende
- d) Juan Manuel Santos

At least 250 people died and hundreds went missing in Colombia after heavy rain flooded the city of Mocoa the capital of Putumayo province in the country's southwest on April 2, 2017. President Juan Manuel Santos declared a state of emergency in the region and flew in to oversee the rescue effort.

1243) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Norway? The country was in news in April 2017 for normalising diplomatic ties with China after a gap of more than six years?

- a) John Lyng
- b) Jan Petersen
- c) Erna Solberg
- d) Sylvia Brustad

Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg visited China in April 2017 as part of a restoration of full contacts between the two countries more than six years after Beijing froze Oslo out over the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to an imprisoned Chinese dissident. Following a welcoming ceremony in Beijing on April 7, 2017, Solberg was told by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang that her visit symbolised the normalisation of the China-Norwegian relationship. In 2010, Norway's Nobel committee awarded Liu Xiaobo the peace prize, infuriating China.

1244) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Ecuador in April 2017?

- a) Anna Alban
- b) Jose Mujica
- c) Lenin Moreno
- d) Ollanta Humala

Ruling party candidate Lenin Moreno was declared the winner of Ecuador's presidential runoff in capital Quito on April 3, 2017, providing continuity to outgoing President Rafael Correa's "Citizens' Revolution".

1245) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Serbia April 2017?

- a) Saša Janković
- b) Miroslav Parović
- c) Luka Maksimović

d) Aleksandar Vučić

1246) Which of the following is the currency of Serbia?

- a) Serbian dinar
- b) Serbian peso
- c) Serbian dirham
- d) Serbian dollar

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic was elected new president of Serbia in the first round of voting, according to results announced in capital Belgrade in April 2017. Vucic won 55% of vote. He replaces Tomislav Nikolić.

1247) 45. Who among the following Chief Ministers was selected as 'Transformative Chief Minister' by the US India Business Council recently?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) Vijay Rupani
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

The US India Business Council has selected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'. Naidu would receive the award at second annual West Coast summit which to be held in California on May 8.

1248) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review April 6, 2017.

- I. Repo rate: 6.25%
- II. Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%
- III. Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I and III only

1249) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review on April 6, 2017.

- I. Bank Rate: 6.75%
- II. Cash Reserve Ratio: 4%
- III. Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 20.25%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I and III only

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 6, 2017 kept the repo rate unchanged but raised the reverse repo rate by 25 basis points to narrow the corridor in which overnight money moves. Following the policy, the repo rate, at which banks borrow from the RBI, remained at 6.25%, and the reverse repo rate, at which banks lend to the central bank, was revised to 6% from 5.75%. **Policy Rates** – Policy Repo Rate: 6.25%, Reverse Repo Rate: 6.00%, Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.50%, Bank Rate: 6.50%. **Reserve Ratios**: CRR: 4%, SLR: 20.50%.

1250) The Reserve Bank on April 6, 2017 decided to allow banks to invest in which of the following?

- I. Chit Funds
- II. Real Estate Investment Trust
- III. Infrastructure Investment Trusts

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I and III only

The Reserve Bank on April 6, 2017 decided to allow banks to invest in Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), a move that will help revive the cash-starved infrastructure sector. Banks are allowed to invest in equity-linked mutual funds, venture capital funds (VCFs) and equities to the extent of 20 per cent of their Net Owned Fund (NOF). "It is proposed to allow banks to invest in REITs and InvITs within this umbrella limit. Detailed guidelines will be issued by May-end 2017," the RBI said in its first bi-monthly monetary policy for 2017-18.

1251) 49. The government of Uttar Pradesh announced waiver of crop loans up to what amount in April 2017?

- a) Rs. 25,000
- b) Rs. 50,000
- c) Rs. 1 lakh
- d) Rs. 1.5 lakh

1252) The government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to issue which of the following for financing waiver of crop loans in April 2017?

- a) Kisan Bachat Bonds
- b) Kisan Sewa Bonds
- c) Kisan Unnati Bonds
- d) Kisan Rahat Bonds

Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel on April 6, 2017 cautioned that loan waiver schemes "engender moral hazard", undermining honest credit culture and impairing incentives for borrowers to repay bank loans. The comment comes against the backdrop of recent decision by the UP government to waive Rs 36,000 crore in farm loans and increasing demand from politicians for similar concessions in other parts of the country. Recently, the newly formed government in Uttar Pradesh, in its first Cabinet meeting, decided to waive crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh, totalling a staggering Rs 36,359 crore. The move will benefit over 2.15 crore farmers, besides 7 lakh others who had secured loans which turned into non-performing assets (NPAs). The Yogi Adityanath cabinet decided to float Kisan Rahat Bonds for raising Rs 36,359 crore required for waiving loans of small and marginal farmers who form 92.5 per cent of the total 2.30 lakh farmers in the state.

1253) Which was the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Janatha Garage
- b) Sathamamam Bhavati
- c) Appatlo Okadundevadu
- d) Soggade Chinni Nayana

1254) Which was the Best Feature Film at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Sairat
- b) Kasaav
- c) Ventilator
- d) Dashakriya

1255) Who among the following won the Best Director award at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Rajeev Patil
- b) Sanjay Soorkar
- c) Mahesh Kothare
- d) Rajesh Mapuskar

1256) Who among the following won the Indira Gandhi Award for the Best Debut Film of a Director at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Anjan Dutta
- b) Srijit Mukherjee
- c) Mainak Bhaumik
- d) Deep Choudhary

1257) . Which of the following won the Nargis Dutt award for the Best Feature Film on National Integration at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Kothanodi
- b) Tomar Premot Pori
- c) Dikchow Bonot Palash
- d) Doordarshan Eti Jantra

1258) . Which of the following was the Best Film on Social Issues at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Pink
- b) Airlift
- c) Dangal
- d) Dear Zindagi

1259) “Dhanak” was the Best Children’s Film at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017. Who among the following is its Director?

- a) Abhishek Chaubey
- b) Anurag Kashyap
- c) Dibakar Banerjee
- d) Nagesh Kukunoor

1260) Who among the following was the Best Actress at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Asin
- b) Surabhi
- c) Karthika
- d) Shailini

1261) Which of the following awards and winners at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017 is/are matched correctly?

- I. Best Male Playback Singer – Sundharayyar
- II. Best Female Playback singer – Iman Chakraborty
- III. Best Music Direction for Songs – M. Jayachandran

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) II and III only

1262) Which of the following awards and winners at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017 is/are matched correctly?

- I. Best Film Critic award: G. Dhananjayan
- II. Best Book on Cinema award: Doddahulluru Rukkoji
- III. Special Mention Award: K.P. Jayashankar and Anjali Monteiro

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

1263) 11. Which award was won by Tirru (Thirunavukarasu) at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017

- a) Best Cinematography
- b) Best Choreography
- c) Best Editing
- d) Best Production Design

1264) Who among the following is not among the three winners of the Best Child Artiste award at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Adhish Praveen
- b) Nur Islam

- c) Saimul Alam
d) Gaurav Menon

1265) Who among the following was the Best Actor at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Akshay Kumar
b) Amitabh Bachchan
c) Salman Khan
d) Shah Rukh Khan

1266) Which of the following won the Most Film Friendly State Award at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Goa
b) Bihar
c) Rajasthan
d) Uttar Pradesh

The 64th National Film Awards 2016 were announced on April 7, 2017

- Best Feature Film: "Kasaav" (Marathi)
- Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment: "Sathamnam Bhavathi" (Telugu)
- Nargis Dutt award for the Best Feature Film on National Integration: "Dikchow Banat Palaax" (Assamese)
- Indira Gandhi Award for the Best Debut Film of a Director: "Alifa" (Bengali) by Deep Choudhary.
- Best Film on Social Issues: "Pink" produced by Shoojit Sircar
- Best Children's Film: "Dhanak" produced by Nagesh Kukunoor
- Best Animation Film: "Mahayodha Rama"
- Best Film for Environment Conservation/Preservation: "Loktak Lairembee"
- Best Direction: Rajesh Mapuskar for Ventilator (Marathi)
- Best Actor: Akshay Kumar for Rustom (Hindi)
- Best Actress: Surabhi for Minnaminungu-The Firefly (Malayalam)
- Best Supporting Actress: Zaira Wasim for "Dangal"
- Best Supporting Actor: Manoj Joshi for "Dashakriya" (Marathi)
- Best Child Artist: Adhish Praveen, Nur Islam, Saimul Alam and Manohara K.
- Best Special Effects: "Shivaay"
- Best Editing: "Ventilator" (Marathi)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: "Dashakriya" (Marathi)
- Best Original Screenplay: "Maheshinte Prathikooram" (Malayalam)
- Best Dialogues: "Peli Chuplu" (Telugu)
- Best Production Design: "24" (Tamil)
- Best Costume Designer: Sachin for "Cycle" (Marathi)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Sundharayyar for the song 'Jasmine E' in "Joker" (Tamil)
- Best Female Playback Singer: Iman Chakraborty for the song 'Tumi Jaake' in "Praktan" (Bengali)
- Best Music Direction: Babu Padmanabha for "Allama" (Kannada)
- Best Lyrics: Vairamuthu won for Entha Pakkam from the "Dharma Durai" (Tamil) and Anupam Roy for 'Tumi Jaake Bhalo Basha' from "Praktan" (Bengali)
- Best Sound Designer: Jayadevan for movie "Kaadu Pookunna Neram" (Malayalam)
- Best Choreography: Raju Sundaram for "Janatha Garage" (Telugu)
- Best Cinematography: Tirru (Thirunavukarasu) for "24" (Tamil)
- Most Film Friendly State Award: Uttar Pradesh
- Special Mention Award for Film Policy: Jharkhand
- Best Film Critic award: G. Dhananjayan
- Special Mention Award: K.P. Jayashankar and Anjali Monteiro for the book 'A fly in the Curry'
- Best Book on Cinema award: 'Lata-Sur Gatha' by Yatindra Mishra

1267) The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a Rail Development Authority (RDA) in Approval 2017. It will have an initial corpus of:

- a) Rs. 10 crore
b) Rs. 50 crore

- c) Rs. 100 crore
- d) Rs. 250 crore

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, on April 5, 2017 approved the establishment of a Rail Development Authority (RDA), an independent regulatory body, to determine tariffs. The regulator will act within the parameters of Railway Act, 1989 and will not only determine tariffs but also ensure fair play and level playing field for all stakeholder investments in the railway sector. The RDA, which will have four members including the Chairman, has also been mandated to set up efficiency and performance standards, and can engage experts from relevant areas. The Chairman and the members will have a term of 5 years. The New Delhi-based independent regulator will be set up with an initial corpus of Rs 50 crore.

1268) What is the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) growth forecast for the Indian economy in 2017-18 in April 2017?

- a) 6.5 per cent
- b) 6.8 per cent
- c) 7.1 per cent
- d) 7.4 per cent

India is expected to grow at an accelerated pace of 7.4 per cent in 2017-18, which will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, ahead of China, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on April 6, 2017 in its flagship publication Asian Development Outlook (ADO). On the back of reforms initiatives being taken by the government, India's growth rate will improve further to 7.6 per cent in 2018-19.

1269) Consider the following pairs of persons in National Board for Electric Mobility (NBEM) and their organisations?

- I. Vikram Kirloskar: Tata Motors
- II. Vinod Dasari: Ashok Leyland
- III. Pawan Goenka: Mahindra & Mahindra

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

1270) Consider the following pairs of persons in two-wheeler industry and their organisations?

- I. Sudarshan Venu: TVS Motors
- II. Hero MotoCorp: Pawan Munjal
- III. Annamalai Hemalatha: Ampere Vehicles

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

The Centre on April 3, 2017 constituted NBEM to promote electric mobility and manufacturing of electric (& hybrid) vehicles and their components. The proposals for launch of the National Mission for Electric Mobility and setting up of a National Board for Electric Mobility (NBEM) and National Council for Electric Mobility were approved in 2011. The NBEM will be chaired by the Secretary of Department of Heavy Industry, will comprise of senior bureaucrats as members. It will also have six nominated members of eminence and expertise from the automobile industry, academia and research & development. These include Vikram Kirloskar, CMD, Kirloskar Systems Ltd; Vinod Dasari, MD, Ashok Leyland; Pawan Goenka, MD, Mahindra and Mahindra; Annamalai Hemalatha, MD, Ampere Vehicles Ltd and Sudarshan Venu, Joint MD, TVS Motors.

1271) The National Maritime Day was observed on April 5, 2017 to mark the journey of _____, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, to the United Kingdom in 1919.

- a) SS Victory
- b) SS Pioneer
- c) SS Loyalty
- d) SS Majesty

1272) The National Maritime Day was observed on April 5, 2017. India has 12 major ports. Which was the last one to be declared Major Port in 1999?

- a) Kochi
- b) Ennore
- c) Kandla
- d) New Mangalore

The Indian Maritime Day was observed on April 5, 2017. April 5 marks the National Maritime Day of India. On this day in 1919 navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, journeyed to the United Kingdom. The National Maritime Day was first celebrated on 5th April, 1964. Major Ports are autonomous bodies, managed by Board of Trustees under the overall control of the Central Government through the Ministry of Shipping. The 12 Major Ports are: Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Kandla, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, V O Chidambaranar (formerly Tuticorin), New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Ennore. Ennore in Tamil Nadu was declared as the 12th Major Port in 1999.

1273) Managing Directors of which real estate company were arrested by Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police in April 2017 for duping flat buyers?

- a) DLF
- b) HCC
- c) Unitech
- d) GMR

Construction major Unitech's managing directors Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra were arrested on April 1, 2017 by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police. The Chandras have been accused of allegedly duping buyers who had booked flats in his Greater Noida residential project to the tune of Rs 35 crore. The buyers alleged that Unitech failed to complete the project on time and also did not refund the money along with the interest.

1274) 22. The World Autism Awareness Day was observed on _____, 2017.

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

World Autism Awareness Day was observed on April 2, 2017. Theme for 2017: "Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination"

1275) The Textile Ministry launched powerloom development scheme 'PowerTex India' from which district of Maharashtra on April 1, 2017?

- a) Aurangabad
- b) Buldhana
- c) Bhiwandi
- d) Baramati

Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani on April 1, 2017 announced that the government has increased subsidy by 30 per cent for upgradation of powerloom sector and for the benefit of small weavers. Irani launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive powerloom development scheme in Bhiwandi district of Maharashtra.

1276) Who among the following was appointed as new Country Director of India by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in April 2017?

- a) Kikuo Iwata
- b) Hiroshi Tanaka
- c) Masayoshi Son
- d) Kenichi Yokoyama

Kenichi Yokoyama has taken over as the new Country Director of India Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He replaces M Teresa Kho. (April 4, 2017)

1277) Which of the following was India's most expensive office location property consultant CBRE's report released in April 2017?

- a) Khan Market, Delhi
- b) Connaught Place, Delhi
- c) Nariman Point, Mumbai
- d) Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai

1278) Which of the following was world's most expensive office location property consultant CBRE's report released in April 2017?

- a) Pudong, Shanghai
- b) West End, London
- c) Hong Kong, Central
- d) Finance Street, Beijing

The Central Business District (CBD) of Connaught Place in Delhi is the world's 9th most expensive office location with annual prime rent of USD 105.71 per sq ft at the end of 2016, said property consultant CBRE in its Global Prime Office Rents report on April 3, 2017. Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) is at 19th position while the central business district (CBD) of Nariman Point is at 30th place in the list. With annual prime rent of USD 264.27 per sq ft, Hong Kong (Central) is the world's most expensive office Market. Beijing (Finance Street) and Hong Kong (Kowloon) are placed at 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively. Beijing (CBD) is ranked 4th in the list, followed by London (West End), New York (Midtown Manhattan), Tokyo (Marunouchi/Otemachi), Shanghai (Pudong).

1279) Which of the following has ranked India 40th out of 136 countries on Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index in April 2017?

- a) WEF
- b) WTO
- c) UNCTAD
- d) UNESCO

India has jumped 12 places to 40th rank globally in travel and tourism competitiveness list by World Economic Forum said in its Global Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017 on April 6, 2017. It ranks 136 countries across 14 dimensions, revealing how well countries deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits through their travel and tourism sector. In the global ranking Spain, France and Germany were ranked at the top three positions, making them the most tourism friendly economies.

1280) India was ranked ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses by which of the following in April 2017?

- a) EY
- b) IMF
- c) ADB
- d) PwC

India ranks ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses, according to the findings of the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017. Nearly 78 per cent respondents queried in India said that bribery and corrupt practices happen widely in businesses. India ranks behind Ukraine, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Kenya, South Africa and Hungary, in the perception survey.

1281) Who among the following is the founder of eBay?

- a) Larry Page
- b) Sergey Brin
- c) Eric Schmidt
- d) Pierre Omidyar

eBay founder Pierre Omidyar's philanthropic foundation pledged on April 5, 2017 to donate USD 100 million over three years to support "independent media and investigative journalism" worldwide, while tackling "misinformation and hate speech."

1282) 30. Which digital payments firm launched deferred payment facility 'LazyPay' in April 2017?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayU

Digital payments platform PayU India on April 5, 2017 launched 'LazyPay' that allows a deferred payment option to users who transact digitally for amounts ranging between Rs 500-2,500.

1283) Which of the following launched digital initiative 811 in March 2017 that would enable new account opening in just five minutes using only income tax PAN and Aadhaar number?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank launched its latest digital initiative christened 811 on March 29, 2017. It would also enable new account opening in just five minutes using only income tax PAN and Aadhaar number. Uday Kotak, VC & MD, Kotak Bank, said that the name 811 was derived from the date the govt. started its demonetisation process, November 8.

1284) . S. N. Subrahmanyan was appointed as the new CEO and MD of which of the following from July 2017?

- a) TCS
- b) RIL
- c) ITC
- d) L&T

Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro Ltd's board on April 7, 2017 approved the appointment of S N Subrahmanyan as the new chief executive officer and managing director from July 2017. Group's current Executive Chairman A N Naik is expected to continue as non-executive chairman from October 2017 for another three years.

1285) Raman Roy was appointed NASSCOM Chairman for 2017-18 in April 2017. He is the CEO of which of the following IT companies?

- a) Polaris
- b) Mindtree
- c) Cognizant
- d) Quattro Global Services

IT industry body NASSCOM on April 5, 2017 appointed Quattro Global Services CMD Raman Roy its Chairman for 2017-18. R Chandrashekhar is the President of NASSCOM.

1286) Who among the following is associated with the invention of the World Wide Web at CERN in the 1980s?

- a) Vinton Cerf
- b) Dennis Gabor
- c) Douglas Engelbart
- d) Tim Berners-Lee

Sir Tim Berners-Lee (61), who invented the World Wide Web, is this year's recipient of the AM Turing Award, computing's version of the Nobel Prize. The honour comes with a USD 1 million prize funded by Google. The award was announced by the Association for Computing Machinery on April 4, 2017.

1287) 35. 'Chenani-Nashri Tunnel' was inaugurated in J&K by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 2, 2017. Consider the following statements.

- I. It is on National Highway 44
- II. Chenani is in Udhampur district
- III. Nashri is in Ramban district

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 2, 2017 inaugurated the country's longest road tunnel that links Kashmir Valley with Jammu by an all-weather route on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH 44). The 9.28 km long 'Chenani-Nashri Tunnel', built by the National Highways Authority of India, was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister in Chenani in presence of Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. The tunnel links Chenani in Udhampur district with Nashri in Ramban district. The tunnel reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 30 km.

1288) Which state started levying 10% surcharge on stamp duty for the "conservation and propagation of cow and its progeny" from April 1?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh

The government in Rajasthan has started imposing 10% surcharge on stamp duty for the "conservation and propagation of cow and its progeny" from April 1.

1289) Which of the following became the first state in the country to pass a law to protect journalists from attacks in April 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Maharashtra

Both Houses of the state legislature on April 7, 2017 passed the landmark Maharashtra Mediapersons and Media Institutions Bill to protect journalists from attacks. Maharashtra is the first state to pass such a law. There have been 175 attacks on journalists in the last one decade. Introducing the Bill, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "To effectively curb the occurrences of such incidents in the state and to protect mediapersons and property of mediapersons and institutions, the state government has considered enacting a special law."

1290) Which state created Guinness World Record for maximum people hugging trees simultaneously in March 2017?

- a) Odisha
- b) Assam
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Kerala

The 'Ente Maram, Ente Jeevan' initiative jointly organised by Asianet News and the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has set a new Guinness World Record for the maximum people hugging trees simultaneously. The event, held in March 22, 2017 on the JNTBGRI premises at Palode, saw 4,620 people hugging trees to mark International Day of Forests. 'Ente Maram, Ente Jeevan' broke the existing record of the largest tree hug set by Tata Chem DAV Public School, Mithapur, Gujarat, in December 2016, where 1,316 people had participated.

1291) Which of the following has become the second state after Gujarat to have launched Gunotsav programme to improve quality of school education in the state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Assam
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 6, 2017 complimented the Assam government for starting Gunotsav, a programme to improve quality of school education in the state. He said, Gunotsav is a great initiative to gauge the quality of learning and teachers and students will greatly benefit from it. Gunotsav is a quality improvement programme where external

evaluators are deputed to the schools for conducting external evaluation of students. Originally a Gujarat government initiative, Gunotsav has been adopted by Sarbananda Sonowal led government in Assam.

1292) 40. Which paramilitary force had escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago?

- a) SSB
- b) Rashtriya Rifles
- c) Assam Rifles
- d) BSF

The Assam Rifles on April 4, 2017 felicitated its veteran, Naren Chandra Das, who escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago at the force's headquarter in Shillong. 76 year-old Das is the only surviving jawan among the eight Assam Rifles men who escorted the Tibetan spiritual leader in 1959.

1293) Who among the following was named as Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World in April 2017?

- a) Ben Stokes
- b) Virat Kohli
- c) Steve Smith
- d) Younis Khan

1294) 42. Who among the following was named as Wisden's Leading Woman Cricketer in the World in April 2017?

- a) Stafanie Taylor
- b) Suzie Bates
- c) Rachel Priest
- d) Ellyse Perry

Indian captain Virat Kohli was on April 5, 2017 named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack honours: **Leading Cricketer in the World:** Virat Kohli; **Leading Woman Cricketer in the World:** Ellyse Perry ; **Five Cricketers of the Year:** Misbah-ul-Haq, Younis Khan, Ben Duckett, Toby Roland-Jones, Chris Woakes.

1295) Which country was ranked No: 1 in the FIFA world rankings in April 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) Argentina
- d) Germany

Brazil's national football team on April 6, 2017 regained the top spot in the FIFA world rankings for the first time since 2010. The top 10 of the FIFA world rankings are as follows: 1. Brazil 2. Argentina 3. Germany 4. Chile 5. Colombia 6. France 7. Belgium 8. Portugal 9. Switzerland 10. Spain (Madrid)

1296) Cyrus Poncha is India's well-known coach in which of the following sports?

- a) Golf
- b) Snooker
- c) Squash
- d) Badminton

Long-serving national squash coach Cyrus Poncha has been chosen to receive the 2016 Asian Squash Federation 'Coach of the Year' award. He is the only Indian in this year's list of awards, players and officials together, announced in Chennai on April 3, 2017.

1297) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the India Open Super Series badminton championship in New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Parupalli Kashyap
- b) Sameer Verma
- c) Kento Momota
- d) Viktor Axelsen

1298) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the India Open Super Series badminton championship in New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Carolina Marin
- c) Yihan Wang
- d) P. V. Sindhu

Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu beat reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain 21-19, 21-16 to lift her maiden India Open Super Series title at the Sirifort Sports Complex in New Delhi on April 2, 2017. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark clinched the men's singles title beating Chinese Taipei's Tien Chen Chou 21-13, 21-10.

1299) Which of the following seats where Assembly bypolls were held in April 2017 and their winners is matched correctly?

- a) Dholpur: BJP
- b) Rajouri Garden: BJP
- c) Bandhavgarh: BJP
- d) All the above

1300) Which of the following seats where Assembly bypolls were held in April 2017 and their winners is matched correctly?

- a) Dhemaji: BJP
- b) Ater: BJP
- c) Nanjangud: BJP
- d) Littipara: BJP

In the Assembly bypoll results in 8 states announced on April 13, 2017, BJP won 5 seats out of 10 while Congress got 3 seats, one seat each went to Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Trinamool Congress. The bypoll Elections were held on April 9. **RAJASTHAN:** The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's Shobha Rani Kushavah won the Dholpur seat. **DELHI:** BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa won the Rajouri Garden seat. **MADHYA PRADESH:** Ater seat was won by Hemant Katara of Congress while Bandhavgarh seat was won by the BJP's Shivnarayan Singh. **HIMACHAL PRADESH:** BJP candidate Anil Dhiman won the Bhoranj seat in Hamirpur district. **ASSAM:** BJP candidate Ranaj Pegu won Dhemaji seat. **KARNATAKA:** Congress retained the Gundlupet as well as Nanjangud seat. In Nanjangud, ruling party candidate K. Keshavamurthy won while in Gundlupet, Mohan Kumari Uruf alias Geetha won. **WEST BENGAL:** Ruling TMC won the Kanthi Dakshin seat in Purba Medinipur district. Its candidate Chandrima Bhattacharya won. **JHARKHAND:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM) Simon Marandi won Littipara seat.

1301) A web portal and mobile application 'Bharat ke Veer' was launched for which paramilitary force by the Home Minister in April 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Home Minister Rajnath Singh on April 9, 2017 inaugurated the web portal and mobile application 'Bharat ke Veer' of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in New Delhi. The portal is an IT based platform, with an objective to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a brave-heart who sacrificed his life in line of duty. The amount so donated will be credited to the account of 'Next of Kin' of those soldiers. This website is technically supported by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and powered by State Bank of India.

1302) Which paramilitary force celebrated its Valour Day on April 9, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its Valour Day on April 9, 2017. The day is celebrated in remembrance of an act of unparalleled bravery displayed by a small contingent of CRPF personnel, pitted against a full-fledged infantry brigade of Pakistani Army, trying to overrun their post, at Sardar Post, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, on April 9, 1965. They not only defeated the Pakistani brigade but also killed 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured 4 of them alive. The CRPF successfully defended the post till the arrival of reinforcements. The saga of valour of Sardar Post is a rich source of inspiration to the officers and men of CRPF and befittingly 9th April is observed as the Valour Day”.

1303) 5. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) is used in the treatment of which of the following?

- a) Stroke
- b) Swine flu
- c) Leprosy
- d) AIDS

Parliament on April 11, 2017 gave its nod to a crucial bill to ensure equal rights to the people affected by HIV and AIDS in getting treatment, admissions in educational institutions and jobs. Terming the unanimous passage of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha as “historic”, Health Minister J P Nadda said the government “stands committed for free treatment of HIV patients.” The bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on March 21. The Bill ensures that no HIV test, medical treatment or research will be conducted on a person without his informed consent. No person shall be compelled to disclose his HIV status except with his informed consent, and if required, by a court order. Health Minister J P Nadda asserted that India runs second largest Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) programme in the world and AIDS related deaths have declined to 54 per cent.

1304) The government on April 10, 2017 launched a dedicated website allowing the public to download close to 3,000 maps prepared by the Survey General of India (SGI). Which of the following is the website for download?

- a) <http://soidisha.uk.gov.in>
- b) <http://soidesh.uk.gov.in>
- c) <http://soibharat.uk.gov.in>
- d) <http://soinakshe.uk.gov.in>

1305) The government on April 10, 2017 launched a dedicated website allowing the public to download close to 3,000 maps prepared by the Survey General of India (SGI). People having Aadhaar number can download a maximum of how many maps on a day?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

1306) Survey General of India (SGI) completed how many years of its foundation in 2017?

- a) 100
- b) 150
- c) 200
- d) 250

1307) 9. Who among the following is the Surveyor General of India?

- a) Prithvish Nag
- b) Vinay Kant Nagar
- c) Swarna Subba Rao
- d) Chandra Prakash Mehta

The government on April 10, 2017 launched a dedicated website allowing the public the access to download 3,000 maps prepared by the Survey General of India (SGI) but made Aadhaar mandatory for the purpose. Using Aadhaar number, a person can download three maps every day from the portal (<http://soinakshe.Uk.Gov.In/>). The SGI completed 250 years on April 10.

Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology, said the motto behind making Aadhaar mandatory for using this service was to make it available "only to Indians". Aadhaar number is a proof of identity and not that of citizenship. Swarna Subba Rao, Surveyor General of India, was also present on the occasion.

The SGI has the mandate of making maps and cartographic documents for the country and has a rich collection of over 5,000 maps. While it made 3,000 maps open to public for download, 1700 will be available for downloading soon. The remaining maps are awaiting clearance. Under the National Map Policy 2005, it had become necessary to make non-defence maps accessible for public.

1308) What is MOOC in context of online distance education programmes launched by the government?

- a) Mentor Open Online Courses
- b) Master Open Online Courses
- c) Mobile Open Online Courses
- d) Massive Open Online Courses

1309) What is the bouquet of 32 direct-to-home (DTH) educational channels launched by the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry called?

- a) Swayam Prayas
- b) Swayam Prabha
- c) Swayam Pratham
- d) Swayam Parinam

Indira Gandhi National Open University, which has been pioneer in distance education, has now entered the digital education sphere and launched 11 free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). An announcement in this regard was made by Minister of State for HRD, Mahendra Nath Pandey, during the 30th convocation ceremony of the university. In 2016, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry had launched a bouquet of 32 direct-to-home (DTH) educational channels, called 'Swayam Prabha', to broadcast programmes for school and university students. The contents of these channels are prepared by the IIT professors and other subject experts. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is a system aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web.

1310) Budget session of Parliament ended on April 12, 2017. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. As many as 18 bills were passed by both the houses during the session
 - II. Productivity of Rajya Sabha was above 100%
 - III. Productivity of Lok Sabha was below 100%
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) I and III only

The Budget Session of Parliament has been one of the most productive sessions in its history, Union Minister Ananth Kumar said on April 12, adding that as many as 18 bills were passed by both the houses during the session. The productivity of Lok Sabha during the Budget Session was 114 per cent while that of Rajya Sabha was 92 per cent. As many as 23 bills were passed in the Lower House and 14 legislations in the Upper House, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said. While in both houses 18 bills were passed, he said. The Budget Session started from January 31 and came to a close on April 12, 2017.

1311) Which party launched a website 'Quest for Equity' on the 126th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar on April 14, 2017?

- a) BSP
- b) CPI-M
- c) SP
- d) Congress

On the 126th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, Congress on April 14, 2017 launched a website 'Quest for Equity', that hosts his work and provides a platform for data, research and legislation on issues related to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

1312) Coastal Security exercise Sagar Kavach was organised by which state along with the Indian Navy and Coast Guard in April 2017?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Goa
- d) Kerala

'Sagar Kavach', a comprehensive Coastal Security exercise will be held in Goa on April 20 and 21 to test the preparedness of various agencies and stakeholders along the state's coastline. This was stated in a government press release said in Panaji on April 13, 2017. Several agencies like Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Goa Police, Goa Coastal Security Intelligence Agencies, Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), Ports Administration Department, CISF and Customs will be taking part in the exercise.

1313) Which of the following has been charged with damaging Yamuna floodplain area during the 'World Culture Festival' organised in March 2016 nu NGT in April 2017?

- a) Sahaj Yog
- b) Art of Living
- c) Chinmay Mission
- d) Patanjali Yogpeeth

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed Committee of Experts has found Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living (AOL) foundation responsible for destroying the entire Yamuna floodplain area used by the foundation for its event during the 'World Culture Festival' earlier in March 2016. The expert panel has told the NGT that the rehabilitation of Yamuna floodplains destroyed by AOL's 'World Culture Festival' will cost Rs. 13.29 crores and take almost 10 years. (April 12, 2017)

1314) President released the book "The Flaming Tresses of Draupadi" in New Delhi on April 8, 2017. Who among the following Congress leaders is the author?

- a) Kapil Sibal
- b) Shashi Tharoor
- c) Jairam Ramesh
- d) M. Veerappa Moily

1315) An eight volume biography of Mahatma Gandhi was relaunched by the government on April 10, 2017. Who among the following is the author?

- a) Suniti Ashok Deshpande
- b) Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar
- c) Kashinath Trimbak Telang
- d) Purushottam Shivaram Rege

Three old and seminal publications on Mahatma Gandhi were on April 10, 2017 relaunched by the government in New Delhi in a "restored" format to mark 100 years of the Satyagraha. The publications are — Gandhi in Champaran by Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar, originally published by the Publication Division in 1957, Romain Rolland and Gandhi Correspondence (1976) and an eight-volume biography of Gandhi by Tendulkar and brought out in 1951.

1316) The government has decided to ban which foreign media group from all National Parks and Sanctuaries for portraying a negative, malicious and sensational image of India's conservation success story?

- a) BBC
- b) National Geographic
- c) Bertelsmann
- d) Conde Nast

The government has decided to ban BBC from all National Parks and Sanctuaries for portraying a negative, malicious and sensational image of India's conservation success story. The documentary called "dark secrets" talks about the menace of poaching for the wildlife and showed flooded grassland of Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The ban has been imposed with immediate effect where BBC cannot make documentaries and film news reports in the country. The

order was given by the ministry on April 10, 2017 and has extended this ban from tiger reserves to all the national parks and sanctuaries across the nation.

1317) Which of the following is the autobiography of Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman? Its Hindi translation was released in New Delhi on April 8, 2017?

- a) Revolution's Memoirs
- b) Independence Memoirs
- c) Plain Memoirs
- d) Unfinished Memoirs

1318) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, known as founding father of Bangladesh, was the country's first:

- a) President
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Army Chief
- d) Supreme Court Chief Justice

Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina on April 8, 2017 jointly released the Hindi translation of "Unfinished Memoirs", the autobiography of Bangladesh's founder and Sheikh Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Timeline:

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first President of Bangladesh from 11 April 1971 to 12 January 1972.
- Tajuddin Ahmad served as the first Prime Minister from 11 April 1971 to 12 January 1972.
- Rahman served as President for the second time from 25 January 1975 to 15 August 1975 when he was assassinated.
- Rahman served as the second Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 12 January 1972 to 24 January 1975.

1319) . Which of the following is not a member of the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA)? It ended the ban on Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad on April 7, 2017.

- a) Jet Airways
- b) SpiceJet
- c) IndiGo
- d) Vistara

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) members on April 8, 2017 said it has restored the flying privileges to Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad after they were satisfied with the latter's statement. The development comes a day after the Shiv Sena MP tendered an apology to the Civil Aviation Minister, expressing regret over the incident. The Shiv Sena MP had allegedly thrashed an Air India staffer with his slipper over a sitting arrangement. On March 24, a day after the incident at the Delhi airport, Air India had barred Gaikwad from flying with it. Following suit, the FIA had also imposed a ban on him. Jet Airways, SpiceJet, GoAir and IndiGo are part of the grouping. When FIA had imposed a flying ban on Gaikwad, two non-member carriers -- Vistara and Air Asia -- had said they were with the industry on the issue.

1320) Girish Chandra Saxena, who died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90, headed of which of the following in 1980s?

- a) Central Bureau of Investigation
- b) National Investigation Agency
- c) Research & Analysis Wing
- d) Enforcement Directorate

1321) Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90. He had served as Advisor to who among the following Prime Ministers?

- a) H. D. Deve Gowda
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Rajiv Gandhi
- d) Chandrashekhar

1322) . Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90. Which civilian honour was conferred on him?

- a) Padma Shri
- b) Padma Bhushan
- c) Padma Vibhushan

d) Bharat Ratna

1323) Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90. He served as Governor of which of the following border states twice?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Assam
- c) Punjab
- d) Jammu & Kashmir

1324) All 329 on board Vancouver–Delhi Air India flight were killed in a bombing over Atlantic Ocean. The worst terrorist attack in Indian aviation history happened in which year?

- a) 1970
- b) 1975
- c) 1980
- d) 1985

Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017. He was 90. Saxena had served as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir during the worst years of insurgency and as chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) through the troubled years that began with the storming of the Golden Temple in 1984.

Born in 1928, Saxena grew up in Agra and studied at the Government College, Allahabad, and Queen's Intermediate College before going on to earn a master's degree in history from the University of Allahabad in 1946.

He was among the first generation of post-Independence IPS officers and served in several Uttar Pradesh districts before joining RAW in 1969. Formed the previous year as a result of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's dissatisfaction with the Intelligence Bureau's conduct of external intelligence in the lead-up to the 1962 China-India war, RAW's early recruits were handpicked by the legendary spymaster RN Kao.

Under Saxena, RAW is known to have supplied Canadian police with the warning of a threat to Air India jets by Khalistani extremists who were plotting to place "time-delay devices in the aircraft or registered baggage". An Air India flight operating on the Vancouver–Toronto–Montreal–London–Delhi route was destroyed by a bomb at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 m) on June 23, 1985. The Boeing 747-237B serving the flight was known as "Emperor Kanishka". It crashed into the Atlantic Ocean while in Irish airspace. It was the first bombing of a 747 jumbo jet. A total of 329 people were killed, including 268 Canadian citizens, 27 British citizens and 24 Indian citizens.

Along with his successors, S E Joshi and A K Verma, Saxena was among the RAW chiefs who played a key role in the operations of CIT-X, a covert-action unit which acted against Pakistan's backing of Khalistani terrorists by staging retaliatory actions in Pakistan.

Following his retirement in 1986, he served as advisor to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi until 1988.

In May 1990, when insurgency and street violence led to the collapse of the political system and administration in Jammu and Kashmir, Saxena was appointed the Governor there. He served for three years, replacing the controversial Jagmohan, and is credited with having played a key role in restoring a modicum of order in the functioning of the state apparatus.

Saxena served again as Jammu and Kashmir Governor in 1998, this time overseeing a political government. During this tenure, he is said to have played a key role in enhancing the capacity of the police, seeing it as critical to effectively combating terrorism.

In May 2000, Saxena was appointed to head a task force on intelligence service reform, along with former Foreign Secretary K Raghunath, former Intelligence Bureau chief M.K. Narayanan, former Special Secretary, Home, P.P. Shrivastava, former RAW Additional Secretary B. Raman, and R. Narasimha of the National Institute of Advanced Studies. The report called on India's intelligence establishment to take "an honest and in-depth stock of its present intelligence effort and capabilities" and called for wide-ranging enhancement of capacities and infrastructure. Only part of the report has been implemented even today.

1325) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated the trial run of second Maitree Express train through a video link from New Delhi on April 8, 2017. Which of the following cities is the starting point of its journey in Bangladesh that ends in Kolkata?

- a) Chittagong
- b) Khulna
- c) Narayanganj
- d) Sylhet

Nine years after the inauguration of the Maitree (friendship) Express passenger train service between Kolkata and Dhaka, the first Khulna-Kolkata train chugged in to the Petrapole Railway station on the India-Bangladesh border on April 8, 2017. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated the trial run through a video link from New Delhi. The Maitree Express II set off from Khulna at 8.15 a.m. and entered India through Benapole from the Bangladesh side. The 176-km journey that ends in Kolkata includes 96 km on the Bangladesh side. Regular passenger train services are expected to begin from July. The passenger train service between Dhaka and Kolkata Maitree Express - was launched on April 14, 2008.

1326) Which of the following states does not share border with Bangladesh?

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur

Bangladesh and India share a 4,096-kilometer-long international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world, including 262 km in Assam, 856 km in Tripura, 180 km in Mizoram, 443 km in Meghalaya, and 2,217 km in West Bengal.

1327) BIFPCL is a 50:50 joint venture between India's NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), 'F' in BIFPL stands for:

- a) Fair
- b) Federal
- c) Freedom
- d) Friendship

PSU NTPC's joint venture BIFPCL (Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Ltd.) on April 10, 2017 tied up funds to the tune of \$1.6 billion to set up 1,320 mw Maitree Super Thermal Power Project in Bangladesh. NTPC said in a BSE filing on April 11, 2017. BIFPCL is a 50:50 joint venture company between NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for setting up this coal-fired thermal power plant.

1328) A Pakistan military court sentenced Kulbhushan Jadhav to death in April 2017. He had served in which of the following in India?

- a) BSF
- b) Army
- c) Navy
- d) Air Force

A Pakistan military court has sentenced Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav to death after he was convicted of "espionage and sabotage activities", prompting New Delhi to warn Islamabad that it is a case of "premeditated murder". The award of the death sentence to the 46-year-old former naval officer at a court-martial was confirmed by Pakistan's army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on April 10, 2017 after the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) found him guilty of "all the charges". India had acknowledged that Jadhav had served with the navy but denied that he has any connection with the government.

1329) India was 31st among 32 countries ranked in the health system transparency index released in April 2017. The index is a creation of which of the following?

- a) EY
- b) IMF
- c) WHO

d) KPMG

India has been placed second from bottom in a health system transparency index, released by KPMG on April 13, 2017, which also highlighted that the country is still “woefully” short in terms of healthcare infrastructure. Among 32 countries analysed in the report, India was only better than China. Four Nordic nations - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway - stood at the top of the transparency rankings.

1330) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Sir Michael Fallon of United Kingdom who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Defence ministers and their respective delegations from the United Kingdom and India on April 13, 2017 agreed that both nations faced evolving threats and challenges in the 21st century, and agreed to maintain their close interaction. UK Secretary of State for Defence Sir Michael Fallon and his Indian counterpart Arun Jaitley issued a joint statement after their talks in New Delhi. The ministers agreed to further strengthen their naval and maritime interactions, including enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through the bilateral technical agreement to exchange information to track terrorist and pirate vessels, a key deliverable of the DISP (Defence and International Security Partnership).

1331) Which of the following has decided to develop Advanced Hawk jet trainer jointly with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?

- a) Boeing
- b) Dassault
- c) BAE Systems
- d) Bombardier

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on April 13, 2017 welcomed the UK's interest in manufacturing in India as evidenced through recent announcements including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bharat Dynamics Ltd. and Thales UK on technology transfer opportunities for missile systems and efforts to develop an Advanced Hawk jet trainer jointly by the BAE Systems and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

1332) 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and which of the following was observed on April 13, 2017?

- a) United States
- b) France
- c) China
- d) Russia

Russian President Vladimir Putin on April 13, 2017 greeted President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia. The then USSR established diplomatic relations with India on April 13, 1947, which was yet to gain independence then.

1333) Which of the following has set up a Nanobiotechnology Centre in Gurgaon in tie up with Deakin University of Australia?

- a) Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- b) Centre for Science and Environment
- c) The Energy and Resources Institute
- d) Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Australia's Education and Training Minister Simon Birmingham awarded a three-year tuition fee waiver scholarship to 11 Indian students worth AUD 1.1 million, on April 11, 2017, while leading a high-level delegation visit to the TERI-Deakin Nanobiotechnology Centre (TDNBC) in Gurgaon. The TERI Deakin Nanobiotechnology Centre was inaugurated by the Indian and Australian Prime Ministers – Narendra Modi and Malcolm Turnbull – on April 10, 2017.

1334) Government's Indian Academy of Highway Engineers has tied up with which of the following in April 2017 to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS)?

- a) Sydney University
- b) Victoria University
- c) Melbourne University
- d) University of New South Wales

1335) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Australia? He came in an official visit to India in April 2017.

- a) Malcolm Turnbull
- b) Julia Gillard
- c) John Howard
- d) Kevin Rudd

In line with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway's vision to influence and adopt global innovation into the transportation sector, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry through the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers and University of New South Wales (UNSW) on April 10, 2017 to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS).

1336) India-Australia _____ Partnership (ISAP) was launched during the visit of Australian Prime Minister to India in April 2017.

- a) Steel
- b) Sport
- c) Science
- d) Security

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on April 12, 2017 said that Victoria University and University of Canberra will assist India to establish a 'National Sports University' on the lines of the Australian Institute of Sport. The assurance by Turnbull came at the launch of the India-Australia Sport Partnership (IASP) jointly with Indian Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Vijay Goel in the presence of cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar in Mumbai.

1337) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Alain Vidalies of France who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Suresh Prabhu

The French Minister of State for Transport, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Alain Vidalies signed an agreement with Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on April 13, 2017 in New Delhi for collaboration in areas such as high-speed and semi-high speed rail, modernisation of current operations and infrastructure, station renovation and operations, suburban trains and safety systems, operations and security, said an official release.

1338) . Which of the following hosted the 24th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change on April 10-11, 2017?

- a) Brasilia
- b) Beijing
- c) Pretoria
- d) Moscow

The 24th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Beijing, China on 10 and 11 April 2017. BASIC countries comprising Brazil, South Africa, India and China said that the global effort against climate change is an irreversible process that cannot be postponed and welcomed the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

1339) Which of the following was the victim of Islamic State group's bombings in Egypt that killed at least 45 people on April 9, 2017?

- a) Coptic Church

- b) Anglican Church
- c) Catholic Church
- d) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Egypt declared a three-month state of emergency and ordered the military special forces to protect key infrastructure after the Islamic State group triggered powerful bombs at two minority Coptic Christian churches, killing at least 45 people on April 9, 2017. The deadliest attacks on Coptic Christians in recent times on Palm Sunday, forced President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to make a brief appearance on television, when he announced the state of emergency for three months. The Islamic State group claimed the bombings.

1340) The first-ever freight train from Britain to China started its 12,000 km long journey on April 10, 2017 along a modern-day "Silk Road" trade route. Which is the only other Asian country on its route?

- a) Kazakhstan
- b) Kyrgyzstan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Turkmenistan

The first-ever freight train from Britain to China started its mammoth journey from Stanford-Le-Hope (UK) on April 10, 2017 along a modern-day "Silk Road" trade route. The 32-container train, around 600 metres long, left the London Gateway container port laden with cargo, bound for Yiwu on the east coast of China. The train will cover 12,000-kilometre in its 18-day journey. It will go through the Channel Tunnel before travelling across France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan before heading into China.

The first train from China to Britain arrived on January 18, 2017, filled with clothes and other retail goods, and the April 10, 2017 departure was the first journey in the other direction. The rail route is cheaper than air freight and faster than sea freight, offering logistics companies a new middle option.

1341) A Gurdwara in which of the following places entered the Guinness Book of Records for hosting breakfast for people of 101 nationalities on April 13, 2017?

- a) Vancouver
- b) Doha
- c) Dubai
- d) Abu Dhabi

On the auspicious day of Baisakhi, the Gurdwara in Dubai on April 13, 2017 entered the Guinness Book of Records for hosting Breakfast for people of 101 nationalities. Officially called "Breakfast for Diversity", the occasion exemplified the spirit of charity, religious and cultural tolerance amongst people of various nationalities and faith.

1342) International Day of Human Space Flight was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 12
- b) April 13
- c) April 14
- d) April 15

The United Nations on April 12, 2017 commemorated the International Day of Human Space Flight to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the first human space flight, which ushered in the beginning of the space era for mankind. The International Day commemorates the historic space flight that Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen, took on 12 April, 1961, and which opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all of Earth's inhabitants.

1343) The United Nations General Assembly has designated ____ as International Day for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.

- a) April 27
- b) May 27
- c) June 27
- d) July 27

Recognizing the importance of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in achieving the new global development goals, the United Nations General Assembly on April 6, 2017 designated 27 June as International Day for those actors. At least 35 ISIS terrorists killed in US bombing in Afghanistan

1344) . As many as 35 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Afghanistan in a US attack on their tunnel and cave network with 21,600-pound GPS-guided bomb on April 14, 2017. MOAB, which is commonly known as the Mother of All Bombs, refers to which of the following?

- a) Molten Ordnance Air Blast
- b) Modern Ordnance Air Blast
- c) Managed Ordnance Air Blast
- d) Massive Ordnance Air Blast

1345) As many as 35 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Afghanistan in a US attack on their tunnel and cave network with the largest non-nuclear bomb on April 14, 2017. Which province?

- a) Punjshir
- b) Ghazni
- c) Bamiyan
- d) Nangarhar

As many as 35 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Afghanistan after the United States military attacked their tunnel and cave network with a GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb on April 14, 2017. Massive Ordnance Air Blast is commonly known as the Mother of All Bombs and is considered as the largest non-nuclear bomb. The 21,600-pound munition was dropped on a tunnel and cave network managed by the terrorists in Nangarhar province.

1346) Which of the following is the first-ever military exercise between Nepal and China that was organised in April 2017?

- a) Lhotse Friendship-2017
- b) Manaslu Friendship-2017
- c) Sagarmatha Friendship-2017
- d) Kangchenjunga Friendship-2017

Nepal and China will hold the first-ever joint military exercise from April 16 with a special focus on combating terror and disaster management, the Nepal Army announced in Kathmandu on April 13, 2017. The 10-day-long military drill will conclude on April 25 and is named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017'. Sagarmatha is the Nepali name of Mt Everest.

1347) Who among the following was named a UN Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on April 8, 2017?

- a) Shakira
- b) Angelina Jolie
- c) Sakena Yacoobi
- d) Malala Yousafzai

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on April 8, 2017 named Pakistan's Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai a UN Messenger of Peace, the highest honour bestowed by his office on a global citizen.

1348) World Homeopathy Day was observed on _____.

- a) April 9
- b) April 10
- c) April 11
- d) April 12

World Homeopathy Day was observed on April 10, 2017 to mark the birth anniversary of the founder and father of Homeopathy Dr. Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (born 1755, Germany).

1349) The International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda was observed on:

- a) April 7
- b) April 9

- c) April 11
- d) April 13

1350) Which of the following tribes along with Hutus was involved in the Genocide in Rwanda in 1994?

- a) Asante
- b) Tutsi
- c) Yoruba
- d) Igbo

The International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda was observed at the United Nations on April 7, 2017. The UN estimates that in 1994 more than 800,000 people were systematically murdered throughout Rwanda. The vast majority were Tutsi, but moderate Hutus, Twa and others were also targeted. The genocide was sparked when a plane carrying ex-Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on April 6, 1994, killing all on board. Rwandan Hutus blamed ethnic Tutsis for the attack and sought immediate revenge.

1351) Which of the following hosted the first ever meeting of the G20 Digital Ministers on 6-7 April, 2017, entitled 'Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future'?

- a) Frankfurt
- b) Hamburg
- c) Nuremburg
- d) Dusseldorf

As part of its G20 Presidency, Germany hosted the first ever meeting of the G20 Digital Ministers on 6-7 April, 2017 in Dusseldorf, entitled 'Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future'.

1352) Who among the following was appointed as the new Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in April 2017?

- a) Francis Gurry
- b) Taleb Rifai
- c) Don Brash
- d) Achim Steiner

UN chief Antonio Guterres on April 12, 2017 named Germany's Achim Steiner as the new administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Steiner, who previously served at the UN Environment Programme, was selected to succeed Helen Clark, a former New Zealand PM, who has steered the UNDP since 2009. Headquartered in New York City, the UNDP seeks to reduce poverty, improve social development and encourage women's empowerment.

1353) Georgy Grechko has died at age 85 in Moscow on April 8, 2017. He was well-known:

- a) Novelist
- b) Cosmonaut
- d) Physicist
- e) Chemist

Russian space agency Roscosmos says Soviet-era cosmonaut Georgy Grechko has died at age 85 in Moscow on April 8, 2017. Grechko made three trips into space between 1975 and 1985, spending a total of 134 days off the Earth. His longest was a stay of more than three months aboard the Salyut-6 space station in 1977-78. Grechko later became a cosmonaut instructor and joined the faculty at the Russian Academy of Sciences' institute of atmospheric physics.

1354) Which of the following is the Research Vessel (RV) operated by CSIR's National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)?

- a) Sindhu Sameeksha
- b) Sindhu Sadhana
- c) Sindhu Spandan
- d) Sindhu Samrat

Researchers at the Dona Paula based CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) have developed a robotic platform that can be stationed at any depth from 0 to 200 metres to track the oceanic processes. Scientists at Marine

Instrumentation Group of CSIR-NIO have developed a robotic platform, Seabed Resident Event Profiler (SREP) that can be stationed at any water depth down to 200 meters along the Indian coast. This was disclosed in a statement by NIO in Panaji on April 14, 2017. During the recent voyage of RV Sindhu Sadhana, the latest state of the art research vessel of institute, SREP was tested along the coast.

1355) NASA's Cassini mission revealed in April 2017 that Enceladus has a form of chemical energy that can sustain life. Enceladus is the moon of:

- a) Mercury
- b) Venus
- c) Saturn
- d) Mars

Saturn's icy moon Enceladus has a form of chemical energy that life can feed on, researchers with NASA's Cassini mission to Saturn have revealed. "Confirmation that the chemical energy for life exists within the ocean of a small moon of Saturn is an important milestone in our search for habitable worlds beyond Earth," said the Cassini project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

1356) The Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Award was announced for which of the following in Hindi by the government in April 2017?

- a) Short story
- b) Play
- c) Novel
- d) News

Central Hindi Institute Director, Agra on April 11, 2017 announced the names of 26 writers from different categories for the prestigious Hindi Sevi Samman Awards. The awardees will receive Rs 5 lakh each, a citation and a shawl from President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in May. The Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Award for Hindi journalism will be awarded to Rahul Dev and Baldev Bhai Sharma.

1357) Which of the following announced the winners of the annual Pulitzer Prizes in April 2017?

- a) Stanford University
- b) Princeton University
- c) Harvard University
- d) Columbia University

1358) Which of the following won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in April 2017?

- a) Get in Trouble: Stories by Kelly Link
- b) Maud's Line by Margaret Verble
- c) Imagine Me Gone by Adam Haslett
- d) The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead

The 2017 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded by the Pulitzer Prize Board for work during the 2016 calendar year. Prize winners and nominated finalists were announced on April 10, 2017. The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher, and is administered by Columbia University in New York City. Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. The 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction was won by Colson Whitehead for 'The Underground Railroad'.

1359) Professor Fujii Takeshi (Japan) and Professor Gabriela Nik Ilieva (New York) will be honoured by the President of India in May for their efforts in promoting which language?

- a) Hindi
- b) Tamil
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Gujarati

Central Hindi Institute Director, Agra on April 11, 2017 announced the names of 26 writers from different categories for the prestigious Hindi Sevi Samman Awards. The awardees will receive Rs 5 lakh each, a citation and a shawl from

President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in May. Professor S. Shesharatnam (Andhra Pradesh), M. Govind Rajan (Tamil Nadu), Harmahendra Singh Bedi (Punjab) and H. Subadani Devi (Manipur) have been selected from non-Hindi speaking states for their contribution to the Hindi language. Foreign Hindi writers selected for the award are Professor Fujii Takeshi (Japan) and Professor Gabriela Nik Ilieva (New York) while the Non-Resident Indians (NRI) who will get the awards are Pushpita Avasthi (Netherlands) and Padmesh Gupta (London). The Union Human Resource Development Ministry instituted the Hindi Sevi Samman in 1989. More than a hundred Hindi writers have received the prestigious awards till now.

1360) The eighth Public Sector Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 11
- b) April 12
- c) April 13
- d) April 14

1361) . SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises) Awards were given to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in April 2017. Who among the following is the Director General of SCOPE?

- a) Partha Ray
- b) Anant Geete
- c) Ved Prakash
- d) UD Choubey

The eighth Public Sector Day was marked on April 11, 2017 with the presentation of SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises) Awards to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by the President in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Award function was organized jointly by SCOPE and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). Anant G. Geete is the Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Babul Supriyo is the Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Chairman of SCOPE is Ved Prakash while Dr. UD Choubey is the Director General.

1362) Who among the following took charge as whole-time Member in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in April 2017?

- a) Ravindra Puranik
- b) Pradeep Subramanian
- c) Makrand Saxena
- d) Mukulita Vijayawargiya

Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi on April 13, 2017. Dr. (Ms.) Vijayawargiya will look after Administrative Law Wing. She will also look after Information Technology, Limited Insolvency Examination, National Insolvency Examination, Finance and Accounts and Communication.

1363) BHIM-Aadhaar, the merchant interface of the BHIM, was launched by the PM on April 14, 2017. The customer having bank account and Aadhaar requires which of the following for payment?

- a) Smart phone
- b) Feature phone
- c) Debit card
- d) None of the above

1364) Consider the following on the referral bonus scheme incentive scheme for BHIM launched by the PM on April 14, 2017:

- I. The existing user who refers BHIM to a new user would get a cash bonus credited directly to his account
- II. The new user who adopts BHIM would get a cash bonus credited directly to his account
- III. The merchant who is involved in first transaction for new user of BHIM would get a cash bonus credited directly to his account

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only

d) I and III only

1365) Who among the following won the Rs.1 crore first prize for consumers under the Lucky Grahak Yojana in April 2017?

- a) Hardik Kumar
- b) Bharat Singh
- c) Ragini Rajendra Uttekar
- d) Shradha Mohan Mengshette

1366) Who among the following won the Rs.50 lakh first prize for merchants under the DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana in April 2017?

- a) Hardik Kumar
- b) Bharat Singh
- c) Ragini Rajendra Uttekar
- d) Anand Ananthapadmanabhan

Enroute to the digital payments gaining the proportions of a mass movement, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a series of initiatives on April 14, 2017 in Nagpur.

BHIM-Aadhaar, the merchant interface of the BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) App, will pave the way for making digital payments by using the Aadhaar platform. The transaction will require customer's fingerprint for authentication. 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. Any citizen without access to smart phones, internet, debit or credit cards will be able to transact digitally through the BHIM Aadhaar platform.

The Prime Minister also launched two new incentive schemes for the BHIM – Cash back and Referral bonus – with an outlay of Rs. 495 crore for a period of six months. Under the Referral bonus scheme both the existing user who refers BHIM and the new user who adopts BHIM would get a cash bonus credited directly to their account. Under the Cashback scheme the merchants will get a cash back on every transaction using BHIM. Both schemes are to be administered by MEITY and implemented by NPCI.

The initial two incentives schemes viz., Lucky Grahak Yojana and DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana, came to an end after a 100-day information, education and communication campaign led by NITI Aayog to make digital payments a mass movement in India. **Lucky Grahak Yojana:** 20 year-old Shradha Mohan Mengshette, a second year student of Electrical Engineering from Latur district in Maharashtra, emerged as the winner of Rs.1 crore mega draw for consumers. **Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana:** The first prize of Rs. 50 lakh, under the DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana category for merchants, was won by Anand Ananthapadmanabhan for accepting a payment of Rs.300 at GRT Jewellers in Tambaram, Tamil Nadu.

In order to achieve the target of 2500 crore digital transactions during the current financial year, the Prime Minister also announced 86 townships spread all over India as 'less-cash townships'.

1367) Stock exchange BSE has directed all entities listed with it to make filings of financial results in XBRL mode in April 2017. XBRL stands for which of the following?

- a) Excellent Business Response Language
- b) Extensible Business Reporting Language
- c) External Business Recording Language
- d) Exterior Business Response Language

Stock exchange BSE has directed all entities listed with it to make filings of financial results in XBRL mode. XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language) is an electronic format for communication of business and financial data. It is a computer readable language having its own grammar and framework of rules. "It has been decided that with effect from April 1, 2017 onwards, all listed entities with BSE, would be required to make their filings in respect of financial results...In XBRL mode within 24 hours of submission of results in PDF mode," the exchange said in a release on April 12, 2017.

1368) The Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has drawn up GRAF to for Public Sector Banks to improve corporate governance and face competition from the private sector. 'R' in GRAF stands for:

- a) Risk
- b) Reform
- c) Reward
- d) Resolution

To prime public sector banks (PSBs) to hold their own against nifty private sector rivals and also prepare them for possible mergers in the future, the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has drawn up an elaborate Governance, Reward and Accountability Framework (GRAF).

The GRAF seeks to ensure that corporate governance at PSBs is in keeping with various pieces of legislation, including the Companies Act, 2013, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and Securities and Exchange Board of India (listing obligations and disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Further, the framework abides by the guidelines of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision on corporate governance principles for banks. Among others, the principles deal with the board's overall responsibilities, board qualifications and composition, senior management, risk management function, compliance, internal audit and compensation.

The BBB was set up in 2016 to make recommendations for selection of the chiefs of PSBs and financial institutions and help them develop strategies and capital-raising plans.

The Bureau has evolved a code of conduct and ethics that can be enforced across all PSBs to ensure the right behaviour.

It has also come up with compensation reforms so that best practices can be introduced in PSBs on the lines already prevalent in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

The BBB has evolved a relative performance rating system to assess the performance of PSBs, its directors and employees; and performance evaluation system based on which decision-making for the extension/termination of a whole-time director can be undertaken objectively.

Later in the fiscal, the Bureau will advise the government on evolving training and development programmes for management personnel in PSBs and help banks develop a leadership succession plan.

The BBB's GRAF move comes in the context of PSBs facing challenges on various fronts, including competition from new entrants, aggressive private banks and NBFCs eating into their market share on the loans front, and jump in bad loans. (April 14, 2017)

1369) CBDT has tied up with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to issue PAN and TAN for new companies in 1 day. Which of the following is not expanded correctly?

- a) PAN: Permanent Account Number
- b) TAN: Tax Deduction Account Number
- c) Col: Certificate of Incorporation
- d) None of the above

In order to improve the Ease of Doing Business for newly incorporated corporates, CBDT has tied up with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to issue Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) in 1 day. Applicant companies submit a common application form on MCA portal and once the data of incorporation is sent to CBDT by MCA, the PAN and TAN are issued immediately without any further intervention of the applicant.

The Certificate of Incorporation (COI) of newly incorporated companies includes the PAN in addition to the Corporate Identity Number (CIN). TAN is also allotted simultaneously and communicated to the Company.

Tax Deduction Account Number or Tax Collection Account Number is a 10-digit alphanumeric number issued by the Income-tax Department (referred as TAN). TAN is to be obtained by all persons who are responsible for deducting tax at source (TDS) or who are required to collect tax at source (TCS). (April 11, 2017)

- 1370)** The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 for implementation by States/UTs in April. This has been done in partnership with which of the following?
- a) WEF
 - b) OECD
 - c) WTO
 - d) World Bank

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with the World Bank Group, released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 for implementation by States/UTs on April 13, 2017. The BRAP includes 405 recommendations for reforms on regulatory processes, policies, practices and procedures spread across 12 reform areas.

- 1371)** The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee has recommended keeping budgetary deficit at _____ of GDP in three years to March 2020.
- a) 2.8%
 - b) 3%
 - c) 3.2%
 - d) 3.4%

A high-level FRBM panel has recommended keeping budgetary deficit at 3 per cent of GDP in three years to March 2020 and setting up a new council to determine annual targets. Calling for more focus on debt-to-GDP ratio, its recommendation for the fiscal deficit for the current fiscal is lower than 3.2 per cent that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has set for himself in the Budget for 2017-18. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) committee is headed by former revenue secretary N K Singh. The report was made public on April 12, 2017.

- 1372)** Ministry of Commerce & Industry released data on India's Foreign Trade (Merchandise) on April 13, 2017. How much were India's Imports in 2016-17?
- a) USD 300.36 billion
 - b) USD 320.36 billion
 - c) USD 340.36 billion
 - d) USD 380.36 billion

- 1373)** Ministry of Commerce & Industry released data on India's Foreign Trade (Merchandise) on April 13, 2017. How much were India's Exports in 2016-17?
- a) USD 214.64 billion
 - b) USD 234.64 billion
 - c) USD 254.64 billion
 - d) USD 274.64 billion

- 1374)** India's Foreign Trade (Merchandise) data was released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on April 13, 2017. Which of the following grew (in dollar terms) in 2016-17?
- a) Exports
 - b) Imports
 - c) Trade Deficit
 - d) All the above

Data on India's merchandise trade for the financial year 2016-17 was released by the Commerce & Industry Ministry on April 13, 2017.

EXPORTS: Cumulative value of exports for the period April-March 2016-17 was US\$ 274645.10 million (Rs. 1841314.39 crore) as against US\$ 262290.11 million (Rs. 1716377.99 crore) registering a positive growth of 4.71 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 7.28 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

IMPORTS: Cumulative value of imports for the period April-March 2016-17 was US\$ 380367.65 million (Rs. 2550926.19 crore) as against US\$ 381006.64 million (Rs. 2490298.03 crore) registering a negative growth of 0.17 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 2.43 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

TRADE DEFICIT: The trade deficit for April-March, 2016-17 was estimated at US\$ 105722.55 million which was 10.95% lower than the deficit of US\$ 118716.53 million during April-March, 2015-16.

1375) What was the change in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in February 2017?

- a) +1.2%
- b) +1%
- c) +0.8%
- d) -1.2%

Industrial output contracted by 1.2 per cent in February 2017. The industrial output, according to data released on April 12, 2017, slipped to a 4-month low contracting by 1.2 per cent in February because of decline in the manufacturing sector and lower demand for capital as well as consumer goods. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had registered a growth of 1.99 per cent in February 2016.

1376) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for March 2017?

- a) 2.81%
- b) 3.81%
- c) 4.81%
- d) 5.81%
- e) 6.81%

Consumer Price Index (CPI), or retail inflation, during March 2017 rose month-on-month at 3.81 per cent, as compared to 3.65 per cent in February, official data showed on April 12, 2017. The Central Statistics Office data revealed that the annual retail inflation for rural India was 3.75 per cent while that for the urban centres was 3.88 per cent. The government target is four per cent plus-or-minus two percentage points for the next five years.

1377) The government has selected five cities – Puducherry, Vizag, Udaipur, Jamshedpur and Chandigarh – where petrol and diesel prices will be changed once every _____ from May 1.

- a) Day
- b) Two days
- c) Three days
- d) Week

Petrol and Diesel prices will change every day in sync with international rates in five select cities from 1st May. A pilot for daily revision of petrol and diesel price will be first implemented in Puducherry, Vizag, Udaipur, Jamshedpur and Chandigarh. Indian Oil Corp-IOC chairman B. Ashok said on April 12, 2017 that state-owned fuel retailers IOC, BPCL and HPCL will launch it on pilot basis and gradually extend it to all over the country. State fuel retailers currently revise rates on 1st and 16th of every month based on average international price of the fuel in the preceding fortnight and currency exchange rate.

1378) The government on April 9, 2017 launched over 350 projects to build about two lakh houses with a private sector investment of Rs 38,000 crore. C in CREDAI refers to:

- a) Corporate
- b) Community
- c) Consortium
- d) Confederation

The government on April 9, 2017 launched over 350 projects to build about two lakh houses with a private sector investment of Rs 38,000 crore, a first major initiative of corporates in the Centre's affordable housing scheme. Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) Minister M Venkaiah Naidu launched the housing projects at a function at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) members will invest over Rs 38,000 crore to build these houses.

1379) For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters in March 2017. Which of the following was ranked first?

- a) Kandla
- b) Haldia

- c) Paradip
- d) Chennai

For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters, based on the efforts undertaken by them to counter waste generating sources with respect to port operation, office area, township area and the response to incoming ships.

The exercise was undertaken during the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' observed from the 16th to 31st of March 2017. Quality Council of India (QCI) was tasked to assess the Swachhta activities undertaken by all the Ports. While Haldia and Vizag ports bagged the first and second ranks respectively, almost all ports have achieved the benchmark for cleanliness or are well above it. This was disclosed in a press note issued by the Ministry of Shipping on April 11, 2017.

The 12 Major Ports: Kolkata & Haldia, Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Kandla, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, V O Chidambaranar (formerly Tuticorin), New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Ennore.

1380) Who among the following former Chief Justices of India is known for his report on Centre-State relations?

- a) J. S. Verma
- b) M. M. Punchhi
- c) A. S. Anand
- d) A.M. Ahmadi

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council in New Delhi on April 9, 2017. The Standing Committee examined in detail various recommendations of the Punchhi Commission. The Government of India constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under the chairmanship of Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India on 27th April 2007 to look into the new issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

1381) The government will soon launch an umbrella programme 'SAMPADA' for which of the following sectors?

- a) Handicrafts
- b) Garments
- c) Information Technology
- d) Food Processing

The government will soon launch an umbrella programme 'SAMPADA' for food processing sector with Rs 6,000 crore outlay to integrate current and new schemes aimed at reducing food wastage and doubling farmers' income. Announcing this on April 11, 2017, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said her ministry would soon approach the Cabinet for the approval of 'Scheme for Agro-Marine Produce Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA).'

1382) Which mobile application was launched by Power Minister Piyush Goyal on April 11, 2017 to enable consumers to access real-time information on power supply from electricity distribution companies (discoms)?

- a) Urja Saathi
- b) Urja Mitra
- c) Urja Bandhu
- d) Urja Dost

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal on April 11, 2017 launched the 'Urja Mitra' mobile application that allows consumers across India to exchange real-time information with electricity distribution companies (discoms) on power supply. "Urja Mitra provides a central platform in the form of web portal as well as mobile app for state power distribution utilities to disseminate information on outages to urban and rural consumers through SMSs, emails or push notifications," he said. Through this app, consumer can view outages across the country, as well as lodge complaints on outages in their area. The Power Ministry earlier launched a related application -- Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan (Urja) -- to monitor service delivery to consumers in towns across the country.

1383) Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were appointed as Members in which of the following in April 2017?

- a) Railway Board
- b) CIC
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) CBDT

Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were on April 10, 2017 appointed members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex policy making body of the Income Tax department.

36. Ravi Venkatesan was appointed Co-Chairman at which of the following in April 2017?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) HCL
- d) TCS

Former Microsoft India Chairman Ravi Venkatesan was on April 13, 2017 appointed as Co-Chairman of Infosys. R. Seshasayee is the other Co-Chairman.

1384) Who among the following actors bought the 'Kingfisher Villa' in Goa, owned by defaulter Vijay Mallya, in an auction conducted by a group of banks led by SBI in April 2017?

- a) Ravi Teja
- b) Prakash Raj
- c) Sachin Joshi
- d) Prabhas Raju

A luxurious beach front villa in Goa owned by absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya has been sold to Bollywood and South Indian film actor Sachin Joshi, by a group of banks led by State Bank of India on April 8, 2017. The property, known as the 'Kingfisher Villa', is situated on the picturesque Candolim Beach.

1385) Which of the following has decided to set up a joint venture in India with Toshiba and Denso to produce lithium-ion batteries for automobiles?

- a) Nissan
- b) Suzuki
- c) Honda
- d) Toyota

Suzuki Motor Corp, Toshiba Corp and Denso Corp on April 14, 2017 said they would form a joint venture to produce lithium-ion batteries for automobiles in India, where auto emission regulations are tightening to deal with pollution problems.

1386) Which of the following inaugurated its Cyber Range Lab in Gurugram on April 12, 2017? The lab aims to train security staff to build the skills necessary to combat new-age threats.

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Cisco

Cisco India on April 12, 2017 inaugurated its Cyber Range Lab in Gurugram that aims to train security staff to build the skills necessary to combat new-age threats. As the demand for cyber security experts grows manifold than any other IT job, cyber security workforce has become a priority for many organisations. Cyber Range Lab will immerse people in simulated real-world cyber-attacks to train them on how to properly prepare for, respond to and manage a broad variety of threats.

1387) . Who among the following has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with 6.9 million followers in April 2017?

- a) Xi Jinping
- b) Narendra Modi
- c) Vladimir Putin
- d) Angela Merkel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with a whopping 6.9 million followers, surpassing US President Donald Trump. Trump, who occupies the second spot, has 6.3 million followers while Pope Francis is in third place with 3.7 million followers, ahead of the White House account with 3.4 million followers. The study was undertaken by public relations firm Burson-Marsteller. (April 12, 2017)

1388) Malala Yousafzai became only the sixth person to receive honorary citizenship of which of the following in April 2017?

- a) United States
- b) Australia
- c) Norway
- d) Canada

Malala Yousafzai became only the sixth person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship in Ottawa on April 13, 2017. She is also the youngest to receive honorary Canadian citizenship -- a privilege previously granted to five others including Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi.

1389) Ramesh Chandra Agrawal died on April 12, 2017 at the age of 73. He was the Chairman of which newspaper group?

- a) Dainik Bhaskar
- b) Rajasthan Patrika
- c) Dainik Jagran
- d) Amar Ujala

Ramesh Chandra Agrawal, Chairman of the country's leading publication house Dainik Bhaskar Group, died in Ahmedabad on April 12, 2017. He was 73. Besides the Hindi newspaper, the group also publishes Divya Bhaskar in Gujarati, English newspaper DNA, Marathi newspaper Divya Marathi, along with running FM Radio My FM and DB Digital.

1390) Which corporate group launched India's first locally designed and manufactured industrial robot named 'Brabo' in April 2017?

- a) Godrej
- b) Aditya Birla
- c) Tata
- d) L&T

TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a fully-owned arm of Tata Motors, on April 11, 2017 launched the country's first locally designed and manufactured industrial robot, the Brabo, which can increase productivity by up to 30 per cent.

1391) 44. B. Venugopal and Sunita Sharma were appointed as Managing Directors at which of the following in April 2017?

- a) ONGC
- b) LIC
- c) SBI
- d) NABARD

The government on April 10, 2017 appointed two more managing directors to LIC. B. Venugopal and Sunita Sharma have been appointed for a period of nearly two years. The top management of LIC consists of the chairman and four managing directors. With these appointments, LIC has four MDs, with the other two being Usha Sangwan and Hemant Bhargava. VK Sharma, who was an MD, was elevated as the Chairman in December 2016.

1392) Which of the following created the record for operating the highest number of flights ever by an Indian airline on April 7, 2017?

- a) GoAir
- b) IndiGo
- c) Jet Airways
- d) SpiceJet

IndiGo on April 8, 2017 said that it flew 900 flights on April 7, 2017, setting the record for operating the highest number of flights ever by an Indian airline in the history of Indian civil aviation sector.

1393) The fifth hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) after Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai was inaugurated in which state in April 2017?

- a) Assam
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Assam

A crack team of counter-terror NSG commandos has been permanently based at its newest hub in Gujarat by the central government. This is the fifth hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) in the country after four such bases were started in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai post the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The main garrison for the commando force is in Manesar in Gurgaon, near the national capital. NSG was raised in 1984 as a federal contingency force to counter terrorist activities. (April 9, 2017)

1394) Which of the following launched 'Operation Durga' on April 13, 2017 to ensure women safety in the state?

- a) Assam
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Assam

Haryana on April 13, 2017 launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state. The Chief Minister's Flying Squad formed 24 teams to catch offenders from all districts of Haryana for their alleged involvement in crimes against women.

1395) Which state's police has initiated Tare Zameen Par program to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas and encourage them to lead happy lives?

- a) Tripura
- b) Odisha
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Jharkhand
- e) Bihar

With a motive to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas of Jharkhand's Palamau district, Jharkhand Police has initiated Tare Zameen Par program to encourage children to lead happy lives. Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Vipul Shukla appealed to locals to donate bags, shoes, books and clothes that would be distributed among poor children. (April 13, 2017)

1396) Who among the Chief Ministers announced the relaunch of 'Adarana', a scheme for improving traditional occupations, in April 2017?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) K. Chandrashekhara Rao
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

Reiterating his resolve for the uplift and all-round development of people belonging to the Backward Classes, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana', a scheme for improving traditional occupations. He made this announcement while addressing the 191st birth anniversary of social reformer Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, being celebrated for the first time as a State function, in Visakhapatnam on April 11, 2017.

1397) Which mobile application was relaunched by Delhi Police in April 2017 for safety of women?

- a) Shakti
- b) Prahari
- c) Rakshak
- d) Himmat

In a bid to reach out to more women, Delhi Police on April 13, 2017 relaunched its Himmat app with more user-friendly features. Launched in 2015, the app saw few takers in the last two years. A total of 91,682 women have installed it in their phones so far and the app has 31,859 registered users. Senior officers though felt that the numbers were not satisfactory and the reasons for the "low" installations and less usage were analysed accordingly. It was felt that the registration process for the app needed to be made simpler and it should also cater to the Hindi-speaking women.

1398) 1. As many as 7,000 girl students on April 11, 2017 performed classical dance 'Kuchipudi' to set a new Guinness World record at which of the following places?

- a) Cuddapah
- b) Rajahmundry
- c) Tirupati
- d) Visakhapatnam

As many as 7,000 girl students on April 11, 2017 performed classical dance 'Kuchipudi' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh to set a Guinness World record. The event was jointly being organized by Andhra Pradesh Residential Educational Institutions Society (APREIS) and Social Welfare Department. The organisers said it broke the earlier record of the largest Kuchipudi dance. As many as 6,117 artists had performed the classical dance in Vijayawada in December 2016 to set the record.

1399) S. Nandagopal died in Chennai on April 14, 2017 at the age of 71. He was winner of national award given by which of the following?

- a) Sangeet Natak Akademi
- b) Sahitya Akademi
- c) Lalit Kala Akademi
- d) None of the above

Eminent sculptor S. Nandagopal died in Chennai on April 14, 2017. He was 71. He was the recipient of the National Award, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, in 1970.

1400) Which state hosted the Sangken festival in April 2017?

- a) Tripura
- b) Mizoram
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

The Theravada Buddhist community in Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating the 3 day Sangken festival starting from April 14, 2017. This marks the start of Theravada Buddhist New Year. It is celebrated in the last days of the old year and the Lunar New Year begins on the day just after the end of the festival.

1401) Michael M. Sailo passed away in Aizawl on April 8, 2017 at the age of 37. He was a well-known:

- a) Singer
- b) Doctor
- c) Sculptor
- d) Journalist

Mizoram's celebrated rap artist, Michael M. Sailo, passed away in an accident in Aizawl on April 8, 2017. Sailo was an empanelled artist of All India Radio, Aizawl. Michael, also known as Aceman was associated with one of the popular rock band of Mizoram - The Scavenger Project.

1402) Dorjee Khandu Memorial Museum was inaugurated on April 9, 2017. He was the former Chief Minister of:

- a) Tripura
- b) Mizoram
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama inaugurated the Dorjee Khandu Memorial Museum in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on April 9, 2017. He also released a book titled - 'Ocean and Blue Mountains' published by department of Karmik and

Adhyatmik Affairs (DoKAA) in presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu and other dignitaries. The book title refers to 'Ocean' as His Holiness and 'Blue Mountains' as the people of Arunachal Pradesh, and is a collection of memoirs of the special bond shared between the two. The Dalai Lama also released a book titled - 'Crossing of the Frontiers' describing his exile route from Tibet to India, published by Losel Nyninje Charitable Society and Monyul Social Welfare Association.

1403) India won the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup Tennis tie against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru by a 4-1 margin in Bengaluru. Who among the following won two singles matches for India?

- a) N. Sriram Balaji
- b) Rohan Bopanna
- c) Prajnesh Gunneswaran
- d) Ramkumar Ramanathan

1404) India won the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup Tennis tie against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru by a 4-1 margin in Bengaluru. Who among the following won the doubles match for India?

- a) N. Sriram Balaji & Rohan Bopanna
- b) Ramkumar Ramanathan & N. Sriram Balaji
- c) Rohan Bopanna & Prajnesh Gunneswaran
- d) Rohan Bopanna & Ramkumar Ramanathan

India won the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup Tennis tie against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru by a 4-1 margin in Bengaluru. On April 9, 2017, Ramkumar Ramanathan won the first match against Sanjar Fayziev in straight sets 6-3, 6-2. But, Uzbekistan prevented a clean sweep for India, when Temur Ismailov defeated Prajnesh Gunneswaran in straight sets 7-5, 6-3 in the second reverse singles. On April 8, Rohan Bopanna and N. Sriram Balaji won the Doubles match by beating the Uzbek pair of Farrukh Dustov and Sanjar Fayziev 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. On April 7, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran handed India a 2-0 lead by winning their respective singles matches. In the first match, Ramanathan overcame Temur Ismailov 6-2 5-7 6-2 7-5, while debutant Gunneswaran defeated Sanjar Fayziev 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

1405) Which of the following hosted the final of the Fifth Asian School Hockey Championship in April 2017?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal
- c) Lucknow
- d) Gandhinagar

The Indian School team beat Malaysia 5-1 to lift the title at the Fifth Asian School Hockey Championship in Bhopal at the Aishbagh Stadium on April 11, 2017.

1406) Akhilesh Das Gupta died in Lucknow on April 12, 2017 at the age of 56. He was the head of which of the following?

- a) All India Tennis Association
- b) Table Tennis Federation of India
- c) Archery Association of India
- d) Badminton Association of India

Former Union Minister and President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) Akhilesh Das Gupta died in Lucknow on April 12, 2017. He was 56.

1407) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Malaysia Open badminton in April 2017?

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Carolina Marin
- c) Yihan Wang
- d) Tai Tzu Ying

1408) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Malaysia Open badminton in April 2017?

- a) Lee Chong Wei
- b) Chen Long
- c) Kidambi Srikanth
- d) Lin Dan

China's Lin Dan, a two-time Olympic champion beat Malaysian world number one Lee Chong Wei to win his first ever Malaysia Open badminton Men's Singles title in Kuching on April 9, 2017. Dan won 21-19, 21-14. Meanwhile, Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying won the Women's Singles title by defeating Spain's Carolina Marin 23-25, 22-20, 21-13.

1409) Who among the following won the Asian Billiards in Chandigarh in April 2017?

- a) Dhruv Sitwala
- b) Pankaj Advani
- c) Rupesh Kumar
- d) Ashok Shandilya

Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani won his seventh Asian title by defeating Sourav Kothari 6-3 in an entertaining final of the Asian Billiards Championship in Chandigarh on April 14, 2017.

1410) Who among the following won the Formula 1 Chinese grand Prix at Shanghai on April 9, 2017?

- a) Max Verstappen
- b) Lewis Hamilton
- c) Jenson Button
- d) Sebastian Vettel

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai on April 9, 2017. This was Hamilton's 54th race title of his career and his first of the new Formula One season. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished in second place followed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen in third place.

1411) . Who among the following won the only gold medal for India at the Thailand International Boxing Tournament in Bangkok in April 2017?

- a) Bajrang
- b) Shyam Kumar
- c) Praveen Rana
- d) Rohit Tokas

Indian boxer Shyam Kumar (49kg) clinched a gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok on April 8, 2017. Earlier, Rohit Tokas (64kg) had lost in the semi-finals to settle for bronze medal. India thus finished the tournament with two medals. The country had sent a seven-strong team for the event, of which four boxers lost in the opening round.

1412) A portal and mobile app on RUSA was launched by the Union HRD Ministry in April 2017. RUSA is:

- a) Rashtriya Unnat Shiksha Abhiyan
- b) Rashtriya Uday Shiksha Abhiyan
- c) Rashtriya Upkar Shiksha Abhiyan
- d) Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan

The Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, got its own portal and mobile app on April 17, 2017. They were launched Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. The portal is a one-stop for States' Higher Education Plans, decision of the States' Higher Education Councils and details of the resources under this scheme.

1413) The three day National Conference on Innovation (Navonmesh) was organised in New Delhi on April 18-20, 2017 by HRD Ministry. What was its focus?

- a) Vocational education
- b) Higher education
- c) School education
- d) Financial literacy

The three day National Conference on Innovation (Navonmesh) in School Education was inaugurated at the NCERT headquarters in New Delhi on April 18, 2017 by Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar. The conference was addressed by Anil Swarup, Secretary School Education, Hrushikesh Senapati, Director NCERT and

Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO representative. The three day conference had participants from different states and UNESCO in addition to NGOs and Educationists.

1414) . Shigeru Aoyagi is the representative of which of the following in India?

- a) UNESCO
- b) UNICEF
- c) UNDP
- d) WHO

The three day National Conference on Innovation (Navonmesh) in School Education was inaugurated at the NCERT headquarters in New Delhi on April 18, 2017 by Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar. The conference was addressed by Anil Swarup, Secretary School Education, Hrushikesh Senapati, Director NCERT and Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO representative. The three day conference had participants from different states and UNESCO in addition to NGOs and Educationists.

1415) 4. Union Cabinet approved procurement of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Units for use in 2019 General Elections in April 2017. These will be procured from Electronics Corporation of India Ltd and:

- a) Tata Advanced Systems
- b) Bharat Electronics Ltd
- c) Engineers India Ltd
- d) Crompton Greaves

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 19, 2017 gave its approval for procurement of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Units for use in the General Elections in 2019. These will be procured from Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad.

1416) The Health Ministry has decided to change India's definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria. According to the new definition, a person who is unable to count fingers from a distance of _____ would be considered "blind"

- a) 1 metre
- b) 3 metres
- c) 5 metres
- d) 7 metres

1417) The Health Ministry has decided to change India's definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria. India's current definition was adopted in:

- a) 1966
- b) 1976
- c) 1986
- d) 1996

1418) The Health Ministry has decided to change India's definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria. What will be the impact on the number of blind?

- a) It will decrease
- b) It will increase
- c) It will remain unchanged
- d) None of the above

1419) What is the World Health Organization's target of reducing the prevalence of blindness in India by 2020?

- a) 0.1% of the total population
- b) 0.2% of the total population
- c) 0.3% of the total population
- d) 0.4% of the total population

India has changed its over four-decade-old definition of blindness, bringing it in line with the WHO criteria, a step that would drastically bring down the number of people considered "blind" in the country. According to the new definition, a

person who is unable to count fingers from a distance of three metres would be considered “blind” as against the earlier stipulation of six metres, which was adopted in 1976. The aim is to achieve the WHO goal of reducing the blindness prevalence of India to 0.3 per cent of the total population by 2020. The notification in this regard has been issued by the Union Health Ministry. Also, the name of the scheme, ‘National Programme for Control of Blindness’ has been changed to ‘The National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment’. (April 19, 2017)

1420) The Prime Minister announced in April 2017 that virtual museums would be set up at 50 places in the country to highlight the significant role of ____ in the country’s freedom struggle.

- a) Tribals
- b) Women
- c) Teachers
- d) Children

1421) Paika Rebellion against the British East India Company occurred in Odisha in which year?

- a) 1807
- b) 1817
- c) 1827
- d) 1837

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 16, 2017 said virtual museums would be set up at 50 places in the country to highlight the significant role of the tribals in the country’s freedom struggle. PM Modi felicitated the family members of 16 great freedom fighters who participated in the first mutiny against British rule known as Paika Rebellion at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. The rebels undertook an armed rebellion against the British East India Company in 1817.

1422) Who among the following is the retired army veteran, in news in April 2017, for cycling 11000 km in 183 days to pay homage to martyrs?

- a) Major General (Retired) Balwant Singh Negi
- b) Major General (Retired) Somnath Jha
- c) Major General (Retired) Praveen Bakshi
- d) Major General (Retired) Jai Shanker Menon

Major General (Retired) Somnath Jha, aged 58 years, after serving the Army for 37 years, remains a man on the mission. This third generation soldier took up the daunting task of cycling throughout the Nation for 183 days as his tribute to around 21,000 Armed Forces martyrs since Independence. He cycled 11000km in 43,528 minutes, dedicating two minutes of cycling to each martyr. Asked as to ‘why two minutes of cycling’ and the Veteran replied ‘we observe two minutes silence for each of our martyr’. Gen Jha concluded his homage journey by laying of wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti on April 19, 2017 and vowed to undertake similar endeavour once the National War Memorial is dedicated to the Nation.

1423) 12. Nora Chopra passed away in New Delhi on April 20, 2017 at the age of 64. She was well-known as:

- a) Dentist
- b) Painter
- c) Architect
- d) Journalist

Veteran journalist Nora Chopra passed away in New Delhi on April 20, 2017 at the age of 64. Chopra had started her career with the Pioneer in Allahabad, and later she worked for Northern India Patrika, the Asian Age and Tehelka.

1424) How much as India contributed to the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) in April 2017?

- a) USD 100,000
- b) USD 250,000
- c) USD 500,000
- d) USD 750,000

India on April 20, 2017 contributed USD 250,000 to the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) for electoral assistance to the member states. “As elections play an important role in the peace processes and political transitions aimed at ending bloodshed, or establishing or restoring democratic governance, electoral assistance is a growing area of

responsibility and expertise,” DPA said on its website. The United Nations member states are the 193 sovereign states that are members of the UN. This is the second Indian contribution of USD 250,000 to the programmes for electoral assistance and capacity building. The first was made in 2012.

1425) Which of the following has signed a contract with Hanwa Techwin of South Korea in April 2017 to manufacture self-propelled artillery guns for the Indian Army?

- a) Reliance Defence
- b) Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) Tata Advanced Systems

India and South Korea on April 21, 2017 signed two agreements to build artillery guns for the Indian Army and for collaboration in shipbuilding. One of them is an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the governments while the other is a manufacturing agreement between two private companies for artillery guns. In the Inter-governmental MoU for defence industry cooperation, India has already nominated Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam while South Korea will designate their shipyard soon. Indian engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Hanwa Techwin of South Korea signed a contract to manufacture self-propelled artillery guns for the Indian Army.

1426) Who among the following is the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in news for visiting India in April 2017?

- a) Margrethe Vestager
- b) Lech Kaczyński
- c) Federica Mogherini
- d) Jean-Claude Juncker

Federica Mogherini, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 21, 2017. Modi and Mogherini discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest. The next India-EU Summit will be held in India in October 2017. Mogherini also held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj. The EU is one of India’s largest trading partners with bilateral trade in goods reaching 85 billion dollars in 2016. The EU has been strongly pushing for moving ahead with the free trade agreement which is known as the EU-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

1427) Sri Lanka has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo. It will be celebrated on:

- a) May 4
- b) May 8
- c) May 12
- d) May 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo on May 12, Sri Lanka’s Minister for Justice and Buddhasasana Wijeyadasa Rajapakse said in Colombo on April 19, 2017. Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Pournima, is a traditional holiday commemorated by Sri Lanka’s majority Sinhala Buddhists.

1428) 17. Which of the following was observed on April 19, 2017?

- a) World Liver Day
- b) World Polio Day
- c) World Kidney Day
- d) World Heart Day

World liver day is observed on every 19 April, to spread awareness about liver related disease. The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.

1429) Patricia Espinosa came on a two-day visit to India in April 2017. She is the head of:

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNDP
- c) UNFCCC
- d) UNESCO

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa came on a two-day visit to India on April 17-18, 2017.

1430) The World _____ Day was observed on April 17, 2017.

- a) Malaria
- b) Leprosy
- c) Diabetes
- d) Haemophilia

The World Haemophilia Day was observed on April 17, 2017. Every year on April 17, World Haemophilia Day is observed around the world to increase awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.

1431) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Harjit Singh Sajjan of Canada who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Canada's Indian-origin Defence Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan paid obeisance at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on April 20, 2017 where he was presented with a robe of honour. The minister inaugurated the new office of the Consulate-General of Canada in Chandigarh on April 21. Sajjan met his Indian counterpart Arun Jaitley on April 18 and also laid a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, which a memorial dedicated to unnamed soldiers.

1432) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a referendum that expands his authority on April 16, 2017. Which of the following the party in power in Turkey?

- a) Motherland Party
- b) Justice and Development Party
- c) People's Democratic Party
- d) Progressive Nationalist Party

1433) Turkey was in news for referendum on President's powers in April 2017. The country is a member of:

- a) G7
- b) EU
- c) NAM
- d) NATO

1434) What is the capital of Turkey, a country in news for referendum on President's powers in April 2017?

Turkey

- a) Bursa
- b) Ankara
- c) Antalya
- d) Diyarbakir

1435) What is the currency of Turkey, a country in news for referendum on President's powers in April 2017?

- a) Euro
- b) Turkish Lira
- c) Turkish Riyal
- d) Turkish Dinar

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan narrowly won a referendum on April 16, 2017 to expand presidential powers. The "Yes" campaign had won 51.41 per cent and "No" 48.59 per cent. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) said the Turkish nation gave its final word by voting "Yes" in the country's constitutional referendum. A NATO member since 1952, Turkey shares borders with Syria, Iran and Iraq but also EU members Greece

and Bulgaria. The capital Ankara has a population of around five million. Istanbul is the largest city and industrial and commercial hub with more than 15 million people.

1436) Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May announced snap general election on June 8 recently. Consider the following statements about her.

- I. She is Britain's first woman Prime Minister
- II. She is leader of Conservative Party
- III. Her government has completed less than half of its five year term

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

1437) Britain's Parliament approved Prime Minister Theresa May's decision to hold snap general election in April 2017.

What is the Lower House of Parliament in Britain called?

- b) National Assembly
- c) Federation Council
- d) House of Commons
- e) House of Representatives

British Prime Minister Theresa May on April 18, 2017 announced a snap general election in the UK on June 8. The move is unexpected as her government has not even completed half its term. British law says a five-year term can only be cut short with Parliament's approval. On April 19, MPs approved May's plan for a snap election on June 8 in a Commons vote. The House of Commons voted in favour of the poll by 522 votes to just 13. May took over as Britain's Prime Minister on July 16, 2016, replacing David Cameron who resigned following the British vote to break away from the European Union. Conservative Party leader Theresa May became Britain's second woman prime minister after Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990) in July 2016. May was the Home Secretary under PM David Cameron who resigned.

1438) More than 250 people were killed during the annual Thingyan water festival organised in April 2017 in which country?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Cambodia
- c) Mongolia
- d) Myanmar

A total of 285 people were killed and 1,073 others injured across Myanmar during the annual Thingyan water festival organised from April 13 to 16, 2017.

1439) The International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day, was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 17
- b) April 18
- c) April 19
- d) April 20

1440) What was the theme of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as the World Heritage Day, observed in April 2017?

- a) Tribal Heritage
- b) Heritage and Science
- c) Heritage of Commemoration
- d) Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism

1441) How many of UNESCO's World Heritage sites are in India?

- a) 5
- b) 15
- c) 25

d) 35

World Heritage Day, also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites, was observed on April 18, 2017. In 2017, the theme is “Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism”, chosen in relation to the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The day aims to spread awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving various sites around the world that have achieved world heritage status. World Heritage sites are officially recognised by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). These sites are classified as a natural or man-made structure that has international importances and hold cultural and physical significance. There are total 1,052 heritage sites in all over the World. In India, there are 35 World Heritage Sites.

India's 35 properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List. They are:

Cultural (27): Agra Fort (1983), Ajanta Caves (1983), Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda, Bihar (2016), Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989), Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004), Churches and Convents of Goa (1986), Elephanta Caves (1987), Ellora Caves (1983), Fatehpur Sikri (1986), Great Living Chola Temples (1987), Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986), Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984), Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987), Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013), Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993), Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986), Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (2002), Mountain Railways of India (1999), Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993), Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat (2014), Red Fort Complex (2007), Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003), Sun Temple, Konârak (1984), Taj Mahal (1983), The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016), The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010). **Natural** (7): Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (2014), Kaziranga National Park (1985), Keoladeo National Park (1985), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985), Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988), Sundarbans National Park (1987), Western Ghats (2012). **Mixed** (1): Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)

1442) . Which of the following has decided to end its 457 work visa programme that allowed businesses to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs?

- a) United States
- b) Canada
- c) Ireland
- d) Australia

Australia on April 20, 2017 announced tougher citizenship laws for new applicants, including higher English language skills and longer residency requirement, days after the government scrapped a popular visa programme used mostly by Indians. The move comes after Australia announced it would abolish the popular 457 work visa used by over 95,000 foreign workers. The 457 programme allows business to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs where there is a shortage of Australian workers. The majority of the visa holders under this category were from India.

1443) The Gwadar port in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is in which province?

- a) Sindh
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

A state-run Chinese company will handle the operations of Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port in Balochistan province for a period of 40 years, the government said in Islamabad on April 20, 2017. The China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) would carry out all the development work on the port on the Arabian Sea.

1444) Which of the following pairs of books and writers nominated for Booker International Prize in April 2017 is matched correctly?

- a) A Horse Walks Into a Bar: Mathias Enard
- b) Compass: David Grossman
- c) Fever Dream: Samanta Schweblin
- d) All the above

1445) Which of the following pairs of books and writers nominated for Booker International Prize in April 2017 is matched correctly?

- a) Judas: Dorthe Nors
- b) Mirror, Shoulder, Signal: Amos Oz
- c) The Unseen: Roy Jacobsen
- d) All the above

The six writers shortlisted for this year's Man Booker International Prize were revealed by the organisers on April 20, 2017. The finalists are competing for a £50,000 prize, which is divided equally between the author and the translator. The 2017 Man Booker International shortlist: A Horse Walks Into a Bar by David Grossman (Israel), Compass by Mathias Enard (France), Fever Dream by Samanta Schweblin (Argentina), Judas by Amos Oz (Israel), Mirror, Shoulder, Signal by Dorthe Nors (Denmark) and The Unseen by Roy Jacobsen (Norway). The 2017 winner will be announced on June 14. The International Prize is different from the Man Booker Prize which is awarded for the best original novel written in English and published in the U.K.

1446) Who among the following, known as the world's oldest person, died in Italy on April 15, 2017 at the age of 117?

- a) Jeralean Talley
- b) Emma Morano
- c) Maggie Barnes
- d) Matilde Bresciani

1447) Who among the following became the world's oldest person on April 15, 2017?

- a) Nabi Tajima
- b) Violet Brown
- c) John Mosse
- d) Elizabeth Riley

Emma Morano, an Italian woman believed to have been the oldest person alive and the last survivor of the 19th century, died on April 15, 2017 at the age of 117. Morano, born on November 29 1899, died at her home in Verbania, in northern Italy. According to the US-based Gerontology Research Group (GRG), Morano ceded the crown of the world's oldest human being to Jamaican Violet Brown, who was born on March 10, 1900. Morano's death means there is no one living known to have been born before 1900.

1448) Which of the following is China's first unmanned cargo spacecraft that was launched on April 20, 2017?

- a) Jiuquan
- b) Beidou
- c) Tiangong
- d) Tianzhou

China on April 20, 2017 successfully launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft. Powered by a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket, Tianzhou-1 roared into the air from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in the southern Hainan Province. In space, the cargo ship will dock with the orbiting Tiangong-2 space station, provide fuel and other supplies, and conduct space experiments before falling back to Earth.

1449) 38. Which district of Rajasthan won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for its "Solar Urja Lamps Project"?

- a) Dungarpur
- b) Jaisalmer
- c) Jodhpur
- d) Barmer

1450) Which district of Gujarat won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana?

- a) Sabarkantha
- b) Banaskantha
- c) Gandhinagar
- d) Mehsana

1451) Which district of Maharashtra won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana?

- a) Beed
- b) Jalna
- c) Osmanabad
- d) Nanded

1452) Which district of Telangana won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)?

- a) Warangal
- b) Adilabad
- c) Karimnagar
- d) Nizamabad

1453) Which district of Bihar won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana?

- a) Nalanda
- b) Kaimur
- c) Munger
- d) Nawada

1454) Which state won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Start-Up India scheme?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented awards for Excellence in Implementation of Priority Programmes and addressed Civil Servants on the occasion of the eleventh Civil Services Day in New Delhi on April 21, 2017.

The Prime Minister presented a total of 12 awards, which include 10 under the five Priority Programmes and 2 under Innovation category. These awards were given in three Groups, the first group consisting of eight North-Eastern States and the three Hill States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, second group comprising of the seven Union Territories and the remaining 18 States constituting the third group.

The winners are as follows:

- Under Innovation category, Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh was awarded for initiative “Cashless Village Palnar” and Dungarpur district of Rajasthan was given award for initiative “Solar Urja Lamps Project”.
- Under the Priority Programme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Siaha district of Mizoram was awarded in North East and Hill states category and Banaskantha district of Gujarat was awarded under the category of other states.
- Under the Priority Programme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the awards were given to Gomati district of Tripura in North East and Hill states category and Jalna district of Maharashtra under the category of other states.
- Under the Priority Programme e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Solan district of Himachal Pradesh was awarded in North East and Hill states category and Nizamabad district of Telangana was awarded under the category of other states.
- Under the Priority Programme Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, the awards were given to Sivasagar district of Assam in North East and Hill states category and Nalanda district of Bihar under the category of other states.
- For Start-Up India, the award was given to Gujarat state under other states category and for Stand-Up India, the award was given to North and Middle Andaman of Andaman & Nicobar islands under Union Territories category.

1455) The NSCI Safety Awards were presented by Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya in New Delhi on April 19, 2017. It is not given in which category?

- a) Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar
- b) Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar
- c) Suraksha Puraskar

d) Suraksha Patra

The NSCI Safety Awards were presented by Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya in New Delhi on April 19, 2017. The National Safety Council of India (NSCI) is a self-supporting non-profit autonomous society, set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 1966. In all, 70 organisations have been picked for the award across four categories – Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar and Prashansa Patra.

1456) Who among the following was announced as winner of Translation Prize in English 2016 by Sahitya Akademi in April 2017?

- a) Githa Hariharan
- b) Rajesh Gopinathan
- c) K. Satchidanandan
- d) Aniruddhan Vasudevan

Aniruddhan Vasudevan's "One Part Woman", a translation of Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel "Maadhorubaagan" has been chosen for the Translation Prize in English 2016, Sahitya Akademi announced in New Delhi on April 19, 2017.

1457) Which state gave its annual Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement veteran actress Saira Banu in April 2017?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Veteran actress Saira Banu and actor Jackie Shroff have been named for the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement and Raj Kapoor Special Contribution annual awards, respectively, by the Maharashtra government, Cultural Affairs Minister Vinod Tawde announced in Mumbai on April 19, 2017. Marathi film personalities Vikram Gokhale and Arun Nalawade have been named for the coveted V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement and V. Shantaram Special Contribution annual awards.

1458) Which state has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in small category (less than 1 million tonnes) states?

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

1459) Which state has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in medium category (1 to 10 million tonnes) states?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

1460) Which state has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in large category (production more than 10 million tonnes) states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Punjab
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has selected Tripura for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in small category states. Tripura gets this national award for the second time. The northeastern state first received the award in the 2009-10 fiscal. This was disclosed by Tripura Agriculture Minister Aghore Debbarma in Agartala on April 19, 2017. For total food grain production, Tamil Nadu gets the award in large category (production more than 10 million tonnes), Himachal Pradesh in medium category (1 to 10 million tonnes) and Tripura in small category (less than 1 million tonnes). Each award-winning state would receive a trophy, a citation and cash award of Rs five crore at a function in New Delhi.

1461) Which state has been chosen for the 2015-16 Krishi Karman award for becoming the best performing state in Wheat production in April 2017?

- a) Punjab
- b) Gujarat
- c) West Bengal
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh was conferred with prestigious Krishi Karman Award of the Indian Government fifth time in succession. This award has been conferred for the year 2015-16 in wheat production category. State will get trophy, citation letter and a cash reward of Rs 2 crore. This was disclosed by the state government on April 21, 2017.

1462) Which of the following awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, in April 2017?

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNDP
- c) UNFCCC
- d) UNESCO

The UNSECO has awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees. Nicolini was bestowed with the honour on April 19, 2017 for her effort that saved thousands who fled across the Mediterranean often on unseaworthy boats to find a better and peaceful life. Lampedusa is the first European landfall for people fleeing war and economic hardship in Africa and the Middle East. Since becoming Mayor in 2012, Nicolini has been an outspoken defender of refugee and migrant rights.

1463) Eduardo Mendoza has been presented with the Cervantes Prize in April 2017 for literature in which language?

- a) French
- b) Russian
- c) Spanish
- d) Italian

Spanish novelist Eduardo Mendoza has been presented with the Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honour, by King Felipe VI on April 20, 2017 in the central town of Alcala de Henares, the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote."

1464) Offer for sale (OFS) of which of the following yielded Rs. 1200 crore to the government in April 2017?

- a) SAIL
- b) NMDC
- c) STC
- d) NALCO

The Central Government has successfully divested 9.2% of paid-up capital in National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) to raise Rs. 1,200 crore. Originally, the disinvestment in NALCO OFS was pegged at 5% of paid-up capital, but seeing the overwhelming response from the market, the government decided to exercise the green shoe option to retain over-subscription and raised the offer to 9.2% on April 19, 2017. With this transaction, government's shareholding in NALCO has come down to 65.37%.

1465) The World Bank's latest edition of the Migration and Development Brief was released in April 2017. Which of the following was the largest recipient of remittances in 2016?

- a) China
- b) India
- c) USA
- d) Saudi Arabia

1466) The World Bank's latest edition of the Migration and Development Brief was released in April 2017. Remittances accounted for the highest share of GDP in which of the following in 2016?

- a) Kazakhstan

- b) Kyrgyzstan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Turkmenistan

India saw a significant drop in remittances in 2016 but managed to retain the top spot among remittances receiving nations, the World Bank said in the latest edition of its 'Migration and Development Brief' released in Washington on April 21, 2017. India received \$62.7 billion in 2016, a decrease of 8.9 per cent over \$68.9 billion in 2015. India was the largest remittance recipient followed closely by China (\$61 billion), the Philippines (\$29.9 billion), Mexico (28.5 billion) and Pakistan (19.8 billion), making up the top five. As a share of the gross domestic product (GDP), however, the top five recipients were Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Liberia, Haiti, and Tonga. Remittances accounted for 2.9 per cent of India's GDP in 2016.

1467) Which of the following retained its GDP growth projection for India at 7.2% for 2017-18 in its World Economic Outlook update released in April 2017?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) WTO
- d) OECD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on April 18, 2017 called for accelerated economic reforms for India to achieve a higher growth trajectory, while retaining its GDP growth projection of 7.2% for 2017-18. In its biannual World Economic Outlook (WEO), it increased India's growth estimate for 2016-17 to 6.8%, from 6.6% estimated in January. Global growth has been raised marginally to 3.5% in 2017 from the January estimate of 3.4%.

1468) Who among the following is the Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)?

- a) Ajit Tyagi
- b) K. J. Ramesh
- c) S. K. Srivastava
- d) R. R. Kelkar

Southwest monsoon is likely to be "near normal" this year with possibility of a "good distribution" of rainfall across the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General K J Ramesh said in New Delhi on April 18, 2017. The country will receive 96 per cent of Long Period Average with an error model of plus or minus 5 per cent. A 96 per cent rainfall means it is on the border line of normal and below normal precipitation. Anything between 96 and 104 per cent of the LPA is considered "normal". Rainfall under 96 per cent is categorised as "below normal". Rainfall of 104-110 per cent of the LPA is "above normal". Ramesh said there is 38 per cent probability of a "near normal monsoon" rainfall.

1469) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in March 2017?

- a) 2.7%
- b) 3.7%
- c) 4.7%
- d) 5.7%

Inflation based on the wholesale price index slipped to 5.70 per cent in March 2017, according to official data released on April 17, 2017. The WPI inflation, reflecting the annual rate of price rise, in February was 6.55 per cent.

1470) 9. What is the interest rate on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17 approved by the Finance Ministry recently?

- a) 8.45 per cent
- b) 8.55 per cent
- c) 8.65 per cent
- d) 8.75 per cent

Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya on April 20, 2017 said that the Finance Ministry has approved 8.65 per cent interest rate on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17.

1471) What was India's position in the 2017 A T Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index released in April 2017?

- a) Third
- b) Fourth
- c) Fifth
- d) Eighth

India has jumped one spot to rank 8th in the 2017 AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index with 31 per cent of the surveyed respondents being more optimistic on economic outlook over the next three years. Top 10 countries: 1. United States, 2. Germany, 3. China, 4: United Kingdom, 5. Canada, 6. Japan, 7. France, 8. India, 9. Australia, 10. Singapore (April 18, 2017)

1472) Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Prime Minister Narendra Modi featured in Time magazine's annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' released in April 2017. Sharma is the founder of which mobile payments firm?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

1473) TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world was released in April 2017. These 100 people were selected in the categories – icons, leaders, pioneers, titans and _____.

- a) Dons
- b) Artists
- c) Gurus
- d) Tycoons

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' this year released by the Time magazine in New York on April 20, 2017. The list features pioneers, artists, titans, leaders and icons from around the world.

1474) Who among the following topped Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world in April 2017?

- a) Joko Widodo
- b) Rodrigo Duterte
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Donald Trump

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world. The Time 100 Reader Poll was an online survey in which the publication had asked its readers to vote for who should be included in this year's Time 100 list of the world's most influential people. Duterte received 5 per cent of the total "yes" votes in the poll which closed on April 16, 2017.

1475) 14. Which magazine has selected gymnast Dipa Karmakar, wrestler Sakshi Malik and actress Alia Bhatt in its list of 'super achievers from Asia under the age of 30' in April 2017?

- a) Forbes
- b) Newsweek
- c) Time
- d) Fortune

Over 50 Indians, including gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik and actress Alia Bhatt, are among Forbes's list of super achievers from Asia under the age of 30 who are "pushing boundaries of innovation". The second Forbes '30 Under 30' Asia list 2017 features 300 impressive young entrepreneurs—30 in 10 categories, including entertainment, finance and venture capital, retail, social entrepreneurs and enterprise technology, under the age of 30 years who are pushing the boundaries of innovation.

1476) The Supreme Court on April 17, 2017 ordered the auction of Aamby Valley in Pune over its owner's alleged failure to deposit money for refunding to its investors. Who among the following is its promoter?

- a) Vijay Mallya
- b) Subrata Roy
- c) Nitin Kasliwal
- d) Naveen Jindal

The Supreme Court on April 17, 2017 ordered the auction of Sahara's Aamby Valley in Pune over the business conglomerate's alleged failure to deposit money for refunding to its investors. The court ordered the selling of 34,000 crore rupees worth of Sahara properties and directed its chief Subrata Roy to appear before it on April 28.

1477) Which state has topped the 'Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States' published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) in April 2017?

- a) Delhi
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

Delhi has emerged as the top state in terms of internet readiness with a strong position in areas like e-infrastructure, e-participation, IT environment, government e-services. This was disclosed by industry body IAMAI on April 19, 2017. The report titled 'Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States' published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Nielsen, noted that Delhi takes the first slot among all states and is followed by Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Supreme Court allows NDMC to e-auction Taj Mansingh

1478) The Air India has revised the minimum age limit for senior citizens to avail discounted tickets to _____ recently.

- a) 62 years
- b) 61 years
- c) 60 years
- d) 59 years

The Air India has revised the minimum age limit for senior citizens to avail discounted tickets from existing 63 to 60 years. The revised age limit has been implemented with immediate effect for all domestic sectors. The claimants would be required to produce a valid photo-identity card with the date of birth, like Aadhaar, Voters ID, Driving Licence, Passport or Senior Citizens ID card issued by Air India at the time of bookings. (April 20, 2017)

1479) Which of the following hosted the Global Exhibition on Services (GES) organised by Department of Commerce in association with CII in April 2017?

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida
- c) Gurugram
- d) Faridabad

The four-day long Global Exhibition on Services (GES) was concluded on April 20, 2017 in Greater Noida. The event began on April 17. The GES was organised by the Department of Commerce in association with CII. The GES has emerged as a platform for showcasing services sectors in the world. 573 domestic and foreign exhibitors participated besides 24 states.

1480) Which industry chamber elected Vasvi Bharat Ram as new President of the women's wing in April 2017?

- a) FICCI
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII
- d) PHDCCI

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) on April 19, 2017 elected Vasvi Bharat Ram as new President of the women's wing of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI).

1481) . Ramanathan Ramanan was on April 21, 2017 appointed as the Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission under the NITI Aayog. He will join on secondment basis for which of the following for a period of two years?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) HCL
- d) TCS

Ramanathan Ramanan of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was on April 21, 2017 appointed as the Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission under the NITI Aayog. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment in the rank of Additional Secretary to Government of India, on secondment basis from the TCS, initially for a period of two years, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

1482) India's first train with glass roof was inaugurated on a route in which of the following states in April 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on April 17, 2017 inaugurated the new Vistadome coach which has glass roof, LED lights, GPS-based info system and rotating seats among other features. He flagged off the train with Vistadome coaches between Visakhapatnam and Araku through video conferencing from Rail Sadan at Bhubaneswar. He also inaugurated the Life Line Express-Sindhudurg of Konkan Railway.

1483) Which state decided to change nomenclature of the 'Viklang Kalyan Vibhag' (Handicap Welfare Department) to 'Divyang Jan Shasaktikaran Vibhag' ('Divyang' Empowerment Department) in April 2017?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet headed by CM Yogi Adityanath on April 18, 2017 decided to change nomenclature of the 'Viklang Kalyan Vibhag' (Handicap Welfare Department) to 'Divyang Jan Shasaktikaran Vibhag' ('Divyang' Empowerment Department).

1484) Phase-1 (Link 2) of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation Yojana (SAUNI) project was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister in which of the following districts of Gujarat in April 2017?

- a) Rajkot
- b) Botad
- c) Junagadh
- d) Bhavnagar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 17, 2017 dedicated to the nation, Phase-1 (Link 2) of the SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) Yojana, at Botad in Gujarat. He also laid the Foundation Stone of Phase 2 (Link 2) of the SAUNI Yojana. Earlier, he welcomed Narmada water into the Krishna Sagar Lake by pressing a button.

1485) Which state government has decided to gift a smartphone to newly married women under its Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana in April 2017?

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

The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to gift a smartphone to newly married women under its flagship scheme - Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana. The move is aimed at encouraging women to undertake cashless transactions using smartphones. The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal on April 18, 2017. Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana was launched in April, 2006 with an objective to provide financial help to poor, needy or destitute families for marrying off their daughters.

1486) April 15, 2017 was observed as the 70th Foundation Day of:

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Himachal Pradesh

Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadr Singh launched 'unemployment allowance scheme' on state's 70th foundation Day on April 15, 2017.

- 1487)** President of India awarded standards to Armoured Corps Centre and School based in _____ Maharashtra.
- Satara
 - Hingoli
 - Nanded
 - Ahmednagar

President of India awarded standards to Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar.

- 1488)** Who among the following is the President of Nepal, in news for visiting India in April 2017?
- Bidhya Devi Bhandari
 - Sushila Karki
 - Bijay Kumar Gachhedar
 - Sher Bahadur Deuba

Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari arrived on an official visit to India on April 17, 2017.

- 1489)** The Indian Air Force had launched 'Bambi Bucket' operation to douse forest fires in which state in April 2017?
- Jharkhand
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Rajasthan
 - Uttar Pradesh

Five days after intense fire-fighting measures taken by the Army, the Air Force and the district administration, fire on the hills of Mount Abu the Aravali hills was doused. Major tourist attractions were opened on April 18, 2017 and the restriction on boating in the Nakki Lake was lifted. The Indian Air Force had launched 'Bambi Bucket' operation to douse the wildfire. MI-17 V5 helicopters poured water at various locations to douse the blaze in Mount Abu.

- 1490)** Which of the following has decided to set up quiz clubs in government schools to make learning more activity-oriented and interesting for children?
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Goa
 - Haryana

The Haryana government has decided to set up quiz clubs in schools run by it to make learning more activity-oriented and interesting for children. "The aim of setting up quiz clubs in government schools is to encourage students to learn new things, generate interest among them regarding their syllabus and attract them towards learning through innovative activities," state education minister Ram Bilas Sharma said in Chandigarh on April 19, 2017.

- 1491)** Which state's Jalyukta Shivar project to tackle drought situation in the country was mentioned by the PM in his address at the BJP national conclave in Bhubaneswar?
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Goa
 - Haryana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 16, 2017 mentioned the Maharashtra government's flagship project Jalyukta Shivar to tackle drought situation in the country. Speaking at the BJP national conclave in Bhubaneswar, he asked other states to replicate the Maharashtra model to overcome water crisis and help farmers. The Jalyukta Shivar project was launched in Maharashtra on Jan 26, 2015. The state government plans to make all 25,000 drought-prone villages water reliant by 2019.

- 1492)** The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name Agra airport after who among the following in April 2017?

- a) B. R. Ambedkar
- b) Jaiprakash Narayan
- c) Deendayal Upadhyaya
- d) Vallabhbai Patel

The Agra airport would now be named after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya while the upcoming civil terminal at Gorakhpur Air Force station would be named after Mahayogi Gorakhnath who is known as the founder of the Nath monastic movement. These decisions were taken in a meeting of the Uttar Pradesh state cabinet headed by chief minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on April 18, 2017.

1493) Who among the following won the bypoll to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir in April 2017?

- a) Bikram Singh
- b) Farooq Abdullah
- c) Nazir Ahmad Khan
- d) Farooq Ahmad Dar

National Conference President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on April 15, 2017 won the bypoll to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, beating his PDP rival Nazir Ahmad Khan by 10,557 votes. Farooq polled 47,926 votes while Khan polled 37,369 votes. NOTA (none of the above) were 714. A total of 89,865 votes were cast for the by-poll.

1494) . Which of the following is the ruling party in Sikkim?

- a) Congress
- b) Sikkim Democratic Front
- c) Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
- d) Sikkim Sangram Parishad

CM Pawan Chamling's ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) candidate Dilli Ram Thapa on April 15, 2017 won the Upper Burtuk assembly by-poll. The bypoll was held following the disqualification of sitting MLA Prem Singh Tamang, accused of misappropriation of funds during his tenure as the state Animal Husbandry department Minister in 1996-97. Tamang, a former SDF leader, is founder of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, the largest opposition party in the 32-member state assembly.

1495) P. K. Kunhalikutty won the bypoll for Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency held in April 2017. He was candidate of which party?

- a) Congress
- b) Communist Party of India
- c) Indian Union Muslim League
- d) BJP

The Indian Union Muslim League on April 17, 2017 retained the Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency with its candidate P K Kunhalikutty winning by over 1.7 lakh votes in the bypoll. The bypoll was necessitated following the demise of E Ahamed, a former Union Minister and leader of IUML, a key partner in the Congress-led UDF Opposition in the state.

1496) Which of the following has decided to provide pension to former circus artistes in the state in April 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Goa
- d) Kerala

The Kerala Government on April 17, 2017 said it has decided to provide pension to former circus artistes in the state and allocated 1.13 crore rupees for the same. The decision was taken after a group of circus artistes met Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during his recent visit to Kannur district and apprised him of their plight. Thalassery in Kannur district is considered to be the cradle of Indian circus.

1497) . India's first film on demonetisation named "Shunyota" (Emptiness) was released on April 21, 2017. It is in which language?

- a) Marathi
- b) Bengali
- c) Bhojpuri
- d) Konkani

Bengali film named "Shunyota" (Emptiness) is based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's demonetisation drive attempts to portray the impact of currency ban on the common man. The movie directed by Suwendu Ghosh was released on April 21, 2017. The film with U/A certification has been released across 26 theatres in West Bengal.

1498) The 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia will feature 39 sports the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. Which of the following is not among the new inclusions?

- a) Bridge
- b) Pencak silat
- c) Jujitsu
- d) Billiards

1499) The 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia will feature 39 sports the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. Which of the following is not among the new inclusions?

- a) Paragliding
- b) Snooker
- c) Jet Ski
- d) Sport Climbing

1500) The 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia will feature 39 sports the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. Which of the following has been removed from the list of previous games?

- a) Squash
- b) Cricket
- c) Baseball
- d) Volleyball

The 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia will feature 39 sports, more than at the last event in South Korea (36), the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. The new additions at the 2018 games are Bridge, Pencak Silat (Indonesian martial art), Jujitsu, Paragliding, Jet Ski and Sport Climbing.

Cricket, which was at the last two Asian Games, is being dropped after the OCA complained that major sides had failed to send full-strength squads.

The 2018 Asian Games will take place from August 18 to September 2, with most events in Jakarta and Palembang. The country last hosted the Asian Games in 1962.

1501) Sports are: **1:** Aquatics (Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming, Water Polo) **2:** Archery **3:** Athletics **4:** Badminton **5:** Baseball/Softball **6:** Basketball **7:** Bowling **8:** Boxing **9:** Bridge **10:** Canoe/Kayak **11:** Cycling (Track, Road Race, Mountain Bike, BMX) **12:** Equestrian **13:** Fencing **14:** Football **15:** Golf **16:** Gymnastics (Artistic, Rhythmic, Trampoline) **17:** Handball **18:** Hockey **19:** Jet Ski **20:** Judo **21:** Kabaddi **22:** Karate **23:** Martial Arts (Jujitsu, Pencak Silat, Wushu), **24:** Modern Pentathlon **25:** Paragliding **26:** Rowing **27:** Rugby Sevens **28:** Sailing **29:** Sepak Takraw **30:** Shooting **31:** Sport Climbing **32:** Squash **33:** Table Tennis **34:** Taekwondo **35:** Tennis (Tennis, Soft Tennis) **36:** Triathlon **37:** Volleyball (Indoor Volleyball, Beach Volleyball) **38:** Weightlifting **39:** Wrestling

The OCA has also decided to include video gaming as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games, with competitors in electronic sports set to receive medals for their digital prowess.

1502) Which of the following events was held on April 17, 2017? Both Men's and Women's races were won by Kenyan athletes.

- a) Paris Marathon
- b) Berlin Marathon
- c) Boston Marathon
- d) London Marathon

Kenya's Geoffrey Kirui and Edna Kiplagat were the winners in the men's and women's categories of the 121st Boston Marathon in Boston on April 17, 2017.

1503) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Asian Table Tennis Championships organised in China in April 2017?

- a) Zhou Yu
- b) Lin Gaoyuan
- c) Fan Zhendong
- d) Jeong Sangeun

1504) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Asian Table Tennis Championships organised in China in April 2017?

- a) Miu Hirano
- b) Zhu Yuling
- c) Chen Meng
- d) Mouma Das

1505) . The 2017 Asian Table Tennis Championships concluded in Wuxi (China) on April 16, 2017. How many of the five titles – Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles & Mixed Doubles – were won by China?

- a) One
- b) Two
- c) Three
- d) Four

The 2017 Asian Table Tennis Championships concluded in Wuxi (China) on April 16, 2017. Winners: Fan Zhendong (China): **Men's Singles**, Miu Hirano (Japan): **Women's Singles**, Zhu Yuling/Chen Meng (China): **Women's Doubles**, Fan Zhendong/Lin Gaoyuan (China): **Men's Doubles**, Zhou Yu/Chen Xingtong (China): **Mixed Doubles**

1506) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Singapore Open Super Series Badminton tournament in April 2017?

- a) HS Prannoy
- b) Sourabh Varma
- c) B. Sai Praneeth
- d) Kidambi Srikanth

1507) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Singapore Open Super Series Badminton tournament in April 2017?

- a) P. V. Sindhu
- b) Saina Nehwal
- c) Arundhati Pantawane
- d) None of the above

The Singapore Open Super Series Badminton tournament concluded in Singapore on April 16, 2017. Winners: B. Sai Praneeth (India): **Men's Singles**, Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan): **Women's Singles**, Lu Kai/Huang Yaqiong (China): **Mixed Doubles**, Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl (Denmark): **Women's Doubles**, Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (Denmark): **Men's Doubles**.

1508) Who among the following won the Korchnoi Zurich Chess Challenge in April 2017?

- a) Vassily Ivanchuk
- b) Wesley So
- c) Levon Aronian
- d) Hikaru Nakamura

Former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand of India finished third overall, with a score of 13.5 points from a possible 21 in the Korchnoi Zurich Chess Challenge, which concluded on April 17, 2017. American Hikaru Nakamura, with 15 points, emerged the overall winner.

1509) . Who among the following won the Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix in April 2017?

- a) Valtteri Bottas
- b) Lewis Hamilton
- c) Esteban Ocon
- d) Sebastian Vettel

Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany won the Formula One 2017 Bahrain Grand Prix at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain on April 16, 2017 while Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton of United Kingdom and Valtteri Bottas of Finland finished second and third respectively

1510) Which of the following is not among the ten new places selected in second phase of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative by the government in April 2017?

- a) Gangotri
- b) Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram
- c) Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa
- d) Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam

1511) Which of the following is not among the ten new places selected in second phase of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative by the government in April 2017?

- a) Yamunotri
- b) Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain
- c) Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, Srisaillam
- d) Char Minar, Hyderabad

1512) Which of the following is not among the ten new places selected in second phase of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative by the government in April 2017?

- a) Baijnath Dham, Devghar
- b) Gaya Tirth in Bihar
- c) Somnath temple in Gujarat
- d) None of the above

The second quarterly review meeting on the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP), an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, was held at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir on April 25, 2017. Ten Swachh Iconic Places are already implementing action plans in phase 1.

On this occasion, Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation, Narendra Singh Tomar announced ten new Iconic places to be taken under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative. These ten new iconic places which are to be brought to a higher standard of swachhta and visitors' amenities are : 1. Gangotri, 2. Yamunotri. 3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, 4. Char Minar, Hyderabad, 5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa, 6. Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, 7. Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, 8. Baijnath Dham, Devghar, 9. Gaya Tirth in Bihar and 10. Somnath temple in Gujarat.

The ten Iconic places already in Phase I are: 1. Ajmer Sharif Dargah 2. CST Mumbai 3. Golden Temple, Amritsar 4. Kamakhya Temple, Assam 5. Maikarnika Ghat, Varanasi 6. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai 7. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, J&K 8. Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri 9. The Taj Mahal, Agra 10. Tirupati Temple, Tirumala.

1513) The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. Who among the following Ministers is not from Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry?

- a) Arjun Ram Meghwal
- b) Radha Mohan Singh
- c) Parshottam Rupala
- d) Sudarshan Bhagat

1514) The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. Which of the following is not covered in Kharif?

- a) Soyabean
- b) Wheat
- c) Paddy
- d) Cotton

1515) The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. Which of the following is covered in Kharif?

- a) Barley
- b) Gram
- c) Linseed
- d) Sunflower

The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. The Conference was inaugurated by Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and also addressed by Parshottam Rupala and Sudarshan Bhagat, Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

The agricultural crop year in India is from July to June. The Indian cropping season is classified into two main seasons-(i) Kharif and (ii) Rabi based on the monsoon. The kharif cropping season is from July –October during the south-west monsoon and the Rabi cropping season is from October-March (winter). The crops grown between March and June are summer crops. The terms 'kharif' and 'rabi' originate from Arabic language where Kharif means autumn and Rabi means spring.

The **kharif crops** include Paddy (rice), Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Tur (Arhar), Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Soyabean, Sunflower Seed, Nigarseed, Sesamum and Cotton. The **rabi crops** include wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard, safflower

1516) Which of the following has been proposed by NITI Aayog in its draft three-year action plan discussed with Chief Ministers in April 2017?

- a) Law Performance Index
- b) Judge Performance Index
- c) Justice Performance Index
- d) Judicial Performance Index

The NITI Aayog has proposed the introduction of a judicial performance index to reduce delays and the outsourcing of non-core functions of the police to private agencies or other government departments, in a bid to fix justice system that is in 'dire need of reform.' The creation of a judicial performance index that could help High Courts and their chief justices keep track of the performance and processes at district courts and subordinate levels for reducing delay, should be 'the first step' in judicial system reforms, the Aayog has said in its draft three-year action plan discussed with Chief Ministers on April 23, 2017.

1517) Which of the following organised a photo exhibition "The Paths We Walk" in New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- c) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

1518) April is observed as World ____ Awareness Month.

- a) Autism
- b) Alzheimer
- c) Anaemia
- d) Stroke

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurated a Documentary Photo exhibition "The Paths We Walk" in New Delhi on April 24, 2017. The exhibition has been organized by The National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with Society for Child Development, New Delhi. The month of April is celebrated across the world as the World Autism Awareness Month.

1519) The international conference on “_____ : Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India” was organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) on April 27-28, 2017.

- a) Jahangir
- b) Sher Shah Suri
- c) Akbar
- d) Dara Shikoh

1520) Who among the following is President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)?

- a) Shakti Sinha
- b) Lokesh Chandra
- c) Mahesh Rangarajan
- d) Viswanathan Mohan

The international conference on “Dara Shikoh: Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India” was organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) on April 27-28, 2017. The event was inaugurated by Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar. In 1655 Shah Jahan declared Dara Shikoh the Crown Prince of the Mughal Empire. He was, however, assassinated by his younger brother Muhiuddin (later, Emperor Aurangzeb) in a bitter struggle for the throne. “The study of India begins with the translation of the Upanishads and Dara Shikoh had them translated into Persian,” ICCR President Lokesh Chandra said.

1521) Teen Murti Chowk and the Teen Murti Marg in New Delhi will now be known after which Israeli city with the NDMC approving their renaming in April 2017?

- a) Haifa
- b) Holon
- c) Netanya
- d) Jerusalem

The Teen Murti Chowk and the Teen Murti Marg in New Delhi will now be known after the Israeli city Haifa with the NDMC approving their renaming. The Teen Murti Chowk will now be known as ‘Teen Murti Haifa Chowk’ and the Teen Murti Marg will be known as ‘Teen Murti Haifa Marg’. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on April 27, 2017 took a decision in this regard. The Israeli city of Haifa, which these places are being named after, was liberated from the Ottoman occupation by Indian soldiers during the First World War. Large number of Indian soldiers of the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade died during the battle and nearly 900 are buried in Israel.

1522) CAPART recently recommended the cancellation of registration of 159 FIRs against various NGOs for swindling government funds. CAPART is Council for Advancement of People’s Action and _____ Technology.

- a) Read
- b) Rural
- c) Recent
- d) Regional

The Supreme Court on April 26, 2017 suggested that the government ought to frame a statutory law to regulate the flow of public money to the NGOs even as the Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) recommended the cancellation of registration of 159 FIRs against various NGOs for swindling government funds. CAPART was founded in 1986, as a nodal agency for catalysing and coordinating the emerging partnership between voluntary organisations and the Government for sustainable development of rural areas. CAPART is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, and is functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development.

1523) Who among the following is the Director of “Lipstick Under My Burkha”? FCAT directed CBFC to grant an ‘A’ certificate to the film in April 2017.

- a) Gurinder Chadha
- b) Meghna Gulzar
- c) Alankrita Srivastava
- d) Zoya Akhtar

In April 2017, the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) directed the Central Board of Film Certification's (CBFC) to grant an 'A' certificate to the film "Lipstick Under My Burkha", which was earlier refused certification by the Board. Following the CBFC's decision, the film's director Alankrita Srivastava and producer Prakash Jha had filed an appeal in the FCAT.

1524) Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, J P Nadda 'Test and Treat Policy for _____', in New Delhi on April 28, 2017.

- a) Hypertension
- b) Diabetes
- c) Leprosy
- d) HIV

"As soon as a person is tested and found to be positive, he will be provided with ART (anti-retroviral therapy) irrespective of his CD count or clinical stage." This was stated by the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, J P Nadda at the launch of the 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV', in New Delhi on April 28, 2017. "This will be for all men, women, adolescents and children who have been diagnosed as a HIV + case. This will improve longevity, improve quality of life of those infected and will save them from many opportunistic infections, especially TB," Nadda further added.

1525) Which of the following has been selected as the location of National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in animation, visual effects, gaming and comics by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in April 2017?

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

The National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in animation, visual effects, gaming and comics will come up in Mumbai in 2018-19, which will be the biggest in Asia, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Director General KG Suresh said in Nagpur on April 23, 2017. "Maharashtra government has already given the 20-acre land for the purpose. NCOE will be the joint venture between the IIMC and FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)," Suresh said. A fund of Rs 167.5 crore has been allotted for the project and the NBCC, a PSU, will construct the project building.

1526) Who among the following is the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj?

- a) Narendra Singh Tomar
- b) Chaudhary Birender Singh
- c) Uma Bharati
- d) Ram Vilas Paswan

1527) The institution of Panchayati Raj came into being with the enactment of the Constitution _____ Amendment Act, 1992.

- a) 73rd
- b) 74th
- c) 75th
- d) 76th

1528) The **Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar** given on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24 is named after who among the following?

- a) Nanaji Deshmukh
- b) Deendayal Upadhyay
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

1529) The **Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar** given on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24 is named after who among the following?

- a) Nanaji Deshmukh
- b) Deendayal Upadhyay
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

April 24, 2017 was celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Diwas. The day marks the passing of the Constitution Act (73rd Amendment), 1992, that came into existence with effect from April 24, 1993. The enactment of the 73rd amendment is applauded as a defining moment in history as it permits states to take steps to organize village panchayats and provide them with necessary powers and authority necessary to help them to function as units of self-government.

National awards viz., Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar and Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar are conferred upon Panchayati Raj Institutions and e-Panchayat Puraskars to State Governments.

A quarterly Newsmagazine "Gramoday Sankalp" published and distributed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on behalf of three Ministries viz., Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development & Drinking Water and Sanitation is also released on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.

Narendra Singh Tomar is the Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation.

1530) The India Post released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on which of the following as a Fragrance Stamp on April 23, 2017?

- a) Tea
- b) Rose
- c) Saffron
- d) Coffee

The India Post on April 23, 2017 released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Coffee as a Fragrance Stamp in Bengaluru. The stamp is priced at Rs. 100. India had introduced aromatic sandalwood stamp, priced at Rs 15, in 2006. Rose-scented stamps were also released in four varieties of flowers in 2007. The varieties were Jawahar, Neelam, Delhi Princess and Bhim, each priced at Rs five. A Jasmine-scented stamp was released in 2008.

1531) CIPAM and INTA launched an IPR Awareness campaign for schools across the country on April 25, 2017. CIPAM is Cell for IPR _____ and Management.

- a) Publicity
- b) Planning
- c) Protection
- d) Promotion

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) in collaboration with the International Trademark Association (INTA) launched the IPR Awareness campaign for schools across the country in New Delhi on April 25, 2017.

1532) Who among the following was appointed as the new Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in April 2017?

- a) Rajinder Khanna
- b) Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar
- c) Dineshwar Sharma
- d) Rajan Gupta

1533) Which of the following is the motto of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

- a) Duty Unto Death
- b) Serve with Honour
- c) Service and Loyalty
- d) Protection and Security

1534) Who among the following was appointed as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in April 2017?

- a) Arun Chaudhary
- b) P. N. Mishra
- c) R. K. Pachnanda
- d) Dilip Trivedi

1535) . Which of the following is the motto of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

- a) Duty Unto Death
- b) Serve with Honour
- c) Service and Loyalty
- d) Valour - Steadfastness and Commitment

The Government has appointed Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar as the new Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and R. K. Pachnanda as the new Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in April 2017. Mottos: Duty Unto Death: BSF, Service and Loyalty: CRPF, Valour - Steadfastness and Commitment: Indo Tibetan Border Police, Protection and Security: CISF.

1536) 27. Lok Sabha MP Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. Which of the following awards were won by him?

- a) Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award
- b) National Film Award for Best Actor
- c) Padma Shri
- d) Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

1537) Lok Sabha MP Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. He won from which constituency in 2014?

- a) Gurdaspur
- b) Jalandhar
- c) Ludhiana
- d) Amritsar

1538) Lok Sabha MP Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. He had served as Union Minister for Culture and Tourism in the Cabinet of who among the following?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- d) Manmohan Singh

Actor and BJP leader Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. He made his debut as a villain in "Mann Ka Meet" in 1968. He won from Gurdaspur constituency in Punjab in Lok Sabha elections as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2014. He lost once in 2009. PM Atal Behari Vajpayee made him Union Minister for Culture and Tourism in July 2002. Six months later, he was moved to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as Minister of State. He won three Filmfare awards in his career. In 1975, he won Filmfare Best Supporting Actor Award for Haath Ki Safai and in 1979 he again won the Filmfare Best Supporting Actor for Muqaddar Ka Sikander. He received Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

1539) Begum Yaman K. Khan passed away at 52 in Ludhiana on April 28, 2017. She was well-known as a:

- a) Singer
- b) Dancer
- c) Painter
- d) Sculptor

Famous Sufi singer and daughter of legendary Sitar Maestro (late) Ustad Vilayat Ali Khan, Begum Yaman K. Khan passed away at 52 in Ludhiana on April 28, 2017.

1540) The 'Priority Watch List' of the US government comprises countries that are seen as not taking sufficient action against:

- a) Money laundering and tax evasion
- b) Violation of intellectual property rights
- c) Religious extremism and human rights violations
- d) Illegal immigration and poorly enforced labour laws

The US on April 28, 2017 retained India on its priority watch list this year for “lack of improvement” in the intellectual property (IP) framework. “India remains on the priority watch list this year for lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its IP framework on long-standing challenges and new issues that have negatively affected US right holders over the past year, particularly with respect to patents, copyrights, trade secrets, and enforcement,” the US Trade Representative (USTR) said in a report. The ‘Special 301’ report is an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement.

1541) What was India’s rank on the World Press Freedom Index unveiled by ‘Reporters Without Borders’ in April 2017?

- a) 106th
- b) 126th
- c) 136th
- d) 146th

1542) What were the three top ranked countries in the World Press Freedom Index unveiled by ‘Reporters Without Borders’ in April 2017?

- a) Taiwan, Malaysia, Qatar
- b) Finland, Sweden, Norway
- c) France, Portugal, Singapore
- d) Denmark, Netherlands, Iceland

In its annual World Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders has ranked India 136th out of 180 countries. Norway is ranked first, followed by Sweden and Finland. “The rate at which democracies are approaching the tipping point is alarming for all those who understand that if media freedom is not secure, then none of the other freedoms can be guaranteed,” the watchdog’s Secretary General, Christophe Deloire, said in Paris on April 26, 2017.

1543) The first ‘India ____ Energy Forum’ was organised in ____ on April 20, 2017.

- a) Indonesia, New Delhi
- b) Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
- c) Malaysia, New Delhi
- d) Indonesia, Jakarta
- e) None of the above

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal and Ignasius Jonan, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia participated in the first ‘India Indonesia Energy Forum’, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 20, 2017.

1544) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka? He visited India in April 2017.

- a) Wijeyananda Dahanayake
- b) Ratnasiri Wickremanayake
- c) Dingiri Banda Wijetunga
- d) Ranil Wickremesinghe

India and Sri Lanka on April 26, 2017 signed MoU on economic co-operation following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi. The MoU proposes Indian investment in development of port and oil tank farms in Trincomalee, setting up of a LNG power plant and terminal, piped gas supply in capital Colombo, highway and railway projects in north and east of the country etc.

1545) Which of the following organised the two-day event ‘Making Global Goals Local Business – India’ in New Delhi on April 26-27, 2017?

- a) UN
- b) EU
- c) WEF
- d) WTO

The United Nations Global Compact was organised in New Delhi on April 26-27, 2017. The two-day event saw participation from over 300 leaders from business, finance, civil society, government and the UN for its regional flagship

event Making Global Goals Local Business - India. The United Nations Global Compact is a United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation.

1546) Who among the following is the President of Armenia, a country visited by Vice President Hamid Ansari in April 2017?

- a) Serzh Sargsyan
- b) Karen Karapetyan
- c) Robert Kocharyan
- d) Hovik Abrahamyan

1547) Consider the following regarding Armenia.

I. Parliament: National Assembly

II. Capital: Yerevan

III. Currency: Lari

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

India will help Armenia to build satellite and remote sensing data matters and train Armenian scientists as both the countries signed three agreements in capital Yerevan on April 25, 2017 to boost bilateral cooperation. The agreements were signed after Vice President Hamid Ansari held talks with the top leadership of Armenia including President Serzh Sargsyan, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan and Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian. National Assembly is the Parliament of Armenia. **Countries and Currencies:** Ukraine: Hryvnia, Georgia: Lari, Armenia: Dram, Moldova: Leu, Azerbaijan: Manat

1548) What is the joint Naval Exercise between India and France organised in Mediterranean Sea in April 2016 named?

- a) Samudra
- b) Indra
- c) Seaspark
- d) Varuna

The Indian Navy on April 24, 2017 began a joint maritime exercise with the French Navy at the Mediterranean Sea to further deepen combat coordination between the two navies. The 'Varuna' exercise will continue till April 30.

1549) Cyprus is an island nation in the:

- a) Red Sea
- b) Dead Sea
- c) Mediterranean Sea
- d) Black Sea

1550) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Cyprus? He visited India in April 2017.

- a) Harris Georgiades
- b) Yiannakis Matsis
- c) Averof Neofytou
- d) Nicos Anastasiades

1551) Which of the following regarding Cyprus is not correct?

- a) Currency is Euro
- b) Nicosia is the capital
- c) Member of European Union
- d) None of the above

India and Cyprus on April 28, 2017 signed four pacts, including one for air services and another for cooperation in merchant shipping in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades after holding delegation-level talks at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi. Cyprus, an island nation in Mediterranean Sea, is member of EU and its currency is Euro. Nicosia is the capital and House of Representatives is the Parliament.

1552) Which of the following hosted the Meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' on April 21, 2017?

- a) Houston
- b) Washington
- c) Chicago
- d) New York

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley attended the Meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' in Washington on April 21, 2017.

1553) Which of the following announced in April 2017 that it will pull out of the Organization of American States (OAS)?

- a) Cuba
- b) Nicaragua
- c) Venezuela
- d) Honduras

1554) Who among the following is the Secretary General of the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS)?

- a) Pedro Vaz
- b) Luis Almagro
- c) Nestor Mendez
- d) Delcy Rodriguez

Venezuela's Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez said in Caracas on April 26, 2017 the government would launch a two-year process to pull out of the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS). 35 countries are members of OAS. The OAS and other international authorities have voiced concern about the state of democracy in Venezuela, where President Nicolas Maduro is resisting opposition pressure to remove him from office. OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro has previously branded Maduro, an elected socialist, a "dictator" for stifling the opposition.

1555) Which of the following was not among the top 5 countries in 2016 defence expenditure as per the latest report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in April 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Saudi Arabia

India's military expenditure grew around 8.5 per cent in 2016, making it the world's fifth largest spender at \$55.9 billion, figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) revealed on April 24, 2017. As per the figures, the US remains the world's largest military spender registering a growth of 1.7 per cent between 2015 and 2016 to \$611 billion. China is second on the list spending \$215 billion, an increase of 5.4 per cent. Russia increased its spending by 5.9 per cent to \$69.2 billion, making it the third largest spender. Saudi Arabia, the third largest spender in 2015, dropped to the fourth position in 2016 with its spending dropping by 30 per cent in 2016 to \$63.7 billion.

1556) Which of the following claims the independent Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) as its own territory?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco
- d) Tunisia

Cuba and Morocco has signed an agreement to reestablish diplomatic ties after a gap of 37 years, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said in a statement in Havana on April 22, 2017. Morocco cut ties with Havana in 1980 after Cuba recognised Western Sahara as the independent Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Morocco claims the territory as its own.

1557) Who among the following is the President of Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- a) Xu Xiang
- b) Jin Liqun
- c) Tang Yuhan
- d) Zhu Yanfeng

The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on April 23, 2017 signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing between the two institutions. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and Beijing-based AIIB President Jin Liqun in Washington.

1558) Which of the following is the joint Egypt-US naval exercise in Red Sea in April 2017?

- a) Hawk Salute 2017
- b) Kite Salute 2017
- c) Falcon Salute 2017
- d) Eagle Salute 2017

Navies of Egypt and the United States launched "Eagle Salute 2017" joint exercise in the waters of the Red Sea on April 23, 2017.

1559) . China launched its second aircraft carrier on April 26, 2017 which has not been named. Which of the following its first aircraft carrier launched in 2014?

- a) Jilin
- b) Fujian
- c) Liaoning
- d) Guizhou

China launched its first domestically-built aircraft carrier on April 26, 2017. The 50,000-tonne aircraft carrier is yet to be named. The new carrier is touted to be a significant upgrade from the 'Liaoning', which was built more than 25 years ago and is a refurbished Soviet ship bought from Ukraine.

1560) Which of the following has decided to provide upto \$ 1 billion for constructing 560 mosques in Bangladesh?

- a) UAE
- b) Qatar
- c) Oman
- d) Saudi Arabia

Bangladesh has approved a project to build hundreds of mosques with almost \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia. The government plans to construct 560 mosques — one in every town in Bangladesh. Saudi Arabia will provide the lion's share of the \$1.07 billion cost, said Planning Minister Mustofa Kamal on April 26, 2017.

1561) Which of the following is the intercontinental ballistic missile test-fired by the US in April 2017?

- a) Pointman III
- b) Targetman III
- c) Minuteman III
- d) Journeyman III

The US Air Force test-fired the long-range Minuteman III missile on April 26, 2017. Deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, the missile travelled roughly 4,200 miles to a test range near the Marshall Islands. The test launched a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile from the Airborne Launch Control System on a Navy E-6 Mercury jet.

1562) World Book and Copyright Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 23
- b) April 24

- c) April 25
- d) April 26

1563) Which of the following was named World Book Capital 2017 by UNESCO?

- a) Malabo
- b) Libreville
- c) Accra
- d) Conakry

World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) was observed on April 23, 2017. It is a yearly event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The focus, this year is on the visually impaired to have easy access to printed materials. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said for 2017, Conakry in Guinea has been designated World Book Capital 2017.

1564) What was the theme of the World Intellectual Property Day observed on April 26, 2017?

- a) Designing the Future
- b) Innovation: Improving lives
- c) Creativity: The Next Generation
- d) Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined

1565) The World Intellectual Property Day is observed on April 26 to marks the date on which WIPO Convention came into force in 1970. Who among the following is the Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)?

- a) Francis Gurry
- b) Taleb Rifai
- c) Claude Smadja
- d) Achim Steiner

April 26, 2017 was observed as the World Intellectual Property Day with 'Innovation – Improving lives' as its theme. The aim is to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity. WIPO's member states designated April 26 – the day on which the WIPO Convention came into force in 1970 – as World IP Day with the aim of increasing general understanding of IP. Francis Gurry is the Director General of World Intellectual Property organization (WIPO).

1566) What was the theme of World Malaria Day observed on April 25, 2017?

- a) End malaria for good
- b) A push for prevention
- c) Achieving Progress and Impact
- d) Malaria: a disease without borders

1567) World Malaria Day was observed on April 25, 2017. Who among the following received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902 for his work on malaria?

- a) Edward Jenner
- b) Louis Pasteur
- c) Thomas Wood
- d) Robert Ross

World Malaria Day was observed on April 25, 2017. The day is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control. Theme for World Malaria Day 2017: "A push for prevention". World Malaria Day (WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April. It recognizes global efforts to control malaria. British doctor Ronald Ross received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902 for his work on malaria.

1568) 'International Girls in ICT Day' is observed on fourth ____ of April every year.

- a) Monday
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday

d) Thursday

1569) Who among the following is the Secretary-General of the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?

- a) Xu Xiang
- b) Jin Liqun
- c) Tang Yuhan
- d) Houlin Zhao

United Nations agencies on April 27, 2017 introduced thousands of girls and women to careers in coding and robotics as part of its annual 'International Girls in ICT Day' celebrations around the world, meant to encourage girls and women to pursue careers in the field of information and communications technology. Secretary-General of the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Houlin Zhao said he hopes that the Day, marked annually on the fourth Thursday in April, "will continue to introduce more girls to ICTs."

1570) International Mother Earth Day was celebrated on _____, 2017.

- a) April 21
- b) April 22
- c) April 23
- d) April 24

1571) . What was the theme of the International Mother Earth Day celebrated in April 2017?

- a) Trees for the Earth!
- b) Water Wonderful World
- c) Clean Earth – Green Earth
- d) Environmental & Climate Literacy

International Mother Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 2017. According to the UN, the day is celebrated each year to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. The theme for 2017 is "Environmental & Climate Literacy".

1572) World _____ Week was observed from April 24 to 30, 2017.

- a) Organic
- d) Nutrition
- c) Immunization
- d) Blood Donation

World Immunization Week was observed from April 24 to 30, 2017. Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective means to help children grow into healthy adults. We have made enormous progress, but 1 in 5 children is still not being reached. In addition, too many adolescents and adults are not receiving the vaccines they need to help them stay healthy throughout life. It is time to close the gap.

1573) An international day to celebrate which genre of music was on April 30, 2017?

- a) Rock
- b) Jazz
- ca) Blues
- d) Reggae

The annual International Jazz Day was celebrated on April 30, 2017. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for more than a century jazz has helped soothe and uplift the souls of millions of people in all corners of the world.

1574) Which of the following became the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in April 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Peru
- c) El Salvador
- d) Uruguay

El Salvador has become the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in what campaigners called a landmark move for environmental protection. The law bans “prospection, exploration, exploitation, extraction or processing of metallic minerals in El Salvador,” according to the text published in the official journal in capital San Salvador on April 27, 2017. The new law entered into force after being signed by President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.

1575) Which of the following is the joint military exercise conducted by forces of UAE and the US in April 2017?

- a) Iron Claw 3
- b) Copper Claw 3
- c) Platinum Claw 3
- d) Steel Claw 3

A joint military exercise between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US land forces concluded in Abu Dhabi. Named Iron Claw 3, the training is part of the military exercises the UAE Armed Forces carry out throughout the year, with the aim of enhancing capability, gaining more field experience and understanding military doctrines. (April 28, 2017)

1576) Who among the following was appointed as youngest Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in April 2017?

- a) Heba Nour
- b) Yusra Mardini
- c) Zainab Bakkour
- d) Marella Mamoun

First ever Refugee Olympic Team swimmer Yusra Mardini (19), a Syrian who fled across the Mediterranean, has been appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). With the appointment, she became the youngest Goodwill Ambassador working with the UN Refugee Agency. Mardini, 19, competed in the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro as a member of the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team. She has been granted asylum in Germany. “Through her powerful personal story, Yusra represents the hopes, the fears and the incredible potential of the more than ten million young refugees around the globe,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi in Geneva (Switzerland) on April 28, 2017.

1577) Jonathan Demme died on April 26, 2017 at the age of 73. Which movie directed by him won five honours at the Academy Awards – Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Adapted Screenplay?

- a) Jaws
- b) The Exorcist
- c) It Happened One Night
- d) The Silence of the Lambs

Oscar-winning filmmaker Jonathan Demme, best known for his directorial ventures “The Silence of the Lambs” (1991) and “Philadelphia” died in Manhattan, New York on April 26, 2017 at the age of 73. “The Silence of the Lambs” won Academy Awards in all the top five categories: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Adapted Screenplay.

1578) The Centre is set to launch IDEAS scheme for students from higher educational institutions to find solutions to problems facing the country and get rewarded for their efforts. Expand IDEAS?

- a) Development of Efficient and Austere Systems
- b) Development of Efficient and Affordable Systems
- c) Development of Efficient and Adaptable Systems
- d) Development of Efficient and Applicable Systems

The Centre is set to launch a scheme for students from higher educational institutions to volunteer to offer innovative, original and practical solutions to problems facing the country and get rewarded for their efforts. The scheme that will invite students to find solutions to problems in these fields — and offer a prize of Rs. 1 crore to the best solution in each field — is to be called IDEAS, or Innovations for Development of Efficient and Affordable Systems. The Human Resource Development Ministry has identified a handful of areas pertaining to which the problem-solving skills of students will be tested. Under each of the above areas or themes, 10 problem statements will be prepared and widely publicised. (April 24, 2017).

1579) What is the cash prize given to Dadasaheb Phalke award winner?

- a) Rs 5 lakh
- b) Rs 7 lakh
- c) Rs 10 lakh
- d) Rs 12 lakh

1580) Kasinadhuni Viswanath is the _____ winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

- a) 28th
- b) 38th
- c) 48th
- d) 58th

1581) 2016 Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Kasinadhuni Viswanath is recipient of which of the following national honours?

- a) Padma Shri
- b) Padma Bhushan
- c) Padma Vibhushan
- d) National Film Award for Best Director

Renowned Film Director & Actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath is to be conferred the 48th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2016. This was announced by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on April 24, 2017. The Award consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs and a shawl. The Award shall be conferred by the President at Vigyan Bhawan on May 3. His contributions have received recognition in the form of Padma Shri Award in 1992 by the Government of India for his contribution to film making. His other honours include National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment – Sankarabharanam (1979) and Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration – Saptapadi (1982). He also won Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

1582) Who among the following was on April 24, 2017 announced as the Asia recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize?

- a) Bibhuti Patnaik
- b) Prafulla Samantara
- c) Nikhilanand Panigrahy
- d) Santanu Kumar Acharya

1583) Who among the following is not among the six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize announced in April 2017?

- a) Uros Macerl
- b) Rodrigo Tot
- c) Nohra Padilla
- d) Wendy Bowman

Indian environmental activist Prafulla Samantara was on April 24, 2017 announced as the Asia recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize for championing the cause of Odidha's Dongria Kondh tribals and safeguarding their land and culture. The prize honours grassroots environmental heroes from the world's six inhabited regions -- Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America. This year's other winners are Uros Macerl from Slovenia, mark! Lopez from the US, Rodrigo Tot from Guatemala, Rodrigue Mugaruka Katembo from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Wendy Bowman from Australia.

1584) Who among the following BJP Rajya Sabha MPs has won lifetime achievement award given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in April 2017?

- a) Dr. C.P. Thakur
- b) Dr. Prabhakar Kore
- c) Dr. Vikas Mahatme
- d) Dr. Subramanian Swamy

Former union health minister and BJP Rajya Sabha MP C P Thakur will be awarded with a lifetime achievement award by World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017 for extensive research in the field of Kalajar. Thakur has been invited by

the Leishmania Scientific Committee to participate in a five-day programme from May 16 at Toledo in Spain, a statement from the MP's office said on Patna on April 27, 2017. A native of Patna, Thakur, presently a BJP Rajya Sabha member, served as union health minister during the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. A renowned doctor, Thakur has done extensive research in the field of Kalajar and is the first Indian Medical scientist bestowed with the prestigious award by WHO.

1585) Which of the following won the 'Indian MNC of the year' award given by the All India Management Association (AIMA) in April 2017?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturer, was adjudged the 'Indian MNC of the year' by All India Management Association (AIMA). Pawan Munjal, Chairman, MD and CEO, Hero MotoCorp Ltd., received the award for the rapid global expansion of Brand Hero in New Delhi on April 28, 2017. Hero MotoCorp, which sold more than 6.6 million two-wheelers in FY'17, is the only Indian two-wheeler company to have a manufacturing facility in Latin America.

1586) Who among the following was crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017 in Nicaragua's capital Managua on April 24, 2017?

- a) Srinidhi Shetty
- b) Srishti Kaur
- c) Lata Sharma
- d) Aradhana Singh

Srishti Kaur from India has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017, beating out 25 other contestants from around the world in the annual beauty pageant held at the Ruben Dario National Theater in Nicaragua's capital Managua on April 24, 2017. The six-year-old beauty pageant for teens aged 15 to 19 is held by the Miss Universe Organization.

1587) Which of the following Hindi movies won the best film honour at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in April 2017?

- a) Rustom
- b) Dangal
- c) Kahaani 2
- e) Newton

Actor Rajkummar Rao-starrer "Newton" has won the best film honour at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. Amit Masurkar-directed "Newton", which also stars Anjali Patil, is a political satire. (April 23, 2017)

1588) SEBI has decided to allow investors to purchase mutual funds worth through digital wallets. What is the limit per mutual fund per financial year?

- a) Rs. 5,000
- b) Rs. 25,000
- c) Rs. 50,000
- d) Rs. 75,000

1589) . SEBI has decided to allow investors to purchase mutual funds worth through digital wallets. Consider the following statements.

- I. E-wallet issuers can offer cash back incentive for investing in an MF scheme
- II. The e-wallet's balance can only be used for subscription to MFs
- III. Redemptions of such investments can be made only to the bank account of a unit holder

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

Investors will be permitted to purchase mutual funds worth up to Rs. 50,000 through digital wallets with SEBI approving the proposal on April 26, 2017. "Investments up to Rs. 50,000 per mutual fund per financial year can be made using e-wallets," the regulator said while redemptions of such investments can be made only to the bank account of a unit holder. E-wallet issuers would not be permitted to offer any incentive such as cash back, directly or indirectly, for investing in an MF scheme. Besides, the e-wallet's balance loaded through cash or debit card or net banking can only be used for subscription to MFs. The limit of Rs. 50,000 would be an umbrella limit for investment by an investor through e-wallet and/or cash, per MF.

1590) Who among the following is Chairman of the Committee constituted by Finance Ministry to examine the seventh Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations on Allowances?

- a) Sunil Arora
- b) Rakesh Singh
- c) Ashok Lavasa
- d) Chinmay Basu

The Committee on Allowances, constituted by Finance Ministry to examine the seventh Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations on Allowances, submitted its Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on April 27, 2017. The Committee was headed by Ashok Lavasa, Finance Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure) and was set-up in June 2016.

1591) One of the first three flights under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also called UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), was inaugurated on Shimla-New Delhi route on April 27, 2017. The flight is operated by which of the following?

- a) Trujet
- b) Air Deccan
- c) Odisha Air
- d) Alliance Air

1592) One of the first three flights under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also called UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), was inaugurated on Kadapa-Hyderabad route on April 27, 2017. The flight is operated by which of the following?

- a) Trujet
- b) Air Deccan
- c) Odisha Air
- d) Alliance Air

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 27, 2017 inaugurated the maiden Shimla-New Delhi flight under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also called UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik). The prime minister also simultaneously flagged off regional connectivity scheme (RCS) flights on the Kadapa-Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors (both operated by Trujet) through video-conferencing. The Shimla-New Delhi flight is being operated by Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India. Five airlines were awarded 128 routes to operate flights under RCS in March 2017 after a bidding process. The five airlines are: Alliance Air, Air Deccan, Odisha Air, SpiceJet and Trujet.

1593) What is the foodgrain production target for crop year 2017-18 announced by Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh on April 25, 2017?

- a) 253 million tonnes
- b) 263 million tonnes
- c) 273 million tonnes
- d) 283 million tonnes

The government on April 25, 2017 set foodgrain production target at record 273 million tonne for the 2017-18 crop year and expects to achieve 4 per cent farm sector growth following the prediction of normal monsoon. Foodgrain production is estimated to touch a record 271.98 million tonne (MT) in the current year (July-June), according to the second estimate of the agriculture ministry. This was announced by Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said while addressing a national conference that is discussing sowing strategy for the coming kharif season.

1594) What is the minimum age eligible for those wanting to join Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?

- a) 18 years
- b) 20 years

- c) 22 years
- d) 24 years

1595) Those subscribing for Atal Pension Yojana (APY) will start receiving pension after completing the age of _____.

- a) 50 years
- b) 55 years
- c) 60 years
- d) 65 years

1596) What is the maximum monthly pension payable to subscribers of Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?

- a) Rs. 3000
- b) Rs. 5000
- c) Rs. 7000
- d) Rs. 9000

With a view to digitally empower the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers and improve the quality of service, the facility of online viewing of the statement of transaction (e-SOT) and also the e-PRAN card have been launched. The APY subscribers can visit the website: www.npscra.nsdl.co.in or www.npstrust.org.in under the Atal Pension Yojana Section to avail these value added facilities. This was stated in a press note issued by the Finance Ministry on April 25, 2017. APY, launched in May 2015, provides minimum guaranteed pension ranging between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month for the subscriber from the age of 60 years, depending on the contribution option exercised on entering at an age between 18 and 40 years. The same amount of pension is paid to the spouse in the case of the subscriber's demise.

1597) Which of the following launched 'Solve for India' program for entrepreneurs and startups on April 28, 2017?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Adobe

Aiming to support and mentor new initiatives in the field of technology, Google on April 28, 2017 announced its 'Solve for India' program to inspire the new wave of entrepreneurs and startups across the country. Through this initiative, Google aims to expand and energise the startup ecosystem in these 11 tier II cities and inspire the budding entrepreneurs to solve for India and its underserved user needs.

1598) Which of the following launched artificial intelligence platform 'Nia' in April 2017? Nia can help businesses forecast revenues, understand customer behaviour and deal with compliance and fraud.

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) HCL
- d) TCS

IT major Infosys launched its new artificial intelligence platform 'Nia' in April 2017 that can help businesses forecast revenues, understand customer behaviour as well as deep dive into content of contracts and deal with compliance and fraud.

1599) Who among the following became the first Indian actor to address TED talks (Technology, Entertainment and Design talks) in Vancouver, Canada in April 2017?

- a) Aamir Khan
- b) Salman Khan
- c) Amitabh Bachchan
- d) Shahrukh Khan

Shahrukh Khan became the first Bollywood actor to address TED talks (Technology, Entertainment and Design talks) in Canada on April 27, 2017. The actor attended 'Ted 2017 - The Future You' conference held in Vancouver, Canada.

1600) Which of the following has partnered with MMTC-PAMP to launch Digital Gold in April 2017? It enables Indians to buy, store and sell pure gold instantly.

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

On the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, online payment platform Paytm on April 27, 2017 announced its collaboration with India's only Internationally Accredited Refinery MMTC-PAMP to launch Digital Gold, enabling Indians to buy, store and sell pure gold instantly. Paytm users can now purchase gold online and store it in MMTC-PAMP's highly secure vaults free of charge. They can also request for their gold to be delivered at their home in the form of minted coins or sell it back online instantly.

1601) Who among the following is the author of popular philosophical novel "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance"? He died in US at the age of 88 on April 25, 2017.

- a) Mortimer J. Adler
- b) Donald T. Campbell
- c) Lawrence C. Becker
- d) Robert M. Pirsig

Robert M. Pirsig, whose philosophical novel "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" became a million-selling classic and cultural touchstone, died at the age of 88 on April 25, 2017 in South Berwick, Maine. The book was published in 1974 and was based on a motorcycle trip Pirsig took in the late 1960s with his 12-year-old son, Chris.

1602) Which private sector bank has acquired the entire stake held by its partner Old Mutual of UK in their life insurance joint venture in April 2017?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Kotak Mahindra Bank

Kotak Mahindra Bank on April 28, 2017 said it has inked an agreement to purchase the entire 26 per cent equity stake held by Old Mutual plc, UK (OM) in Kotak Mahindra Old Mutual Life Insurance for a consideration of Rs. 1,292.7 crore. After the completion of the transaction, Kotak Mahindra Group will hold 100 per cent of the equity shareholding of Kotak Life.

1603) Which state was directed by the Supreme Court in April 2017 to reinstate its ex- Directors General of Police (DGP) who was transferred in May 2016?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Goa
- d) Kerala

Supreme Court on April 24, 2017 directed the Kerala government to reinstate ex-DGP T P Senkumar who was transferred in May 2016.

1604) Which state's Anti Terror Squad (ATS) on April 27, 2017 said that it plans to initiate a 'Ghar Wapsi' (Home Coming) campaign for deradicalisation of the misguided youth?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

The Uttar Pradesh Anti Terror Squad (ATS) on April 27, 2017 said that it plans to initiate a 'Ghar Wapsi' (Home Coming) campaign for deradicalisation of the misguided youth.

1605) Former speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Ali Mohammad Naik, passed away in Srinagar on April 21, 2017 at the age of 87. He belonged to which party?

- a) National Conference

- b) Congress
- c) Peoples Democratic Party
- d) Panthers Party

Senior National Conference (NC) leader and former speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Ali Mohammad Naik, passed away in Srinagar on April 21, 2017 at the age of 87. He was elected speaker of the Assembly in 1996. In 1999, he defeated former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag constituency of South Kashmir. Naik was badly injured in a militant attack in 2006.

1606) World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 26
- b) April 27
- c) April 28
- d) April 29

World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed on April 28, 2017. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003. The ILO's campaign for the 2017 World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on the critical need for countries to improve their capacity to collect and utilize reliable occupational safety and health (OSH) data.

1607) The annual Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 26
- b) April 27
- c) April 28
- d) April 29

The annual Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare was observed on April 29, 2017. The day is observed on April 29 each year to mark the date in 1997 on which the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force. This commemoration provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

1608) ISRO made an Announcement of Opportunity in April 2017 to research institutions in the country for its forthcoming mission to which planet?

- a) Venus
- b) Saturn
- c) Jupiter
- d) Uranus

ISRO on April 24, 2017 made an Announcement of Opportunity for its Venus mission to research institutions in the country.

1609) 39-year-old Younis Khan completed 10,000 Test runs in April 2017. Which of the following statements is not correct?

- a) He is the first Pakistani player to achieve this milestone
- b) He is the oldest player to achieve this milestone
- c) He achieved this milestone in a test match against West Indies
- d) None of the above

39-year-old Younis Khan became the first Pakistan player to complete 10,000 Test runs during his team's first innings in the first Test against West Indies at Sabina Park in Kingston (Jamaica) on April 23, 2017. Younis was out for 58. The 39-year-old right hander began his 116th Test with 9,977 runs from 207 innings and went to the elusive landmark after tea. Khan is the oldest to reach the milestone of 10,000 Test runs at 39 years and 145 days. India's Sachin Tendulkar leads the list of most run-getters in Test cricket with 15,921 in 200 matches.

1610) Which cricket stadium's four blocks were named after war heroes Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa, Colonel N J Nair, Havildar Hangpan Dada and Subedar Joginder Singh in April 2017?

- a) Wankhede
- b) Eden Gardens
- c) M. Chinnaswamy
- d) Feroz Shah Kotla

Four war heroes found a place of permanence in the hallowed Eden Gardens Stadium of Kolkata as the Cricket Association of Bengal on April 28, 2017 named four blocks of the stadium in honour of them. The name plates of Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa, Colonel N J Nair, Havildar Hangpan Dada and Subedar Joginder Singh were unveiled in a ceremony at the stadium that stands on land owned by the Ministry of Defence.

1611) Which Indian player won the Men's Doubles title at Monte Carlo Masters along with Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay in April 2017?

- a) N. Sriram Balaji
- b) Rohan Bopanna
- c) Yuki Bhambri
- d) Ramkumar Ramanathan

Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record-breaking 10th time with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas in Monte Carlo on April 23, 2017. India's Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas won the Men's Doubles title by beating Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez of Spain in the final 6-3, 3-6, 10-4.

1612) Who among the following won the Men's Race at the London Marathon on April 23, 2017?

- a) Eliud Kipchoge
- b) Daniel Wanjiru
- ca) Dennis Kimetto
- d) Stanley Biwott

Kenyan Daniel Wanjiru won the Men's Race London Marathon on April 23, 2017 in two hours five minutes 48 seconds. Kenya's Mary Keitany won the women's race, finishing in 2:17.01.

1613) Which of the following pairs of Indian medal winners at the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in April 2017 is not matched correctly with their event?

- a) Manpreet Kaur: Women's shot put
- b) Neeraj Chopra: Men's javelin
- c) Tintu Luka: Women's high jump
- d) Neena Varakil: Women's long jump

1614) Which of the following pairs of Indian medal winners at the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in April 2017 is matched correctly with their event?

- a) Jinson Johnson: Men's triple jump
- b) Dutee Chand: Women's 100m
- c) Om Prakash Karhana: Men's 10 km walk
- d) All the above

Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur clinched gold medal in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet with a national record in Jinhua (China) on April 24, 2017. India ended the one-day event with seven medals (1 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze). Neeraj Chopra (men's javelin), Tintu Luka (women's 800m), Neena Varakil (women's long jump) and Jinson Johnson (men's 800m) won a silver each while Dutee Chand (women's 100m) and Om Prakash Karhana (men's shot put) bagged a bronze each.

Neena Varakil stole the limelight from her more fancied compatriots to bag the gold in women's long jump as India won six medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in New Delhi on April 27, 2017. Besides Neena's gold, India won four silver medals through Manpreet Kaur (women's shot put), Neeraj Chopra (men's javelin), Dutee Chand (women's 100m) and Tintu Luka (women's 800m), and a bronze through Om Prakash Karhana (men's shot put). The third leg will be held in Chinese Taipei on April 30.

1615) Who among the following won the Reykjavik Open Chess tournament in Iceland in April 2017?

- a) Anish Giri

- b) Magnus Carlsen
- c) Hikaru Nakamura
- d) Vladimir Kramnik

1616) Who among the following Indians was adjudged the 'best women's player of the tournament' at the Reykjavik Open Chess tournament in Iceland in April 2017?

- a) Padmini Rout
- b) Koneru Humpy
- c) Harika Dronavalli
- d) Soumya Swaminathan

The Reykjavik Open Chess tournament in Iceland ended on April 27, 2017. Anish Giri of the Netherlands won the tournament followed by his countryman Jorden Van Foreest in second place. Indian Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli was adjudged the 'best women's player of the tournament'.

MAY-2017

1617) Results of Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns were disclosed in May 2017. Which of the following is not among the Top-5 Cleanest cities?

- a) Surat
- b) Bhopal
- c) Mysuru
- d) Tiruchirappalli

1618) Which of the following was ranked first in Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns?

- a) New Delhi Municipal Council
- b) Navi Mumbai
- c) Vadodara
- d) Indore

1619) Which of the following was ranked last in Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns?

- a) Gonda
- b) Hardoi
- c) Bahraich
- d) Bagaha

1620) Consider the following regarding the results of Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns.

- I. Gujarat has most cities in Top 50
- II. Uttar Pradesh has most cities in Bottom 50
- III. The survey was conducted by QCI in January-February 2017

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III

1621) The Quality Council of India conducted Swachh Survekshan-2017 in 434 cities and towns. Who among the following is its Chairman?

- a) Adil Zainulbhai
- b) Dipankar Gupta
- c) Nadeem Qureshi
- d) Saraswati Prasad

Indore has emerged as the India's Cleanest City in the Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns, the results of which were announced in New Delhi on May 4, 2017 by the Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu. Bhopal, Visakhapatnam, Surat, Mysuru, Tiruchirappalli, New Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Vadodara and Chandigarh are among the Top 10 clean cities in that order. 10 towns that came at the bottom of the 434 surveyed are;

Gonda (UP) ranked 434 followed by Bhusawal (Maharashtra), Bagaha (Bihar)- 433, Hardoi (UP)-432, Katihar (Bihar)-431, Bahraich (UP)-429, Muktsar (Punjab)-427, Muktsar (Punjab)-426 and Khurja (UP)-425.

A total of 14 States were represented in the Top 50 clean cities with Gujarat accounting for 12, followed Madhya Pradesh-11, Andhra Pradesh-8 and one each from Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. 25 towns from Uttar Pradesh are ranked among the bottom 50 cities with followed by Rajasthan and Punjab with five each, two in Maharashtra and one each from Haryana, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

Swachh Survekshan-2017 aimed at capturing the outcomes on ground of the ongoing efforts to make urban areas Open Defecation Free and to improve door-to-door collection, processing and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste. Of the total score of 2,000, 900 marks were assigned for performance in respect of ODF and solid waste management, 600 marks for Citizen Feedback and 500 marks for Independent Observation.

Quality Council of India that conducted the survey during January-February this year deployed 421 assessors for on the site inspection of cleanliness in 434 cities and towns and another 55 for real time monitoring of progress of survey and field inspections. Field inspectors used geo-tagged devices for collecting evidence in real time of their inspection at 17,500 locations.

1622) Health & Family Welfare Ministry's eVIN project was recently studied by many countries for replication. 'I' in eVIN stands for:

- Immunisation
- Investigation
- Intelligence
- Indigenous

Members of a five country international delegation called on C K Mishra, Secretary Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in New Delhi on May 4, 2017. They interacted with the Health Secretary to learn more about the global best practice of eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) project of the Health Ministry and to understand how it is being implemented in the country and the ways in which it be replicated in their own countries.

1623) BrahMos missiles were test fired successfully on 2 consecutive days in May 2017. 'C' in LACM stands for:

- Class
- Cruise
- Continental
- Conventional

South Western Command's Corps 'Strike One' successfully carried out the firing of the advanced BRAHMOS Block III land attack cruise missile (LACM) system in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on May 3, 2017 for the second consecutive day. The successive launches reinforce the formidable weapon's precision strike capability. It was successfully tested from the same location on May 2. These successful firings of the supersonic cruise missile were carried out in full operational land-to-land configurations from Mobile Autonomous Launchers (MAL) at its full-range.

- The Brahmos missile is developed by a joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The Brahmos cruise missile is based on the Russian P-800 Oniks cruise missile and other similar sea-skimming Russian cruise missile technology.
- The missile travels at speeds of Mach 2.8 to 3.0. It is the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.
- The BrahMos-A is a modified air-launched variant of the missile which will arm the Su-30MKI of the air force as a standoff weapon.
- The BrahMos-II is a hypersonic cruise missile. Like the BrahMos, the range of BrahMos II has also been limited to 290 km to comply with the MTCR.
- The land attack version of BrahMos has been operationalised in the Indian Army since 2007.

After India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016, India and Russia are now planning to jointly develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with 600 km-plus range and an ability to hit protected targets with pinpoint accuracy.

1624) Which of the following is the hand-held device developed by DRDO for security agencies for detection of chemical agents?

- a) E-Kiran
- b) E-Netra
- c) E-Drishti
- d) E-Nasika

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on May 1, 2017 handed over a number of devices developed by the DRDO to National Security Guard (NSG), Delhi Police and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The devices handed over to NDRF included 'E-Nasika', a hand-held equipment which is capable of rapid detection of chemical agents well below their toxic limits. Jaitley also handed over 'OTL-300' (Optical Target Locater-300). This equipment can instantly detect partially camouflaged optical elements, such as telescopes, binoculars and night vision devices.

1625) May Measurement Month (MMM) 2017 was launched by ICMR and PHFI(Public Health Foundation of India)for which of the following in May?

- a) Blood pressure
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Malnutrition
- d) Diabetes

A mega exercise was launched in New Delhi on May 1, 2017 to measure blood pressure of over 2 million people in India and stress on regular screening of hypertension, which has taken epidemic proportions. The initiative -- May Measurement Month (MMM) 2017 -- is part of a global initiative to raise awareness on the importance of screening to tackle **high blood pressure**. Raised blood pressure or hypertension claims over 2 lakh Indian lives each year.

1626) FreeDish is the direct-to-home DTH platform of which of the following?

- a) Tata Sky
- b) Dish TV
- c) Airtel Digital
- d) Doordarshan

The government will increase the number of free channels in **Doordarshan's direct-to-home (DTH)** platform -- FreeDish -- from nearly 90 to 250 by next year, Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said in New Delhi on May 5, 2017.

1627) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the _____ Research Institute in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand on May 3, 2017.

- a) Hamdard
- b) Biocon
- c) Patanjali
- d) Dabur

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Patanjali Research Institute in Haridwar** district of Uttarakhand on May 3, 2017.

1628) 'Looking for the Rainbow: My years with Daddy' is a recently released book authored by:

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Ruskin Bond

1629) Who among the following historians is the author of 'Why Gandhi Still Matters' released recently?

- a) Romila Thapar
- b) Mushirul Hasan
- c) Nayantara Sehgal
- d) Rajmohan Gandhi

1630) Who among the following MPs was retained as the Chairperson of the 22-member parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings in May 2017?

- a) Ajay Sancheti

- b) K. V. Thomas
- c) Shanta Kumar
- d) Sharad Yadav

1631) Who among the following MPs was retained as the Chairperson of the 29-member Estimates Committee of the Parliament in May 2017?

- a) Anand Sinha
- b) Satyanarayan Jatiya
- c) Om Prakash Mathur
- d) Murli Manohar Joshi

Senior BJP leaders **Murli Manohar Joshi and Shanta Kumar** have been reappointed as chairmen of the Estimates Committee and the parliamentary panel on Public Undertakings, respectively for a fixed tenure of one year in May 2017 by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

The **Estimates Committee**, constituted for the first time in 1950, is a Parliamentary **Committee** consisting of 30 Members, elected every year by the Lok Sabha from amongst its Members. The Chairman of the **Committee** is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The work done by the Parliament in modern times is not only varied in nature, but considerable in volume. The time at its disposal is limited. It cannot, therefore, give close consideration to all the legislative and other matters that come up before it. A good deal of its business is, therefore, transacted by what are called the Parliamentary Committees.

Ad hoc and Standing Committees

Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds: *Ad hoc* Committees and the Standing Committees. *Ad hoc* Committees are appointed for a specific purpose and they cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report. The principal *Ad hoc* Committees are the Select and Joint Committees on Bills. Others like the Railway Convention Committee, the Committees on the Draft Five Year Plans and the Hindi Equivalents Committee were appointed for specific purposes. Apart from the *Ad hoc* Committees, each House of Parliament has Standing Committees like the Business Advisory Committee, the Committee on Petitions, the Committee of Privileges and the Rules Committee, etc.

Other Committees

Of special importance is yet another class of Committees which act as Parliament's 'Watch Dogs' over the executive. These are the Committees on Subordinate Legislation, the Committee on Government Assurances, the Committee on Estimates, the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Public Undertakings and Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). The Committee on Estimates, the Committee on Public Accounts, the Committee on Public Undertakings and DRSCs play an important role in exercising a check over governmental expenditure and Policy formulation.

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES

Select and Joint Committees

When a Bill comes up before a House for general discussion, it is open to that House to refer it to a Select Committee of the House or a Joint Committee of the two Houses. A motion has to be moved and adopted to this effect in the House in which the Bill comes up for consideration. In case the motion adopted is for reference of the Bill to a Joint Committee, the decision is conveyed to the other House requesting them to nominate members of the other House to serve on the Committee. The Select or Joint Committee considers the Bill clause by clause just as the two Houses do. Amendments can be moved to various clauses by members of the Committee. The Committee can also take evidence of associations, public bodies or experts who are interested in the Bill. After the Bill has thus been considered the Committee submits its report to the House. Members who do not agree with the majority report may append their minutes of dissent to the report.

Committee on Estimates

This Committee consists of 30 members who are elected by the Lok Sabha every year from amongst its members. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. The main function of the Committee on Estimates is to report what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency, or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected and to suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration. From time to time the Committee selects such of the estimates pertaining to a Ministry or a group of Ministries or the statutory and other Government bodies as may seem fit to the Committee. The Committee also examines matters of special interest which may arise or come to light in the course of its work or which are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker.

Committee on Public Undertakings

The Committee on Public Undertakings consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of Rajya Sabha are associated with it. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year.

The functions of the Committee on Public Undertakings are—(a) to examine the reports and accounts of Public Undertakings; (b) to examine the reports, if any, of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Public Undertakings; (c) to examine in the context of the autonomy and efficiency of the Public Undertakings whether the affairs of the Public Undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices; and (d) such other functions vested in the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Estimates in relation to the Public Undertakings as are not covered by clauses (a), (b) and (c) above and as may be allotted to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time. The Committee does not, however, examine matters of major Government policy and matters of day-to-day administration of the Undertakings.

Committee on Public Accounts

This Committee consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with it. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year.

The main duty of the Committee is to ascertain whether the money granted by Parliament has been spent by Government "within the scope of the Demand". The Appropriation Accounts of the Government of India and the Audit Reports presented by the Comptroller and Auditor General mainly form the basis for the examination of the Committee. Cases involving losses, nugatory expenditure and financial irregularities come in for severe criticism by the Committee. The Committee is not concerned with questions of policy. It is concerned only with the execution of the policy laid down by Parliament and its results.

Business Advisory Committee (Lok Sabha)

The Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the *ex-officio* Chairman. The members are nominated by the Speaker. Almost all sections of the House are represented on the Committee as per the respective strength of parties in the House. The function of the Committee is to recommend the time that should be allotted for the discussion of such Government legislative and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct to be referred to the Committee. The Committee, on its own initiative, may also recommend to the Government to bring forward particular subjects for discussion in the House and recommend allocation of time for such discussions. The decisions reached by the Committee are always unanimous in character and representative of the collective view of the House. The Committee generally meets at the beginning of each Session and thereafter as and when necessary.

1632) Anadolu Agency (AA) is an international news agency headquartered in which of the following countries?

- a) Iran
- b) Serbia
- c) Greece
- d) Turkey

India and Turkey signed several agreements and MoUs in several fields following talks between PM Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New Delhi on May 1, 2017. A cooperation agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Anadolu Agency (AA), an international news agency headquartered in Ankara was signed.

1633) Which surgeon became well-known for performing weight loss surgery on world's heaviest woman Eman Ahmed of Egypt in Mumbai recently?

- a) Adil Batliwala
- b) Mumtaj Siddiqui
- c) Abbas Tyrewala
- d) Muffadal Lakdawala**

Egyptian Eman Ahmed Abd-El Aty left India after losing over 50 percent weight - for further treatment in Abu Dhabi on May 4, 2017. Bariatric surgeon Muffadal Lakdawala at Mumbai's Saifee Hospital had treated her. During her 83-day stay in India, once weighing around 500 kg, 37-year old Eman managed to steadily lose kilos and left the country weighing 171 kg.

1634) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for a period of three years in May 2017?

- a) Karan Singh
- b) Kancha Ilaiah

- c) Narendra Jadhav
- d) Braj Bihari Kumar

Braj Bihari Kumar, editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chintan Srijan, was on May 2, 2017 appointed as the chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), for a period of three years. He will succeed noted economist S K Thorat.

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in the year of 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.

1635) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed MoU for cooperation with Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) of which of the following in May 2017?

- a) Italy
- b) Serbia
- c) Greece
- d) Turkey

India and Turkey signed several agreements and MoUs in several fields following talks between PM Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New Delhi on May 1, 2017. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed MoU for cooperation with Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), Turkey

1636) Fast Patrol Vessel, MCGS Valiant, was delivered to Mauritius on April 30, 2017. It was designed and built at:

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on April 30, 2017 delivered the second fast patrol vessel 'MCGS Valiant' to the Mauritius Coast Guard at a ceremony held in Vasco near Panaji. The 50-metre-long vessel is primarily designed for coastal patrolling, anti-drug surveillance, and for anti-piracy operations, the official said, adding that 'MCGS Valiant' will also be useful in anti-smuggling and search and rescue operations.

The Mauritius Coast Guard received its second fast patrol vessel, MCGS Valiant, from Indian shipbuilder Goa Shipyard Limited on April 30.

The \$27 million contract for the construction of **MCGS Valiant and sister ship MCGS Victory** was signed in May 2014. The contract also included ten 14.5m-long fast interceptor boats.

MCGS Valiant had its keel laid in May 2015, and was launched four months ahead of schedule on February 2, 2017.

The 50-meter vessels are designed for coastal patrolling, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, anti-drug surveillance, anti-poaching operations, and search and rescue operations. They are fitted with a 30 mm CRN-91 gun, 12.7 mm HMGs and 7.62 mm MMGs. According to GSL, the vessels are capable of achieving a high speed of 37.3 knots.

1637) Students of which neighbouring country will benefit from 'Muktijodha Scholarship' Scheme announced by the government in May 2017?

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

India will give Rs 35 crore to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh in the next five years under the new '**Muktijodha Scholarship**' Scheme, High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla announced in Chittagong on April 29, 2017.

1638) Who among the following leaders was selected by Japan for its 'Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun' honour recently?

- a) Mani Shankar Aiyar
- b) Shashi Tharoor
- c) **Ashwani Kumar**

d) Anand Sharma

Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar was selected by Japan for its top honour in May 2017 for his contribution to strengthening of bilateral ties between the two countries. "The Presentation Ceremony for the Investiture of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun will be held at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on May 9, when the foreign recipients will be given an audience with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan," the Japanese Embassy said in New Delhi on April 29, 2017.

1639) Parliamentary elections were held in Algeria in May 2017. Who among the following is the President?

- a) Ali Benflis
- b) Moussa Touati
- c) Ramtane Lamamra
- d) Abdelaziz Bouteflika**

The party of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and its coalition ally have won a clear majority in parliamentary elections held on May 4, 2017. Bouteflika's National Liberation Front (FLN) won 164 of the national assembly's 462 seats. But the FLN preserved its majority thanks to its ally, the Rally for National Democracy (RND), which won 97 seats.

1640) An Asian Universities Alliance was established in _____ on April 29, 2017.

- a) Tokyo
- b) Seoul
- c) Beijing
- d) Singapore

An Asian Universities Alliance was established in Beijing on April 29, 2017 with an aim to enhance cooperation and communication among 15 member varsities, including one from India – the Indian Institute of Technology-Mumbai (IIT-Mumbai). The alliance was proposed in March 2016 by Tsinghua University, where the meeting was held.

1641) Who among the following won the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize in May 2017?

- a) Dawit Isaak
- b) Mazen Darwish
- c) Ahmet Şık
- d) Reeyot Alemu

1642) Which of the following hosted UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day celebration from May 1 to 4, 2017?

- a) Paris
- b) Riga
- c) Jakarta
- d) Helsinki

1643) What was the theme of World Press Freedom Day observed on May 3, 2017?

- a) Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms
- b) Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media
- c) Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the post-2015 Development Agenda
- d) Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies

The World Press Freedom Day was observed on May 3, 2017. This year's theme highlights media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies and builds on the theme 'Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.' UNESCO's main celebration of this year's edition of the Day took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1 to 4 May. During the event, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova awarded the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to Dawit Isaak, the imprisoned Eritrean-born journalist who was represented by his daughter, Bethelem Isaak, during a ceremony hosted by Joko Widodo, the President of Indonesia.

1644) The United Nations marked the first World _____ Day on May 2, 2017.

- a) Dolphin
- b) Tuna
- c) Cod
- d) Whale

The United Nations marked the first World Tuna Day on May 2, 2017 with calls to conserve one of the globe's most popular fish to be caught and eaten. Tuna species, which are highly migratory, account for 20 percent of the value of all fish caught and over 8 percent of all internationally traded seafood.

1645) Sushila Karki is the first female _____.

- a) Defence Minister of Nepal
- b) Speaker of Nepal's Parliament
- c) Governor of Nepal's Central Bank
- d) Chief Justice of Nepal's Supreme Court

Nepal's Supreme Court on May 5, 2017 reinstated the country's first woman chief justice Sushila Karki and directed Parliament to halt her impeachment as the tussle between the legislature and the judiciary took a dramatic turn. Karki had assumed office as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice on August 1, 2016.

1646) Who among the following is the President of Czech Republic? He announced his resignation but withdrew after few days in May 2017?

- a) Stanislav Gross
- b) Mirek Topolánek
- c) Bohuslav Sobotka
- d) Milos Zeman

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka on May 5, 2017 withdrew plans to resign.

1647) Tony Blair, who announced his return to politics in May 2017, is the former Prime Minister of:

- a) New Zealand
- b) Canada
- c) Ireland
- d) United Kingdom

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on May 1, 2017 he was plunging back into domestic politics in order to fight against Brexit. Blair, 63, was prime minister for a decade from 1997.

1648) Who among the following was elected as Albania's new President by the country's Parliament in April 2017?

- a) Lulzim Basha
- b) Ante Gotovina
- c) Sali Berisha
- d) Ilir Meta

Albania's parliament elected its Speaker as the country's new President in capital Tirana on April 29, 2017. Speaker Ilir Meta was chosen after lawmakers in the 140-seat body who were present for the closed-door election voted 87-2 in favour of him.

1649) Who among the following won the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) Award for Investigative Journalism for 2016 in May 2017?

- a) Shahbaz Khan
- b) Sharad Vyas
- c) Vinoy Mathew
- d) Shyamlal Yadav

Shyamlal Yadav and Jay Mazoomdaar have won the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) Award for Investigative Journalism for 2016. They got the award for their series of stories published in The Indian Express in September 2016. The award comprises a trophy, citation and a purse of Rs. 2 lakh. It was given in Hyderabad on May 3, 2017. 'The One-Rupee Trick' by Yadav and Mazoomdaar revealed the abuse by bank officials of the zero-balance accounts of India's unbanked.

1650) Which of the following countries has opted out of ISRO's South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) project?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Maldives
- d) Pakistan

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F09) successfully launched the **2230 kg South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) into its planned Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on May 5, 2017**. This was the eleventh launch of GSLV and took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota (AP). This is the fourth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage. The Satellite has 12 Ku band transponders. According to the government, the satellite will enable a full range of services to India's neighbours in telecommunication and broadcasting areas such as television, direct-to-home (DTH) services, education, telemedicine, weather forecasting and disaster management support. Each country will get access to at least one transponder through which they could beam their own programming, but they will have to develop their own ground infrastructure. Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan will benefit from this satellite. Pakistan has opted out.

1651) University students from India, the UK and the US launched the DNDi to develop medicines in May 2017. DNDi stands for:

- a) Drugs for New Diseases initiative
- b) Drugs for Natural Diseases initiative
- c) Drugs for Neonatal Diseases initiative

d) Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative

University students from India, the UK and the US will collaborate on a new first-of-its-kind research and development project aimed at discovering potential drugs for patients living with neglected diseases like kala-azar. The 'Open Synthesis Network (OSN)' project between five universities was launched by non-profit research and development organisation Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in May 2017. It involves collaboration between 25 undergraduate and Master's students in Chemistry from participating universities. During the 2016-2017 Academic Year, they will work on improving chemical compounds for the neglected disease visceral leishmaniasis (VL) known as kala-azar in India.

1652) Who among the following won the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award for the year 2017?

- a) Sanjay Pratihari
- b) Anurag Agrawal
- c) S. Venkata Mohan
- d) Soumen Chakrabarti

Sanjay Pratihari, a scientist at Tezpur University, has been chosen for the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award for the year 2017. (May 1, 2017)

1653) Who among the following won the Rising Star Award at the Annual Asian Awards in London in May 2017?

- a) Adhish Praveen
- b) Nur Islam
- c) Saimul Alam
- d) Sunny Pawar**

Child actor Sunny Pawar, best known for his performance in the Oscar-nominated film "Lion", was chosen for the Rising Star Award at the 7th Annual Asian Awards in London on May 3, 2017. He was cast as young Saroo Brierley in the true life drama. Founded in 2010, the Asian Awards acknowledge pan-Asian success across all walks of life.

1654) Who among the following won the jury prize gold medal at the Moscow Sand art Championship on April 28, 2017.

- a) Bansi Kaul
- b) Ram Mohan
- c) Paresh Maity
- d) Sudarsan Pattnaik**

Sudarsan Pattnaik from Odisha has won the jury prize gold medal at the Moscow Sand art Championship on April 28, 2017. Pattnaik said he had created a 10 feet high sand sculpture of Lord Ganesh and inscribed "Go Green" on the statue. Sudarsan said he chose this message to highlight the importance of ecological balance in the face of global warming.

1655) Which of the following received the FICCI-India Sanitation Coalition prize in April 2017?

- a) Deepalaya
- b) Sulabh Foundation
- c) Lok Biradari Prakalp
- d) Aga Khan Foundation**

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) of the Aga Khan Foundation received the FICCI-India Sanitation Coalition prize for the initiative that seeks to contribute towards building an open-defecation free India by 2019 under the 'Swachh Bharat' mission. The Foundation received the award from Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on April 27.

1656) Who among the following won the 'Hero of the League' award in the recently-concluded edition of the I-League football tournament in May 2017?

- a) Khalid Jamil
- b) Sunil Chhetri
- c) Debjit Majumder
- d) Anas Edathodika

Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri, who smashed seven goals in the recently-concluded edition of the I-League football tournament, has clinched the most coveted 'Hero of the League' award.

1657) The Union Cabinet approved National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017 recently. What is the current per capita consumption of steel in India?

- a) 41 Kgs
- b) 61 Kgs
- c) 81 Kgs
- d) 101 Kgs

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017. According to a press note issued by the government on May 3, 2017, the new Steel Policy seeks to enhance domestic steel consumption and ensure high quality steel production and create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry. The policy projects crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes (MT), production of 255 MT and a robust finished steel per capita consumption of **158 Kgs by 2030-31**, as against the current consumption of 61 Kgs.

1658) The government has decided to disinvest 3 ITDC (India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.) in May 2017. Hotel Lake View Ashok is in which capital?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal
- c) Lucknow
- d) Gandhinagar

The CCEA chaired by the Prime Minister approved the initiation of the process of disinvestment of hotels/properties of the India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC), according to a press note issued by the government on May 3, 2017. In the first stage of the disinvestment process, three hotels listed have been taken up for disinvestment: (i) Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal (ii) Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati (iii) Hotel Bharatpur Ashok, Bharatpur (Rajasthan).

1659) The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is based at

- a) Jakarta
- b) Kuala Lumpur
- c) Manila
- d) Bangkok

India is expected to clock 7.1 per cent growth this year before edging up to 7.5 per cent in 2018, the Bangkok-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in its annual flagship report 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017' launched on May 1, 2017.

1660) What is the growth forecast for the Indian economy in 2017-18 made by ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada in May 2017?

- a) 7.1%
- b) 7.2%
- c) 7.3%
- d) 7.4%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that Indian economy will **grow 7.4% in 2017-18** and 7.6% in the next fiscal. India had grown 7.1 per cent in 2016-17. ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada said that reforms like the Goods and Services Tax and the new bankruptcy law will make it easier to do business in India.

1661) What is the Department of Telecom's portal that will help users get radiation level of a particular mobile tower tested named?

- a) Tarang Seva
- b) Tarang Sanchar
- c) Tarang Suraksha
- d) Tarang Spandan

The Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched **Tarang Sanchar**, a web portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF (electromagnetic frequency) Emission Compliances, in New Delhi on May 2, 2017. The portal will allow users to get a tower or base station checked for radiation emission, for a fee of Rs 4,000.

1662) Who among the following was appointed as the new Controller General of Accounts in the Ministry of Finance in May 2017?

- a) Kriti Pant
- b) Ranjan Das
- c) Vandana Sinha
- d) Anthony Lianzuala

Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in New Delhi on May 1, 2017.

1663) Which of the following hosted the 4th National Standards Conclave jointly by CII & BIS on May 1-2, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Mumbai
- c) Kolkata
- d) Hyderabad

Department of Commerce, Government of India in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and other knowledge partners organised the 4th National Standards Conclave on 1-2 May 2017 at New Delhi.

1664) . Which of the following launched its Express Wi-Fi internet services in India on May 4, 2017?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Facebook on May 4, 2017 officially announced its Express Wi-Fi internet services in India. Facebook has partnered with 500 local entrepreneurs who will sell these services through vouchers that are priced ranging Rs. 10-20 for a day or Rs. 200-300 for a month. The Express Wi-Fi offers internet at upwards of 10Mbps speeds without any per day limit or restrictions on accessing any part of the internet. Express Wi-Fi will not even require a user to have or set up a Facebook account.

1665) Punj Lloyd on May 4, 2017 announced its collaboration with Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) to manufacture small weapons in which state?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Punj Lloyd on May 4, 2017 announced its collaboration with Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) to manufacture small weapons at in Malanpur, Gwalior (MP). The facility will produce small weapons such as TAVOR assault rifle. Other small arms such as Galil sniper rifle and NEGEV light machine gun will also be made under the Make In India campaign.

1666) ONGC Videsh reported finding of hydrocarbon reserves in its Mariposa-1 well in which of the following in May 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) Argentina
- d) Colombia

ONGC Videsh has found hydrocarbon reserves in its **Mariposa-1 well**, which is under drilling in CPO-5 block of Colombia. ONGC Videsh is the operator of the block and holds 70 per cent participating interest and Amerisur Resources holds the remaining 30 per cent. (May 5, 2017)

1667) Which of the following private sector banks developed its first digital village at Akodara in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) Axis Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Federal Bank

ICICI Bank has created 100 'digital villages' across the country within 100 days and now plans to add 500 more to the list by year-end, its chief Chanda Kochhar said on May 2, 2017. The ambitious project, which began in November 2016, was inspired by the success of India's first digital village created by ICICI Bank at Akodara in Gujarat in 2015.

1668) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launched its Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) in which of the following cities on April 29, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Chennai
- c) Kolkata
- d) Hyderabad

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launched its Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) in Hyderabad on April 29, 2017.

1669) The Alfred High School, where Mahatma Gandhi studied, has been shut down by the authorities to make way for a museum. The school was in which city of Gujarat?

- a) Rajkot
- b) Vadodara
- c) Junagadh
- d) Bhavnagar

The Alfred High School in Rajkot - the 164-year-old institution where Mahatma Gandhi studied - has been shut down by the authorities to make way for a museum. The proposal to convert this state-run Gujarati medium school, also known as Mohandas Gandhi High School, into a museum was accepted by the Gujarat government in 2016. Mahatma Gandhi passed out from the school in 1887 at the age of 18. (May 5, 2017)

1670) India's first "Village of Books" was inaugurated in Bhilar village of which district in Maharashtra in May 2017?

- a) Satara
- b) Hingoli
- c) Nanded
- d) Nandurbar

India's first "Village of Books" was inaugurated and opened for public reading at Maharashtra's Bhilar village on May 4, 2017. Bhilar is located in Satara district, about 250 kilometres from Mumbai. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said it is a proud moment as a village which until recently was famous for its strawberries will now be recognised as "Pustakanche Gaon" or "Village of Books" across India.

1671) India started adopting the April-March financial year from which year?

- a) 1867
- b) 1887
- c) 1907
- d) 1927

1672) Which of the following became the first state to switch to the January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to switch to the January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle, with the state cabinet endorsing the move on May 2, 2017. The move breaks a 150-year tradition as India started adopting the **April-March financial year from 1867**. "The state cabinet in its meeting chaired by CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan decided to shift the financial year to January-December. So, now the Budget session of the next financial year will be held either in December 2017 or January 2018," said state Public Relations Minister Narottam Mishra in Bhopal. Earlier the Central government had constituted a high-level committee under former Chief Economic Advisor Shanker Acharya to examine "desirability and feasibility" of having a new financial year. The report hasn't been made public yet.

1673) Which state launched "Gauvansh Chikitsa Mobile Vans" service that will transport ill and injured cows for treatment in May?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

An ambulance service catering exclusively to cows was launched in Lucknow on May 1, 2017. The "Gauvansh Chikitsa Mobile Vans" service will transport ill and injured cows to gau shalas or take them to a veterinary for treatment. A veterinarian along with an assistant will be present in the ambulance. The service is being run in collaboration with the MNREGA Mazdoor Kalyan Sanghathan, an organisation that claims to work for labourers and others employed in the informal sector.

1674) **Banaganapalle**, which got Geographical Indication (GI) registration from the GI Registry in Chennai in May 2017, is a variety of _____ grown in Andhra Pradesh.

- a) Orange
- b) Guava
- c) Tobacco
- d) Mango

The succulent Banaganapalle mango has got Geographical Indication (GI) registration from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai on May 3, 2017. The Andhra Pradesh government is the registered proprietor of the GI tag for mangoes. GI is covered under the Intellectual Property Rights and the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). A GI tag certifies the origin of a product or produce from a particular region as the quality or other features of the product are attributable only to the place of its origin. The tag helps farmers and manufacturers get a better price in the market.

1675) Which district in Kerala got India's first digitalised panchayat ward in April 2017?

- a) Kochi
- b) Kannur
- c) Kollam
- d) Kottayam

A ward in the Kottayam district of Kerala has become India's first digitalised panchayat ward. Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar inaugurated the website of the first digitalised panchayat ward number 15 of Aymanam gram panchayat on April 29, 2017. The minister also launched its website.

1676) Hindustani classical singer Kishori Amonkar passed away on April 3 at the age of 84. Which state launched 'Gaansaraswati Kishoritai Amonkar Research Fellowship' in Indian classical music in May 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Goa
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The Goa government on May 3, 2017 announced a research fellowship in the name of late legendary Hindustani classical singer Kishori Amonkar. The renowned vocalist passed away on April 3 in Mumbai at the age of 84. "The fellowship scheme would be called Gaansaraswati Kishoritai Amonkar Research Fellowship in Indian classical music," Goa Art & Culture minister Govind Gawade said in Panaji. He said the scheme has already come into force and it will remain till March 31, 2022.

1677) Kashmir Super-40 provides coaching for the youth for Engineering Entrance Exams. It is a joint initiative of the Army and which PSU?

- a) IOC
- b) ONGC Videsh
- c) GAIL
- d) **Petronet LNG**

After achieving success with its Kashmir Super-40 initiative, which provides coaching for the youth for Engineering Entrance Exams, the Indian Army has further expanded the coaching programme to 50 students with immediate effect. Under this flagship scheme, the candidates are selected by the Army through an entrance test and interview process conducted at various colleges throughout the state in the month of April to May. The entire coaching and stay is free for the students and is sponsored under the CSR initiative by Petronet LNG. (April 30, 2017)

1678) Oinam Bembem Devi is India's well-known player in which of the following?

- a) Wrestling
- b) Boxing
- c) Archery
- d) Football

Oinam Bembem Devi, Jeje Lalpekhlu and Gurpreet Sandhu were nominated for Arjuna Awards by the AIFF on May 2, 2017.

1679) International _____ Day was observed on April 29, 2017.

- a) Dance
- b) Poetry
- c) Music
- d) Theatre

International Dance Day was celebrated on April 29, 2017. It was introduced in 1982 by the International Dance Council (CID-Conceal International de la Danse), a UNESCO partner NGO, and is celebrated yearly, on April 29.

1680) Assam got its first Shatabdi Express in April 2017. It will run between Guwahati and _____.

- a) Nagaon
- b) Tinsukia
- c) Dibrugarh
- d) Jorhat

Assam got its first Shatabdi Express that will run between Dibrugarh and Guwahati on April 30, 2017. The 12085/12086 Dibrugarh-Guwahati Shatabdi Express train will operate three days a week.

1681) Who among the following has authored the forthcoming book "Sita: Warrior of Mithila"?

- a) Aman Sethi
- b) Devdutt Pattanaik
- c) Ashwin Sanghi
- d) Amish Tripathi

Amish Tripathi launched cover of his new book titled "Sita: Warrior of Mithila" on May 3, 2017.

1682) A book titled "Women Who Work: Rewriting the Rules for Success" was released in May 2017. It has been written by the daughter of who among the following?

- a) Angela Merkel
- b) Rodrigo Duterte
- c) Theresa May
- d) Donald Trump

"Women Who Work: Rewriting the Rules for Success", written by Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump, was released in May 2017.

1683) Which of the following became the first city in the world to get its own Microsoft font in April 2017?

- a) Seattle
- b) Doha
- c) Dubai
- d) Abu Dhabi

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, launched the Dubai Font on April 30, 2017, the Khaleej Times reported. The font, now available to more than 100 million users of Microsoft Office 365 around the world, is the first font to be created by a city and named after it. Designed for more than 180 countries and 23 languages integrating Arabic and Latin typefaces, the Dubai Font, which will expand over the next phase to include more languages, is aimed to reflect the city's symbols of tolerance, happiness and respect, enabling people to express, communicate and connect.

1684) PM Narendra Modi unveiled translated volumes of Vachanaas. Who among the following social reformers penned them?

- a) Basavanna
- b) Vallabha Acharya
- c) Ramanujar
- d) Thiruvalluvar

PM Narendra Modi unveiled translated volumes of Vachanaas, penned by 12th century Kannada social reformer Basavanna, on Basava Jayanthi on April 29, 2017. 1000th birth anniversary of Vaishnavite saint Sri Ramanuja was celebrated on May 1, 2017. PM Modi released a commemorative stamp on this occasion.

1685) Shanto Mitra died on April 30, 2017 at the age of 75. He had served as India's coach in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Basketball
- c) Football
- d) Badminton

Former Indian national team assistant coach and East Bengal captain Shanto Mitra died in Kolkata on April 30, 2017 at the age of 75. After his retirement, Mitra was part of coaching squad for the Indian team when Yugoslav coach Ciric Milovan was in charge. Along with Karnataka's Amjad Khan, Mitra served as India's assistant coach during the 1984 Nehru Cup competition.

1686) Which milestone in FIFA rankings was achieved by India after 21 years?

- a) In top 150
- b) In top 125
- c) In top 100

d) In top 75

The Indian football team has made it into the top 100 of the FIFA world rankings for the first time in 21 years. As per the updated rankings, released on May 4, 2017, the Stephen Constantine-coached side has climbed a rung and is now placed at the 100th spot along with Nicaragua, Lithuania and Estonia. The last time India were in the top 100 of the rankings was in 1996, with the 94th spot in February 1996 being the country's best ever FIFA ranking. Meanwhile, Brazil remained at the top of the latest FIFA world rankings followed by Argentina and Germany.

1687) Which of the following was crowned I-League champion in April 2017?

- a) East Bengal
- b) Shillong Lajong
- c) Bengaluru FC
- d) Aizawl FC

Aizawl FC were crowned I-League champions on April 30, 2017 in one of the most remarkable achievements in Indian football history. Aizawl FC drew with Shillong Lajong 1-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong as they clinched the title. Mohun Bagan defeated Hyderabad City FC 2-1 in a simultaneous match in Kolkata to settle for a runners-up finish in the tournament.

1688) Who among the following won the WBA (World Boxing Association) heavyweight title in London in April 2017?

- a) William Daley
- b) Robert Gibbs
- c) Pete Rouse
- d) Anthony Joshua

Britain's Anthony Joshua defeated Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko in the WBA (World Boxing Association) heavyweight title at Wembley in London on April 30, 2017, taking victory on an 11th round stoppage. Joshua added the WBA title to his IBF belt.

1689) Who among the following Indian golfers bagged the Yeangder Heritage tournament in Chinese Taipei in April 2017?

- a) Shiv Kapur
- b) Anirban Lahiri
- c) Gaganjeet Bhullar
- d) Chiragh Kumar

Shiv Kapur of India claimed a convincing victory at the inaugural Yeangder Heritage golf tournament in Miaoli (Chinese Taipei) on April 30, 2017. The 35-year-old Kapur defeated Malaysia's Gavin Green at the National Golf Country Club.

1690) Who among the following won the World Snooker Championship organised in UK in May 2017?

- a) Ali Carter
- b) Mark Selby
- c) John Higgins
- d) Stephen Hendry

England's Mark Selby successfully defended his world snooker championship in Sheffield (United Kingdom) on May 1, 2017, beating four-time champion John Higgins 18 frames to 15 in a thrilling contest.

1691) Who among the following Indian table tennis players won the Seamaster 2017 ITTF Challenge Chile Open in April 2017?

- a) Soumyajit Ghosh
- b) Anthony Amalraj
- c) Sourav Saha
- d) G. Sathyan

Soumyajit Ghosh as he bagged both the singles and doubles gold at the Seamaster 2017 ITTF Challenge Chile Open in Santiago on April 30, 2017. Ghosh defeated compatriot Anthony Amalraj 4-2 (8-11 13-11 11-6 11-9 4-11 11-7) in the

men's singles final to clinch the title, he combined with Amalraj earlier to win the men's doubles title. The Indian duo defeated Philipp Floritz (Bulgaria) and Hunor Szocs (Romania) 4-0 (13-11 10-12 14-12 11 -9).

1692) Valtteri Bottas won the Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix on April 30, 2017. Where was the race held?

- a) St. Petersburg
- b) Volgograd
- c) Samara
- d) Sochi

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at Sochi on April 30, 2017.

1693) Who among the following became the first Indian woman to clinch the Asian Squash title in Chennai in April 2017?

- a) Aparajitha Balamurukan
- b) Anaka Alankamony
- c) Joshna Chinappa
- d) Sachika Ingale

1694) Who among the following Indian men's player lost in the final of Asian Squash Championship in Chennai May 2017?

- a) Kush Kumar
- b) Saurav Ghosal
- c) Harinderpal Sandhu
- d) Ramit Tandon

Joshna Chinappa on April 30, 2017 scripted history by becoming the first Indian to clinch the Asian Squash title with a 13-15, 12-10, 11-13, 11-4, 11-4 win over compatriot Dipika Pallikal Karthik in the women's final in Chennai. In the men's final, however, Saurav Ghosal went down fighting against Hong Kong's Max Lee 11-5, 4-11, 8-11, 7-11 to finish second best.

1695) The Supreme Court has appointed a three-member commission to review pay structures of judges with respect to civil servants. Who among the following former judges is the head?

- a) Justice P. Venkatarama Reddy
- b) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- c) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- d) Justice Madan B. Lokur

The Supreme Court has appointed a three-member commission headed by its former judge Justice P. Venkatarama Reddy to review and rationalise the pay structures and other emoluments of judicial officers of the subordinate judiciary across the country with respect to civil servants. (May 11, 2017)

1696) Which of the following was launched by the Election Commission in May 2017 with a toll-free number for voters to call for any query of complaint?

- a) National Call Centre
- b) National Alert Centre
- d) National Contact Centre

The Election Commission on May 11, 2017 announced the launch of National Contact Centre with a toll-free No. 1800111950. Callers can enquire on subjects such as elections, voting dates, electoral roll, etc. and lodge a complaint by simply dialling in to the toll free number. Also executives can make outbound calls for educating the electors and spreading voter awareness.

1697) Which of the following was launched by the Prime Minister in May 2017 to serve as a digital repository for case-related information for the Supreme Court?

- a) Indian Case Management Information System
- b) Important Case Management Information System
- c) Individual Case Management Information System
- d) Integrated Case Management Information System

PM Modi on May 10, 2017 launched the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) to help the Supreme Court go paperless. The new system, aimed at serving as a digital repository for case-related information, can be accessed at www.sci.gov.in.

1698) The Union Home Ministry NGOs to open their accounts in banks that:

- a) Have low levels of NPAs
- b) Have core banking facilities
- c) Have branches in both rural and urban areas
- d) Have branches in areas where they operate

In a move to keep a tab on errant NGOs, especially those receiving funds from foreign countries, the Union Home Ministry has asked as many as 5,845 organisations to open their accounts in banks that have core banking facilities and furnish details so that security agencies could have real-time access in case of any discrepancies. The ministry took the decision after it found that many NGOs have bank accounts in cooperative banks or state government-owned apex banks that do not have core-banking facilities. (May 11, 2017)

1699) Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has declared 2018 as the Year of the:

- a) War survivor
- b) War martyred
- c) War disabled
- d) War displaced

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on May 7, 2017 attended a disabled soldiers rally organised by the Delhi-based War Wounded Foundation at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, **declared 2018 as the “year of war disabled”, a defence release said.**

1700) The 112 feet tall bust of ‘Adiyogi’ Lord Shiva on the outskirts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu was declared the world’s largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records recently. It was set up by which of the following organisations?

- a) Sahaj Yog
- b) Isha Yoga Foundation
- c) Chinmay Mission
- d) Yogoda Satsang Math

The 112 feet tall bust of ‘Adiyogi’ Lord Shiva at the Isha Yoga Foundation led by spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev has been declared the world’s largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records. The Guinness had made the announcement in its website recently. The bust at the Isha Yoga Foundation on the outskirts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24, 2017.

1701) Who among the following is the author of ‘The Small-Town Sea’ released recently?

- a) Jeet Thayil
- b) Anees Salim
- c) Pankaj Mishra
- d) Jerry Pinto

1702) Who among the following well-known sportspersons is the author of ‘Unprecedented: The Masters and Me’ released recently?

- a) Roger Federer
- b) LeBron James
- c) Tiger Woods
- d) Kevin Durant

1703) Who among the following is the author of the novel ‘Baaz’ released recently?

- a) Sonora Jha
- b) Anuja Chauhan
- c) Nilanjana Roy

d) Anita Nair

1704) Who among the following was named as the next Chancellor of JNU by the HRD Ministry in May 2017?

- a) Bibek Debroy
- b) U. R. Rao
- c) V. K. Saraswat
- d) Avinash Chander

The HRD Ministry selected former DRDO chief Vijay Kumar Saraswat as the next chancellor of JNU. He will be replacing ISRO chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan whose five-year term ended on March 30. Saraswat was conferred Padma Shri in 1998, Padma Bhushan in 2013 and had served as a chief scientific advisor to the Minister of Defence.

1705) The World Health Organisation appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its goodwill ambassador for which of the following in South-East Asia region in May 2017?

- a) Malaria
- b) Leprosy
- c) Diabetes
- d) Hepatitis

The World Health Organisation on May 12, 2017 appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its goodwill ambassador for hepatitis in South-East Asia region to boost awareness and intensify action to arrest the epidemic. Announcing the decision in New Delhi, WHO's Regional Director for South-East Asia, Poonam Khetrpal Singh termed it a "historic association".

1706) Who among the following was appointed as the new Tourism Secretary in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle announced on May 10, 2017?

- a) Anant Kumar Singh
- b) Jagdish Prasad Meena
- c) Rashmi Verma
- d) Leena Nair

The government made several appointments in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle announced on May 10, 2017. These include-Sanjay Mitra: Defence secretary, Rajive Kumar: Road Transport and Highways Secretary, Rashmi Verma: Tourism secretary, Anant Kumar Singh: Textiles secretary, Jagdish Prasad Meena: Consumer Affairs secretary, Leena Nair: Tribal Affairs Secretary, Rakesh Srivastava: Women and Child Development Secretary.

1707) Who among the following will be India's Permanent Representative to the Organisation for Prevention of Chemical Weapons based in The Hague?

- a) S. Jaishankar
- b) Pavan K. Varma
- c) Sandeep Kumar
- d) Venu Rajamony

Venu Rajamony, named India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, will also be India's Permanent Representative to the Organisation for Prevention of Chemical Weapons based in The Hague and cover the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and other international organisations based in the Netherlands. He is expected to take up his new assignment in the first week of June 2017.

1708) Who among the following was the first woman chief justice of a state high court in the country? She died on May 6 at the age of 86.

- a) Justice Ruma Pal
- b) Justice Leila Seth
- c) Justice Usha Mehra
- d) Justice Gyan Sudha Misra

Eminent jurist and the first woman chief justice of a state high court in the country Justice (retd) Leila Seth passed away in Noida at the age of 86 on May 6, 2017. Justice Seth was first woman judge of the Delhi High Court and also the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

1709) Lt Umar Fayaz Parray, who was killed in Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir in May 2017, belonged to which regiment?

- a) Kumaon Regiment
- b) Dogra Regiment
- c) The Grenadiers
- d) Rajputana Rifles

Militants kidnapped Lt Umar Fayaz Parray, a 23-year old lieutenant in the army, who was on leave and was unarmed, from his uncle's house in Shopian district on the night of May 9, 2017 and later killed him, the Army said on May 10, 2017. Parray, who was commissioned as lieutenant on December 10, 2016, was posted at the Army's 2 Rajputana Rifles at Akhnoor.

1710) Eighth meeting of the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) was held in New Delhi in May 2017. Who among the following is the Chairperson of IDF-OI?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Welcoming the new members at the eighth meeting of the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI), External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj sought their support and guidance in encouraging and enabling overseas Indians to make contributions, an official release said in New Delhi on May 12, 2017. IDF-OI is a not-for-profit trust set up by the government to facilitate contributions by the overseas Indian community to social and development projects in India. Swaraj is the chairperson of the IDF-OI.

1711) Indian students are the second largest beneficiary of the **Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme**. These scholarships are given by:

- a) AU
- b) OAS
- c) SAARC
- d) EU

Indian students, with 63 scholarships, are the second largest beneficiary of the European Union-funded Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme. Around 5,000 Indian students have already received the scholarships between 2004 and 2016. .

1712) India was on May 8, 2017 unanimously elected as the President of UN-Habitat. It is also known as United Nations Human _____ Programme.

- a) Rehabilitation
- b) Development
- c) Settlements
- d) Dimension

1713) UN-Habitat is headquartered at:

- a) Algiers
- b) Addis Ababa
- c) Nairobi
- d) Tunis

India was on May 8, 2017 unanimously elected as the President of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), an organ of the United Nations' Organisation (UNO) that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements across the world. Since the UN-Habitat came into being in 1978, it is only the third time that India has been elected to lead this important organization after 2007 and 1988. Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation M. Venkaiah Naidu chaired the four day meeting of the 58-member Governing Council of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya on May 8-11, 2017. "Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda" was the theme of meeting. UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

1714) Which of the following hosted the 50th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in May 2017?

- a) Kyoto
- b) Saitama

- c) Osaka
- d) Yokohama

1715) Who among the following is the President of Asian Development Bank?

- a) Kikuo Iwata
- b) Hiroshi Tanaka
- c) Masayoshi Son
- d) Takehiko Nakao

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has asked the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to set up a regional hub in New Delhi for the South Asia region to expedite the process of project preparation and delivery for India and other countries in the region. He was addressing the Board of Governors of the ADB at its 50th Annual Meeting at Yokohama, Japan on May 7, 2017. ADB was established in August 1966 and is headquartered in Manila. Takehiko Nakao is the current President of ADB.

1716) What is the joint military exercise between India and Indonesia in May 2017 named?

- a) SIMBEX
- b) Foal Eagle
- c) Iron Claw
- d) CORPAT

The 29th series of India–Indonesia CORPAT is scheduled from 09 – 25 May 17 with the opening ceremony being conducted from 09 -12 May 17 at Port Blair under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command.

1717) Who among the following lawyers is representing India before International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case?

- a) Gopal Subramaniam
- b) Harish Salve
- c) Lalit Bhasin
- d) Satish Maneshinde

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on May 11, 2017 directed Pakistan to participate and cooperate in the proceedings on the Kulbhushan Jadhav case filed by India to stop his execution. Earlier on May 10, 2017, the ICJ had stayed the hanging of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of “spying”. **Harish Salve**, Senior Advocate is representing India before International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case.

1718) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Bert Koenders of Netherlands who came on an official visit to New Delhi in May 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Dharmendra Pradhan
- d) Sushma Swaraj

1719) **DIWALI** refers to Dutch-Indo Water _____ Leadership Initiative.

- a) Alliance
- b) Association
- c) Assistance
- d) Application

India and the Netherlands on May 9, 2017 voiced deep concern over the threat of terrorism and resolved to work bilaterally and globally to fight the menace in all its forms and manifestations during talks between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Dutch counterpart Bert Koenders in New Delhi. In the context of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Swaraj appreciated the ongoing joint project **LOTUS** [Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Re-use] to clean-up the Barapullah drain in Delhi and the **DIWALI** [Dutch-Indo Water Alliance Leadership Initiative] waste water project in Baroda.

1720) Who among the following selected to succeed Abdul Basit as Pakistan’s new High Commissioner to India in May 2017?

- a) Rizwan Akhtar
- b) Salman Bashir
- c) Jalil Abbas Jilani
- d) Sohail Mahmood

Career diplomat Sohail Mahmood will be Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India and is set to take charge at the end of this month, Foreign Office sources said in Islamabad on May 8, 2017. Mahmood, now Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, will succeed Abdul Basit. The Indian High Commission in Islamabad issued visa to Mahmood on May 5.

1721) Which international treaty signed in 1996 formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States?

- a) Oslo Declaration
- b) Ottawa Declaration
- c) Alaska Declaration
- d) St. Petersburg Declaration

The US will consider its interests first as it reviews its climate change policy, said Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson in a meeting of the eight Arctic nations in Alaska on May 11, 2017. He added that the US would not rush to make a decision and would consider their views. The Arctic Council has eight states as members: Canada, Russia, the U.S., Norway and Denmark (through Greenland), Sweden, Iceland and Finland. The Ottawa Declaration of 1996 formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues.

1722) Which of the following tested its first home-made long-range missile called Bora in May 2017?

- a) Iran
- b) Oman
- c) Lebanon
- d) Turkey

Turkey on May 11, 2017 tested its first home-made long-range missile in its northern region. The missile called Bora was successfully tested in the northern city of Sinop. It has range of 280 kilometres.

1723) Which of the following is the annual military exercise between the Philippines and the United States organised in May 2017?

- a) Eager Lion
- b) Balikatan
- c) Iron Claw
- d) Juniper Cobra

Philippine and US troops begun annual joint exercises "Balikatan" or "Shoulder-to- Shoulder" exercises at the Philippine military's headquarters in metropolitan Manila on May 8, 2017.

1724) Which of the following is the annual military exercise between Jordan and the United States organised in May 2017?

- a) Eager Lion
- b) Balikatan
- c) Iron Claw
- d) Juniper Cobra

Jordan and the United States kicked off annual military exercises on May 7, 2017 known as "Eager Lion", with about 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations taking part, officials said in capital Amman. The exercises end on May 18.

1725) Postal agency of which of the following is issuing a first-of-its-kind postage stamp that changes from the image of a total solar eclipse to that of the Moon when touched?

- a) United States
- b) Canada
- c) Ireland

d) Russia

The US postal agency is issuing a first-of-its-kind postage stamp that morphs when touched - changing from the image of a total solar eclipse to that of the Moon. The Total Solar Eclipse stamps go on sale on June 20, 2017.

1726) Which of the following terrorist groups is active in Nigeria? It recently released 82 of the more than 200 Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped in 2014.

- a) Hamas
- b) Boko Haram
- c) al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)
- d) Abu Sayyaf

Nigeria has said it had negotiated the release of 82 of the more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram Islamists more than three years ago, securing their freedom in a prisoner swap deal. The presidency announced that months of talks with the jihadists had “yielded results”, just over six months after 21 of their classmates were freed with the help of international mediators. “Today 82 more Chibok girls were released,” it said on May 6, 2017. The girls were taken to Abuja to meet President Muhammadu Buhari. The presidency thanked security agencies, the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in helping to secure the release of the girls. Boko Haram fighters stormed the Government Girls Secondary School in the remote town of Chibok on the evening of April 14, 2014 and kidnapped 276 girls.

1727) German police on May 7, 2017 evacuated some 50,000 people from _____ in one of the largest post-war operations to defuse World War II era bombs.

- a) Bonn
- b) Berlin
- c) Hanover
- d) Frankfurt

German police on May 7, 2017 evacuated some 50,000 people from the northern city of Hanover in one of the largest post-war operations to defuse World War II era bombs.

1728) World Migratory Bird Day was observed on:

- a) May 2
- b) May 4
- c) May 6
- d) May 10

The World Migratory Bird Day was observed on May 10, 2017. Initiated in 2006, the World Day is celebrated each year to highlight the need for international cooperation to conserve migratory birds and their habitats for the benefit of mankind. The theme this year is ‘Their Future is Our Future – A Healthy Planet for Migratory Birds and People.

1729) United Nations observed the **Day of Vesak** on May 10, 2017. Which of the following regarding Vesak is/are correct?

- I. Day of on which the Buddha was born
 - II. Day on which the Buddha passed away
 - III. Day on which the Buddha attained enlightenment
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) I, II and III

Observing the Day of Vesak on May 10, 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on the global community to draw inspiration from the journey of Lord Buddha and embrace his message of compassion. **Vesak, the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May**, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 BC that the Buddha was born. It was also on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha attained enlightenment, and it was on this Day that the Buddha in his eightieth year passed away.

1730) The World Health Organization (WHO) observed the Global Road Safety Week from _____, 2017.

- a) May 4 to 10
- b) May 5 to 11
- c) May 6 to 12
- d) May 8 to 14

The World Health Organization (WHO) observed the Global Road Safety Week from May 8 to 14, 2017 urging countries to take measures to curb dangerous driving behaviour.

1731) World Thalassaemia Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 8
- b) May 10
- c) May 12
- d) May 14

With International Thalassaemia Day was observed across the world on May 8, 2017 to raise awareness about this disease, prevention and measures to avoid its transmission. Thalassaemia, a blood disorder that originated in the Mediterranean region, involves the production of abnormal amounts of haemoglobin in the body.

1732) Who among the following was elected as the new President of France in May 2017?

- a) Benoît Hamon
- b) François Fillon
- c) Marine Le Pen
- d) Emmanuel Macron

1733) Presidential elections were organised in France recently. Which of the following statements are correct?

- I. The President is elected directly by the people
 - II. The President is elected for a seven year term
 - III. A president cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only

The 2017 French presidential election was held on 23 April and 7 May 2017. As no candidate won a majority in the first round on 23 April, a run-off was held between the top two candidates, Emmanuel Macron of En Marche! and Marine Le Pen of the National Front (FN), which Macron won by a decisive margin on 7 May. Macron won 66.1 per cent of the vote against 33.9 per cent for Marine Le Pen. The French President is elected for a five year term by universal adult suffrage. A president cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. French presidential elections are conducted via run-off voting which ensures that the elected President always obtains a majority: if no candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the two highest-scoring candidates arrive at a run-off.

1734) Who among the following was elected new President of South Korea in May 2017?

- a) Roh Tae-woo
- b) Moon Jae-in
- c) Hong Jun-pyo
- d) Jung Hong-won

South Korea has chosen its new President. Moon Jae-in was elected by a landslide on May 9, 2017 to replace ousted President Park Geun-hye, who was impeached in December on charges of bribery and abuse of power. Moon, candidate of the Democratic Party of Korea, won the election with 41.1% of the vote.

1735) Who among the following took charge as the new Prime Minister of Bahamas following general elections in May 2017?

- a) Hubert Minnis
- b) Patricia Beneby
- c) Peter Turnquest

d) Marguerite Pindling

1736) Bahamas is an archipelago in which of the following?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean
- d) Atlantic Ocean

Hubert Minnis of the Free National Movement emerged as the next prime minister of Bahamas in general elections that saw incumbent Perry Christie, leader of Progressive Liberal Party, concede defeat in capital Nassau on May 11, 2017. The island archipelago consists of more than 700 islands, cays, and islets in the Atlantic Ocean. It gained independence from Britain in 1973. More than 180,000 people are registered to cast their ballots for the 39 seats in the House of Assembly.

1737) Who among the following was appointed as the Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at UN in May 2017?

- a) David Omand
- b) Brian Bender
- c) Mark Lowcock
- d) Richard Mottram

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on May 12, 2017 appointed Mark Lowcock, the head of Britain's international development department, as the world body's new humanitarian aid chief. His official designation will be the Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at UN.

1738) Which country's husband-wife team set a record as the first couple to conquer the world's 14 highest mountains in May 2017?

- a) Italy
- b) Serbia
- c) Greece
- d) Norway

Two Italian climbers on May 11, 2017 made it to the top of Nepal's Annapurna peak, and at the same time set a record as the first couple to conquer the world's 14 highest mountains. Romano Benet and his wife Nives Meroi, both 55, reached the 8,091-metre (26,545-foot) Annapurna summit, without using oxygen or porters just as they have in all their ascents.

1739) India-born Ustad Raees Khan died in Lahore on May 6, 2017 at the age of 77.

- a) Sitar
- b) Flute
- c) Sarangi
- d) Violin
- e) Shehnai

Legendary sitar player Ustad Raees Khan died in Lahore on May 6, 2017. He was 77. Ustad Raees was born in 1939 in Indore, India in a family of musicians. He belonged to the Mewati Gharana of Indian classical music. He was honoured with Presidential award and Sitara-e- Imtiaz in 2005 and 2017, respectively.

1740) What was the theme of the National Technology Day celebrated on May 11, 2017?

- a) Technology for inclusive and equitable growth
- b) Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth
- c) Technology for indigenous and inclusive growth
- d) Technology for inclusive and sustainable development

National Technology Day was celebrated on May 11, 2017. The Day commemorates India's success in using science and technology to address the challenges facing the country. The first, indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown at Bangalore on this day. Not only this, India also performed successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day. India also executed three successful nuclear tests, carried out at Pokhran, in Rajasthan on May 11. Every year since

1999, the Technology Development Board (TDB) commemorates the day by honouring technological innovations that have added to the nation growth. The board also selects a theme for each year's event, and the 2017 National Technology Day theme is 'Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth'.

1741) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) was in news for recommending the commercial use of genetically modified variety of which crop recently?

- a) Barley
- b) Gram
- c) Linseed
- d) Mustard

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), India's GM crop regulator, on May 11, 2017 recommended the commercial use of genetically modified mustard in a submission to the environment ministry. The GEAC has also put a number of conditions to the ministry while recommending its commercial use. GEAC, which comes under the purview of the environment ministry, reviewed a report of a sub-committee constituted to look at the safety angle. The ministry has to now take a final call on this.

1742) National Florence Nightingale Awards were presented to 35 nursing personnel by the President on International Nurses Day on _____, 2017.

- a) May 10
- b) May 11
- c) May 12
- d) May 13

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Florence Nightingale Awards to 35 nurses from across the country on the occasion of International Nurses Day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 12, 2017. The Award carries Rs.50000 cash, a certificate, a citation certificate and a Medal.

1743) "Mukti Bhawan", directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani, won the Best Film at the _____ Indian Film Festival organised from April 30 to May 7, 2017.

- a) Boston
- b) Toronto
- c) Montreal
- d) New York

"Mukti Bhawan", directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani, won the Best Film at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) organised from April 30 to May 7, 2017. The fest also saw Konkona Sen Sharma win two awards -- Best Director for "A Death In The Gunj" and Best Actress for "Lipstick Under My Burkha".

1744) Who among the following won the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal in the Young Scientist category for 2017 for his research on capturing carbon dioxide and preventing it from getting released into the atmosphere?

- a) Rishikesh Narayanan
- b) Parthasarathi Mukherjee
- c) Avinash Kumar Agarwal
- d) Vikram Vishal

Vikram Vishal, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at IIT Bombay, won the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal in the Young Scientist category for 2017. The award carries a bronze medal and a cash prize of Rs 25,000, a release from the IIT Bombay said on May 8, 2017. His research looks at capturing the carbon dioxide released when coal is burnt or created as a by-product in other industries and injecting it back into the rock deep underground so that it is not released into the atmosphere.

1745) Who among the following won the 2016 Wisden-MCC Cricket Photograph of the Year for an image taken by him in Srinagar?

- a) Waseem Ahmad
- b) Arslan Qadir

- c) Saqib Majeed
- d) Umair Sarfaraz

Saqib Majeed, a Srinagar-based freelance photographer, pocketed the prestigious 2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket Photograph of the Year for a stunning image, which captured boys playing cricket in the outskirts of the city, clicked by him. Saqib Majeed, an engineer by profession clicked the award-winning picture at the Nishat garden in Srinagar. Every year MCC publishes a book titled Wisden Cricketer Almanack, which includes best sports pictures from across the globe. This year's edition includes Majeed's picture who was chosen among 450 participants. (May 6, 2017)

1746) Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, was conferred with the World Health Organisation's gold medal in May 2017. He won this medal for his work in elimination of which disease across the globe?

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Diabetes
- c) Leprosy
- d) Malaria

Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, has been conferred with the World Health Organisation's gold medal at the Global Partners Meeting on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), held in Geneva. Director General, WHO, Dr Margaret Chan awarded the gold medal, which bears the inscription "Health for All," to Sasakawa for his eminent contribution as WHO Goodwill Ambassador since 2001 for leprosy elimination across the globe.

1747) Which of the following statements about Masala bonds is not correct?

- a) The exchange rate fluctuation risk is borne by the issuer
- b) They are issued by Indian entities only
- c) Overseas investors invest in them
- d) They raise funds in Indian currency

The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on May 11, 2017 launched the NHAI Masala Bond issue at the London Stock Exchange (NSE). The initial benchmarked issue of INR 1500 crore was upsized to INR 3000 crore at a price yielding 7.30% annually in view of the highly positive response from the investor market. Gadkari started the day's trading at LSE on May 11, and also addressed the media at India House, London.

Masala bonds are debt instruments issued by Indian corporates for raising money from overseas investors. Before masala bonds, corporates have had to rely on avenues such as external commercial borrowings or ECBs. In case of ECBs, the entity raising money is faced with a currency risk - they have to be raised and repaid in dollar terms. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers and the repayment is also in Rupees. So risk of currency fluctuation is borne by the buyer not the seller (issuer).

1748) Which government-owned entity following successfully launched an Initial Public Offer (IPO) to raise Rs. 1200 crore in May 2017?

- a) HUDCO
- b) NHAI
- c) SIDBI
- d) NHPC

The HUDCO Initial Public Offering (IPO) saw an exceptional level of interest and the Issue as a whole was oversubscribed by more than 79 times. Bids worth Rs. 97,000 crores were received for an issue size of Rs. 1,200 crores. The HUDCO IPO was open for subscription from May 8 to 11, 2017. The price band was fixed at Rs. 56– Rs.60 per equity share of the face value of Rs.10, with a discount of Rs. 2 for retail investors and the employees of the Company.

1749) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) in May 2017?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Rakesh Mohan
- c) Vikram Limaye
- d) Ashish Kumar Chauhan

South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) has appointed BSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Ashishkumar Chauhan as the new Chairman at the SAFE conference in Mumbai on May 12, 2017.

1750) Who among the following quit as member of the Bank Board Bureau (BBB) recently?

- a) H. N. Sinor
- b) Anil K. Khandelwal
- c) Rupa Kudwa
- d) All the above

In a surprise move, veteran banker H N Sinor has quit as member of **Bank Board Bureau which was constituted in 2016 by the Prime Minister to advise the government on top-level appointments in state-owned lenders.** After exit of Sinor, Anil K Khandelwal, former CMD at Bank of Baroda and Rupa Kudwa, former MD & CEO at CRISIL are the only two members left at BBB.

1751) The government announced a change in the base year of WPI (Wholesale Priced Index) from 2004-05 to ____ in May 2017.

- a) 2008-09
- b) 2009-10
- c) 2010-11
- d) **2011-12**

The government on May 12, 2017 announced a change in the base year of All-India WPI (Wholesale Priced Index) from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The aim is to align the WPI with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

New Weighting Structure has been introduced. Primary Articles, Fuel & Power and Manufactured Products had weights of 20.12%, 14.91% and 64.97% respectively when the base year was 2004-05. In the new base year, 2011-12, Primary Articles, Fuel & Power and Manufactured Products have weights of 22.62%, 13.15% and 64.23% respectively.

The index basket of the new series has a **total of 697 items** including 117 items for Primary Articles, 16 items for Fuel & Power and 564 items for Manufactured Products.

Some items have been included while some others deleted from all three groups. As many as 199 new items, including natural gas, tissue paper, conveyer belt, rubber tread, steel cables, pointed gourd, cucumber, bitter gourd and jack fruit, are included in the new series of WPI to make the inflation data more broad-based. While 146 items, including Coke (Coal), papad, video CD player, khandsari and light diesel oil, were dropped under the new series.

1752) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in April 2017?

- a) 2.85%
- b) 3.85%
- c) 4.85%
- d) 5.85%

Inflation based on the wholesale price index slipped to a four—month low of 3.85 per cent in April as both food articles and manufactured items showed cooling in prices, government data revealed on May 12, 2017. The WPI inflation readings, reflecting the annual rate of price rise, as per the new base stood at 5.29 per cent in March, 5.51 per cent in February, 4.26 per cent in January, 2.10 per cent in December and 1.82 per cent in November.

1753) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for April 2017?

- a) 1.99%
- b) 2.99%
- c) 3.99%
- d) 4.99%

India's retail inflation decelerated to 2.99 per cent in April 2017 from 3.89 per cent for March 2017 as food prices reported a massive plunge, official data showed on May 12, 2017. According to data furnished by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, retail inflation rate in April 2017, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was lower from 5.47% recorded during April 2016.

1754) The government announced a change in the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2004-05 to _____ in May 2017.

- a) 2008-09
- b) 2009-10
- c) 2010-11
- d) 2011-12

The government on May 12, 2017 announced a change in the base year of the all-India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The objective is to not only reflect the changes in the industrial sector but to also align it with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

IIP in the revised series will continue to represent the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors. Some items have been included while some others deleted from all three sectors. In the new series of IIP, items like gutka, calculators and colour TV picture tubes have been removed, while steroids and refined palm oil are among those that have found place in it. The total number of items in the index has increased to 809 as compared to 620 earlier.

1755) What was the change in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in March 2017?

- a) +2.7%
- b) +1.5%
- c) +0.8%
- d) -1%

Industrial output growth slipped to 2.7 per cent in March, chiefly because of poor performance of the manufacturing sector, showed the IIP data based on the revised base year of 2011-12. The index of industrial production (IIP) growth was 5.5 per cent in March 2016. For 2016-17, factory output grew by 5 per cent as against 3.4 per cent in 2015-16.

1756) The levy on air tickets on major routes imposed to fund the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAN has been reduced to _____ from June 1, 2017.

- a) Rs. 3,000 per flight
- b) Rs. 4,000 per flight
- c) Rs. 5,000 per flight
- d) Rs. 6,000 per flight

In a relief to passengers flying on major domestic routes, the Civil Aviation Ministry on May 9, 2017 decided to significantly reduce the levy on air tickets imposed to fund the Centre's new regional connectivity scheme UDAN. From June 1, it will only charge a uniform levy of Rs. 5,000 per flight on major routes, down from Rs. 7,500-Rs. 8,500 per flight it had ordered to charge earlier. The move will come as a relief to passengers taking flights on major domestic routes as each passenger will have to bear about Rs. 30 as cess against about Rs. 50 as per government's previous order in November 2016.

1757) Which of the following was in news in May 2017 for its report titled 'India Leaps Ahead: Transformative Mobility Solutions for All'?

- a) CMIE
- b) NCAER
- c) FICCI
- d) NITI Aayog

Electric vehicles are the future of India's transportation system and could save billions of dollars in fuel cost while also reducing pollution, said the report titled 'India Leaps Ahead: Transformative Mobility Solutions for All'. The report, jointly published with Rocky Mountain Institute, was released by NITI Aayog on May 12, 2017. The report is based on inputs from 75 stakeholders across government and private sectors which came together in February to share their vision.

1758) What is the foodgrain production in 2016-17 according to the third Advance Estimates of production of major crops released in May 2017?

- a) 243.78 million tonnes

- b) 253.78 million tonnes
- c) 263.78 million tonnes
- d) 273.78 million tonnes

1759) Which of the following foodgrains' output has improved over 2015-16 according to the third Advance Estimates of production of major crops in 2016-17 released in May 2017?

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Pulses
- d) Oilseeds
- e) All the above

The third Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 was released on May 9, 2017 by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. As per Third Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 273.38 million tonnes which is higher by 8.34 million tonnes (3.15%) than the previous record production of Foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.

Highlights: • Total production of **Rice** is estimated at record 109.15 million tonnes which is also a new record. • Production of **Wheat**, estimated at 97.44 million tonnes is also a record. • Production of **Coarse Cereals** estimated at a new record level of 44.39 million tonnes. • Total production of **pulses** during 2016-17 is estimated at 22.40 million tonnes which is also a record. • Total **Oilseeds** production is estimated at 32.52 million tonnes, 28.80% more than in previous year. • Production of **Sugarcane** is estimated at 306.03 million tonnes which is lower by 12.17% than the last year's production. • **Cotton** has seen higher production of 32.58 million bales (of 170 kg each), i.e. an increase of 8.57%, during 2015-16. • Production of **Jute & Mesta** estimated at 10.27 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower (-2.39%) than their production during the last year.

1760) Which of the following is the internet-based interface launched by the government in May 2017 to provide solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector?

- a) e-Krishi Sewa
- b) e-Krishi Saral
- c) e-Krishi Mitra
- d) e-Krishi Samvad

The e-Krishi Samvad, an internet-based interface that will provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector, was launched by Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in New Delhi on May 11, 2017. People can directly connect to the ICAR website <http://icar.org.in> and get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS. Those who have internet facility on the mobile phone can also avail this facility.

1761) The government has set up a task force to recommend ways to deal with employment data discrepancies and come up with reliable solutions to promote job creation. This task force will be headed by:

- a) Arvind Subramanian
- d) Deepak Parekh
- a) Bimal Jalan
- c) Arvind Panagariya

The government has set up a task force headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya to recommend ways to deal with employment data discrepancies and come up with reliable solutions to promote job creation. "A task force has been created under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dr Arvind Panagariya with Labour Secretary M Sathiyavathy, Secretary Statistics Dr T C A Anant, Prof Pulak Ghosh of NITI Aayog and Manish Sabharwal (Member RBI Board) as members," Prime Ministers' Office said in a statement on May 9, 2017.

1762) Who among the following bankers received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship in USA in May 2017?

- a) Aditya Puri
- b) Uday Kotak
- c) Arundhati Bhattacharya

d) Chanda Kochhar

ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar became the **first Indian woman to be conferred with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship**. The award was conferred by the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC on May 10, 2017.

1763) The North Eastern Frontier Railway started Shatabdi Express train service between Naharlagun in _____ and Guwahati in Assam in May 2017.

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

The North Eastern Frontier Railway (NF Railway) introduced super fast Shatabdi Express train service between Naharlagun and Guwahati. The train was flagged by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu from Naharlagun Railway Station on May 7, 2017. The train will depart from Naharlagun at 5am on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It will leave for Naharlagun from Guwahati on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

1764) The 'Chief Minister's Free Diagnostics Services' was launched in which state in May 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Assam
- c) Kerala
- d) Telangana

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on May 11, 2017 launched the **'Chief Minister's Free Diagnostics Services' in Guwahati. All patients of government health institutions such as public health centres (PHC), Child Health Centres and District Hospital will be provided X- ray and Laboratory services free of cost.**

1765) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of Bharat Sevashram Sangha in which state in May 2017?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of Bharat Sevashram Sangha being organized at Shillong, Meghalaya on May 7, 2017 through video conferencing. Bharat Sevashram Sangha was founded in 1917 by the Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj.

1766) Which state launched five mobile quality control labs in May 2017 that will evaluate the quality of various central and state government road and infrastructure projects in five districts?

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

Tamil Nadu government on May 10, 2017 launched five mobile quality control labs that will evaluate the quality of various central and state government road and infrastructure projects in five districts. Chief Minister K Palaniswami flagged off the mobile quality control units, valued at Rs 2.35 crore, at an event held in Chennai. These mobile labs were equipped with over 20 required tools and equipment that could enable officials to undertake 15 types of quality assessments on the spot. These five units will be used in Tiruvallur, Erode, Madurai, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli districts.

1767) The country's first bio refinery plant which produces ethanol from variety of biomass was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari on May 7, 2017 in which district?

- a) Pune
- b) Satara
- c) Nashik
- d) Nanded

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari on May 7, 2017 inaugurated the country's first bio refinery plant which produces ethanol from variety of biomass. The project is situated at Rahu in Pune district. The plant can

produce one million litre of ethanol per annum by processing a variety of agro-residue like rice and wheat straw, cotton stalk, cane trash, corn cobs with superior product yields.

1768) Who among the following Indian players became the highest wicket-taker in women's ODIs in May 2017?

- a) Mithali Raj
- b) Ekta Bisht
- c) Archana Das
- d) Jhulan Goswami

Leading woman fast bowler Jhulan Goswami became the highest wicket-taker in the history of ODIs as India beat South Africa by seven wickets in the Women's Quadrangular Series in Potchefstroom (South Africa) on May 9, 2017. Goswami, thus, eclipsed the decade-long record in the name of Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick. Goswami claimed her 181st victim in her 153rd match, breaking Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets from 109 matches.

1769) The only gold medal for India at the Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017 Shooting Championship in Czech Republic in May 2017 was won by:

- a) Heena Sidhu
- b) Neeraj Kumar
- c) Harpreet Singh
- d) Deepak Sharma

Heena Sidhu claimed a bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol as India ended the Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017 Shooting championships with seven medals on May 7, 2017. India returned from the championship in Czech Republic with a haul of one gold, two silver and four bronze medals. There were also impressive performances by the Indian men's 25m Standard Pistol team, which swept the medals in the event, with Neeraj Kumar winning gold, Harpreet Singh silver and Deepak Sharma the bronze medal. Veteran women's Rifle shooter Tejaswini Sawant also won silver in the 50m Rifle Prone event while Pemba Tamang won bronze in the Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol.

1770) Which of the following statements on Sultan Azlan Shah Cup men's hockey tournament that concluded in Malaysia in May 2017 are correct?

- I. Great Britain won the tournament
- II. India was the losing finalist
- III. Australia won the bronze

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

Great Britain won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title with a rousing 4–3 victory in the final against defending champions Australia in Ipoh (Malaysia) on May 6, 2017. India outplayed New Zealand 4-0 to claim the bronze medal.

1771) Divya Kakran (69 kg) won silver medal at the Asian ____ Championship in New Delhi in May 2017.

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing
- c) Wrestling
- e) Weightlifting

Three Indian women wrestlers Sakshi Malik (60 kg), Vinesh Phogat (55 kg) and Divya Kakran (69 kg) bagged silver medals in their respective categories in the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi on May 12, 2017 after losing out their final bouts.

1772) Sumit Sangwan (91 kg) won silver medal at the Asian ____ Championship organised in Tashkent in May 2017.

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing
- c) Wrestling
- e) Weightlifting

Shiva Thapa (60kg) and Sumit Sangwan (91kg) won silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championship in Tashkent on May 6, 2017. Shiva lost to local favourite Elnur Abduraimov while Sumit lost to Kazakhstan's Vassiliy Levit.

1773) Who among the following retired Indian judges was elected head of FIFA Governance Committee in May 2017?

- a) Justice P. Venkatarama Reddy
- b) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- c) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- d) Justice Madan B. Lokur

Justice (Retd.) Mukul Mudgal was elected as head of FIFA's Governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress in Bahrain's capital city of Manama on May 11, 2017.

1774) US-based National Basketball Association (NBA) on May 9, 2017 opened its first academy in India at:

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida
- c) Gurugram
- d) Faridabad

The National Basketball Association (NBA) on May 9, 2017 opened its first academy in India. An elite basketball training center at Jaypee Greens Integrated Sports Complex in Greater Noida was officially thrown open for the upcoming male and female talent of the country. Twenty-one elite male prospects, who were selected following a three-month nationwide talent search, will receive scholarships and training at NBA Academy India

1775) The cabinet approved maternity benefit programme in May 2017. The Rs. 5000 cash incentive will be given to mothers in how many instalments?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

The cabinet on May 17, 2017 gave its nod to the maternity benefit programme. The mother will receive the initial Rs 1,000 after early registration of pregnancy, Rs 2,000 after at least one antenatal check-up (after six months of pregnancy) and Rs 2,000 after the child birth is registered and has received the first cycle of BCG, OPV, DPT and Hepatitis-B or its equivalent. The eligible beneficiaries would continue to receive the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards Maternity Benefit under existing programmes after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman will get Rs 6,000.

1776) The government introduced pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in May 2017. PCV will protect children against pneumonia and:

- a) Ebola
- b) Rubella
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Meningitis

J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on May 13, 2017 announced the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. PCV protects children against severe forms of pneumococcal disease, such as pneumonia and meningitis.

1777) Health Ministry's programme of Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) covers all of the following except:

- a) Cervix cancer
- b) Oral cavity cancer
- c) Breast cancer
- d) Cardiovascular Diseases

1778) Health Ministry's programme of Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is applicable to everyone above the age of:

- a) 25 years
- b) 30 years
- c) 35 years
- d) 40 years

J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the National Training for Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in New Delhi on May 16, 2017. The NCDs covered are: hypertension, diabetes and three common cancers: cervix, breast and oral cavity. Under the universal screening of common NCDs program, everyone above the age of 30 years will be screened in the 100 districts of the country in the first phase. Gradually, it will cover the entire country and around 50 crore people will be covered so that timely intervention can reduce the disease burden in the country.

1779) National _____ Day was observed on May 16, 2017.

- a) Yellow fever
- b) Dengue
- c) Japanese encephalitis
- d) Malaria

National Dengue Day was observed on May 16, 2017 by AIIMS, New Delhi, and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) in New Delhi.

1780) Which of the following ranked India 154th in its GBD (Global Burden of Disease) rankings for healthcare access and quality (HAQ) in May 2017?

- a) Bildt
- b) The Lancet
- c) Der Spiegel
- d) Atlantic Monthly

Newborns in India have a lesser chance of survival than babies born in Afghanistan and Somalia, according to the latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study published in the medical journal The Lancet. In the GBD rankings for healthcare access and quality (HAQ), India has fallen 11 places, and now ranks 154 out of 195 countries.

1781) A meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in New Delhi on May 15-16, 2017. Which of the following was the winning slogan on Disaster Risk Reduction?

- a) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Swacch Bharat Ki Pukar
- b) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Poora Bharat Bhagidar
- c) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Saara Bharat Jimmedar
- d) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Swacch Bharat Jimmedar
- e) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Jan Jan Bana Bhagidar

A two-day multi-stakeholders' second meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction concluded in New Delhi on May 16, 2017. The event was attended by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the NPDRR, Members of NDMA and over 1,000 delegates representing various stakeholders in the Disaster Management also attended. On the occasion, prize was given to the winner of the national slogan contest on Disaster Risk Reduction with an appreciation certificate and cash prize of Rs. 25,000. The winning slogan was, - "Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Poora Bharat Bhagidar".

1782) The Indian Army on May 18, 2017 received the first two M-777 A-2 ultra light howitzers from the US as part of an order for 145 guns. These have been manufactured by:

- a) Boeing
- b) BAE Systems
- c) Elbit Systems
- d) Soltam Systems

The Indian Army on May 18, 2017 received the first two ultra light howitzers from the US as part of an order for 145 long-range guns. The M-777 A-2 ultra-light howitzers (ULH), having a maximum range of 30 km and manufactured by the BAE Systems, were being taken to Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan for test firing.

1783) Indian Navy's warship INS Sharda saved a Liberian vessel MV Lord Mountbatten on May 16, 2017 from piracy in:

- a) Gulf of Aden
- b) Straits of Hormuz
- c) Gulf of Mannar
- d) Gulf of Aqaba

The Indian Navy on May 16, 2017 thwarted a piracy attempt on a Liberian vessel in the Gulf of Aden, in a swift operation involving marine commandos and an armed chopper. The Navy's warship INS Sharda, deployed in Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy mission, swung into action after it received a distress call from MV Lord Mountbatten.

1784) Which of the following was the month-long military exercise conducted by the Indian Army's Chetak Corps in Rajasthan?

- a) Exercise Thar Shakti
- b) Exercise Thar Prahari
- c) Exercise Thar Rakshak
- d) Exercise Thar Himmat

A month-long military exercise code named "Exercise Thar Shakti" was conducted by the Indian Army's Chetak Corps in Rajasthan. The exercise culminated on May 15, 2017.

1785) Which of the following organised Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise named as "KARAVALI KARUNYA" in May 2017?

- a) Western Naval Command
- b) Eastern Naval Command
- c) Southern Naval Command

The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise involving multiple agencies and being conducted by Indian Navy's Western Naval Command commenced at Naval Station Karwar on May 18, 2017 with an inaugural session. The exercise named as "KARAVALI KARUNYA" will continue till May 20.

1786) A Committee appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for de-silting of the Ganga submitted its report recently. The committee was headed by:

- a) Madhav Chitale
- b) Rajendra Vijayan
- c) N.M. Govardhan
- d) Radhakrishnan Nair

The Chitale Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has recommended creation of sand registry for de-silting of the Ganga. This was stated in a statement from the Ministry of Water Resources on May 19, 2017. The committee, headed by expert member of National Ganga River Basin Authority Madhav Chitale, was constituted in July 2016 by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare guidelines for desilting the Ganga from Bhimgauda in Uttarakhand to Farakka in West Bengal.

1787) Which of the following will be allocated a one hour broadcast slot on the Urdu service of the All India Radio according to a MoU signed in May 2017?

- a) Jamia Millia Islamia University
- b) Aligarh Muslim University
- c) Maulana Azad National Urdu University
- d) Osmania University

All India Radio and Aligarh Muslim University on May 15, 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in different areas of programme production. The MoU was signed by the Deputy Director General of All India Radio and Registrar of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) at Aligarh. As part of the MoU, Aligarh Muslim University will be allocated a one hour broadcast slot on the Urdu service, programmes for which will be produced by the students of the Mass Communication department of the University. Giving details of the MoU, Director External Services Division of the AIR said, the MoU is part of the overall exercise of External Services to revamp its technology and content.

- 1788)** Centre has enhanced the subsidy amount to set-up Community Radio stations across the country from the existing 50 per cent to_____.
- a) 60%
 - b) 65%
 - c) 70%
 - d) 75%

Centre has enhanced the subsidy amount to set-up Community Radio stations across the country from the existing 50 per cent to 75 per cent. This was stated by the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu who reviewed the functioning of various media units of the Ministry in Chennai on May 13, 2017. The Minister said that universities and NGOs will be encouraged to set up community radios and States in the north eastern region will be given subsidy upto 90 per cent.

- 1789)** Who among the following is the author of 'India's Indira - A Centennial Tribute' released recently?
- a) Ramchandra Guha
 - b) Karan Singh
 - c) Arundhati Roy
 - d) Anand Sharma

- 1790)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Which of the following books was authored by him?
- a) Reasons of State
 - b) India: From Midnight to the Millennium
 - c) Nehru: The Invention of India
 - d) Creation to Cremation

- 1791)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. He was elected to Rajya Sabha from which state in 2016?
- a) Madhya Pradesh
 - b) Bihar
 - c) Uttarakhand
 - d) Himachal Pradesh

- 1792)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Which of the following NGOs was founded by him?
- a) Deepalaya
 - b) Parivartan
 - c) Barefoot College
 - d) Jan Abhiyan Parishad

- 1793)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Who among the following has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests?
- a) Harsh Vardhan
 - b) Prakash Javadekar
 - c) Dharmendra Pradhan
 - d) Smriti Irani

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Rajya Sabha member Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2009. He was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2016 from Madhya Pradesh. He was the founder of NGO Jan Abhiyan Parishad. He authored several books such as Shivaji & Suraj, Creation to Cremation; Rafting through a Civilisation: A Travelogue and Beyond Copenhagen; Yes I Can, So Can We.

1794) Former Principal Information Officer I. Ramamohan Rao passed away on May 13, 2017. He served as Media Advisor to who among the following Prime Ministers?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Indira Gandhi
- c) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- d) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Former Principal Information Officer to the Government of India Mr. I. Ramamohan Rao passed away on May 13, 2017. He was 83. Hailing from Karnataka's South Canara district, Rao started his career with the Information Service in the 50s. He rose to become the Principal Information Officer, the top post in the information central information department. Known for his humility and efficient communication skills, Rao had served as media adviser to four former prime ministers — Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandrashekhar and P.V. Narasimha Rao.

1795) Who among the following has taken over as the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University in Rajgir (Bihar) in May 2017?

- a) Maya Paul
- b) Lata Sharma
- c) Sunaina Singh
- d) Shruti Taneja

Sunaina Singh has taken over as the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University in Rajgir (Bihar) on May 15, 2017.

1796) Manoj Soni was appointed as Member of which of the following in May 2017?

- a) Railway Board
- b) CBFC
- c) CCI
- d) UPSC

Gujarat-based educationist Manoj Soni was on May 19, 2017 appointed as a member in the Union Public Service Commission.

1797) Which of the following is not a joint venture partner in Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) that is implementing Ujala scheme of replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs?

- a) Power Grid
- b) NTPC
- c) BHEL
- d) REC

1798) India launched the Ujala scheme of replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs in which European country in May 2017?

- a) Spain
- b) France
- c) Italy
- d) United Kingdom
- e) Portugal

Minister of state for power, coal and renewable energy Piyush Goyal launched Energy Efficiency Services Limited's (EESL) expansion plans in the UK, which have been branded as 'UK Joins Affordable LEDs for All' (UJALA), in London on May 13, 2017. The target for the EESL is to replace 100 million incandescent bulbs with LEDs in the UK by March 2019. The EESL, under the Indian power ministry, is a joint venture of four state-run entities – Power Grid, NTPC, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and the Power Finance Corporation Limited. The National LED programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015. Under this scheme, consumer can buy five LED bulbs at the rate of Rs 20 each by showing monthly electricity bills or ID cards.

1799) 25. Which of the following is Indian Navy's survey vessel that completed survey of the Southern coast of Sri Lanka in May 2017?

- a) INS Rakshak
- b) INS Darshak

- c) INS Anveshak
- d) INS Pradarshak
- e) INS Sarvekshak

INS Darshak of the Eastern Naval Command which has been on a two month deployment to Sri Lanka has successfully completed surveys of Weligama Bay and Southern coast of Sri Lanka. The result of the surveys were formally handed over to the the Commander of Sri Lanka Navy in Colombo on May 12, 2017.

1800) Which of the following was the location of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises) in May 2017?

- a) Arabian Sea
- b) South China Sea
- c) Gulf of Munnar
- d) Bay of Bengal

“SIMBEX-17”, the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Navies of Singapore and India commenced in South China Sea. SIMBEX is an acronym for “Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises”. The scope of the current exercise includes wide-ranging professional interactions during the Harbour Phase scheduled from 18 May to 20 May and a diverse range of operational activities at sea during the Sea Phase to be held from 21 May to 24 May.

1801) Which of the following organised its first International Maritime Review at the Changi Naval Base in May 2017?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Singapore

Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on May 15, 2017 attended Singapore’s first International Maritime Review held at the country’s Changi Naval Base. Admiral Lanba also attended the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) 2017 on May 16.

1802) Who among the following is the President of Palestine?

- a) Salam Fayyad
- b) Sadeq Larijani
- c) Rami Hamdallah
- d) Mahmoud Abbas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on May 16, 2017 held extensive talks on key bilateral, regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process.

1803) India’s preferential trade agreement (PTA) with which of the following countries came into effect from May 16, 2017? It is the first Latin American country with which India has signed a trade pact.

- a) Chile
- b) Uruguay
- c) Peru
- d) Venezuela

Indian exporters will have preferential access to the Chilean market for 1,798 products, including pharmaceuticals, ready-made garments and processed food as part of the expanded preferential trade agreement (PTA) between the two countries, which came into effect from May 16, 2017.

1804) The US government has approved the sale of clothing for the Indian armed forces that will protect soldiers from biological and chemical warfare. JSLIST stands for Joint Service Lightweight _____ Suit Technology.

- a) Immunised
- b) Infrared
- c) Individual
- d) Integrated

The US has approved \$75 million-worth high-tech chemical protective clothing for the Indian armed forces that will protect soldiers from biological and chemical warfare. The technology used is Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST). The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) made a notification to the US Congress on May 10, 2017 after the State Department made a determination in this regard.

1805) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stretches from Gwadar in Pakistan to ____ in Xinjiang province of China.

- a) Ghulja
- b) Urumqi
- c) Turpan
- d) Kashgar

1806) Which of the following hosted the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 14-15, 2017?

- a) Harbin
- b) Beijing
- c) Chengdu
- d) Shanghai

1807) Which SAARC country did not send a delegation to the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation organised in China on May 14-15, 2017?

- a) Nepal
- b) India
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bangladesh

- China hosted 28 heads of state and government in Beijing for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on May 14-15, 2017. The objective of the forum was to promote the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI). Earlier known as “one belt, one road”, B&RI involves China underwriting billions of dollars of infrastructure investment in countries along the old Silk Road linking it with Europe.
- B&RI aims to connect Asia, Europe through a network of roads, railway lines, and ports.
- B&RI consists of two main components, the land-based “Silk Road Economic Belt” (SREB) and ocean-going “Maritime Silk Road” (MSR). The emphasis is on enhancing land as well as maritime routes.
- India did not attend the B&RI forum in opposition to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The 3000 km long CPEC is an important part of B&RI. The corridor stretches from Gwadar in Pakistan to Kashgar in the Chinese region of Xinjiang.
- Gwadar is located on the Arabian Sea coast of Balochistan, a province in south-west Pakistan. Kashgar is located at the centre of China’s only Muslim-majority, Turkic-speaking Xinjiang region. It is populated mainly by ethnic Uighur Muslims.

1808) Which of the following has pledged to contribute \$5 million over five years to the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights office?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Microsoft has pledged to contribute \$5 million over five years to the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights office. Microsoft plans to develop and use technology to help the U.N. Rights office “predict, analyse and respond to critical human rights situations” around the world. The partnership was quietly begun in 2016 but formally launched on May 16, 2017.

1809) The territory of Nagorno–Karabakh has led to clashes between which two countries in Europe recently?

- a) Latvia and Estonia
- b) Russia and Ukraine
- c) Georgia and Belarus
- d) Armenia and Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has destroyed an Armenian air defence system in the breakaway Nagorny Karabakh region, officials in Baku said on May 16, 2017. Baku and Yerevan have feuded over the Nagorny Karabakh region since Armenian separatists seized the territory in a war that claimed some 30,000 lives in the early 1990s and ended in a frail 1994 truce.

1810) The Meeting of Labour & Employment Ministers of which of the following was hosted by Germany on May 18-19, 2017?

- a) G7
- b) EU
- c) G20
- d) G77

The Meeting of Labour & Employment Ministers of G20 was organised on 18-19, May, 2017 at Bad Neuenahr, Germany. Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment led the Indian delegation to the Meet. Topics discussed included "Shaping the Future of Work", "Reducing Gender Gaps in Labour Force Participation", "Labour Market Integration of Regular Migrants and Recognized Refugees" and Boosting Youth Employment."

1811) Which of the following launched LIVE (Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship) – a business incubator and entrepreneurship development center in May 2017?

- a) IIM, Indore
- b) IIM, Bangalore
- c) IIM, Kozhikode
- d) IIM, Lucknow

IIM-Kozhikode on May 15, 2017 launched LIVE (Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship) – a business incubator and entrepreneurship development center.

1812) The World Hypertension Day was observed on____, 2017.

- a) May 14
- b) May 15
- c) May 16
- d) May 17

World Hypertension Day (WHD), observed on May 17, 2017, is a day designated and initiated by The World Hypertension League (WHL), which is itself an umbrella to organizations of 85 national hypertension societies and leagues. The day was initiated to increase the awareness of hypertension. This was especially important because of the lack of appropriate knowledge among hypertensive patients. Since 2006, the WHL has been dedicating May 17 of every year as WHD.

1813) International Museum Day (IMD) was celebrated on_____, 2017.

- a) May 17
- b) May 18
- c) May 19
- d) May 20

1814) What was the theme of the International Museum Day (IMD) celebrated in May 2017?

- a) Museum and memory
- b) Museums and universal heritage
- c) Museum collections make connections
- d) Museums as agents of social change and development
- e) Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums

International Museum Day was observed on May 18. The theme was: 'Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums'

1815) 41. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed on____ 2017.

- a) May 14
- b) May 15
- c) May 16

d) May 17

1816) . What was the theme of the 2017 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day?

- a) Broadband for Sustainable Development
- b) Big Data for Big Impact
- c) Women and Girls in ICT
- d) ICT Entrepreneurship for Social Impact

1817) Who among the following is the Secretary-General of the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union?

- a) Xu Xiang
- b) Jin Liqun
- c) Tang Yuhan
- d) Houlin Zhao

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed on May 17, 2017. The theme for 2017 is 'Big Data for Big Impact'. Houlin Zhao is the Secretary-General of the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union which is behind the observance of this day. The day is celebrated annually on 17 May to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

1818) The International Day of Families was observed on____, 2017.

- a) May 14
- b) May 15
- c) May 16
- d) May 17

1819) What was the theme of the 2017 International Day of Families?

- a) Families, Education and Well-being
- b) Families, Healthy Lives and Sustainable Future
- c) The Impact of Migration on Families Around the World
- d) Mothers and Families: Challenges in a Changing World

International Day of Families was celebrated on May 15, 2017 with the theme: "Families, education and well-being".

1820) Who among the following has launched a new political action organisation 'Onward Together' in May 2017?

- a) Barack Obama
- b) Dilma Rousseff
- c) Angela Merkel
- d) Hillary Clinton

Former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has launched a new political action organisation 'Onward Together' in Washington on May 16, 2017. The new group's website said it aimed to advance progressive values. "Onward Together will work to build a brighter future for generations to come by supporting groups that encourage people to organise and run for office," wrote the former Secretary of State.

1821) World Heritage-listed Henderson Island is in which ocean/sea? It was listed as the most polluted place on Earth recently.

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean
- d) Atlantic Ocean

A remote island in the South Pacific is the most polluted place on the planet, a study published by Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) said on May 16, 2017. The beaches of the World Heritage-listed Henderson Island contained 37.7 million pieces of debris which weighed 17.6 tonnes, the highest density of plastic rubbish anywhere in the world. Henderson Island lies between Chile and New Zealand in the South Pacific.

1822) Who among the following won the Eurovision Song Contest in Kiev in May 2017?

- a) Khayyam Nisanov
- b) Salvador Sobral
- c) Alexander Rybak
- d) Johnny Logan

Salvador Sobral (29) of Portugal, who performed the song "Amar Pelos Dois", won the Eurovision-2017 Song Contest that concluded in Kiev, Ukraine on May 14, 2017. Celebrate Diversity was the theme of the contest.

1823) Who among the following is the Emperor of Japan? He decided to abdicate his throne in May 2017.

- a) Akihito
- b) Hirohito
- c) Naruhito
- d) Yoshihito

Japan's government on May 19, 2017 introduced a Bill in parliament that will allow 84-year old Emperor Akihito to hand over the Chrysanthemum throne to his eldest son Naruhito (57). This will be the first abdication of a Japanese emperor in 200 years, when Emperor Kokaku stepped down in 1817. The government hopes the Bill will be approved by mid-June.

1824) Who among the following, known for handing classified U.S. documents to WikiLeaks, was released from prison in the US in May 2017?

- a) Daniel Ellsberg
- b) Aaron Swartz
- c) Julian Assange
- d) Edward Snowden
- e) Chelsea Manning

Chelsea Manning, the transgender army private jailed for one of the largest leaks of classified documents in US history, was released from prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on May 17, 2017. In July 2010, Manning - then a male soldier known as Bradley - was arrested over the release of a huge trove of more than 700,000 classified military and diplomatic documents via WikiLeaks. Manning, now 29, was serving a 35-year sentence for the leak but President Barack Obama commuted her sentence before leaving office and on May 17 she was released after seven years in prison.

1825) Who among the following was appointed as the new Prime Minister of France in May 2017?

- a) Alain Juppe
- b) Manuel Valls
- c) Edouard Philippe
- d) Jean-Pierre Raffarin
- e) Bernard Cazeneuve

Newly sworn-in French President Emmanuel Macron on May 15, 2017 named Edouard Philippe, the 46-year-old Mayor of Le Havre city, as his Prime Minister. Philippe is a member of the centre-right Les Republicains party.

1826) Stanley Greene died in Paris on May 19, 2017 at the age of 68. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Grammy Award
- b) Goldman Environmental Prize
- c) Abel Prize
- d) World Press Photo award
- e) International Press Freedom Award

Stanley Greene, an award-winning American photographer of conflict, disasters and humanitarian crises across the globe, died in Paris at the age of 68 on May 19, 2017. Greene was recognised in the World Press Photo awards, in 1994, 2001, 2004 and 2008.

1827) Javier Valdez died in Mexico on May 15, 2017 at the age of 50. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Grammy Award
- b) Goldman Environmental Prize

- c) Abel Prize
- d) International Press Freedom Award

Javier Valdez, a veteran reporter who specialised in covering drug trafficking and organised crime, was slain in the northern Mexico state of Sinaloa on May 15, 2017 at the age of 50. In 2011, Valdez was awarded the International Press Freedom Award of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

1828) Oleg Vidov died in United States at the age of 73 on May 15, 2017. He was a well-known:

- a) Actor
- b) Banker
- c) Scientist
- d) Industrialist

Oleg Vidov, a matinee idol in the Soviet Union who defected to the U.S. at the height of the Cold War and then enjoyed a long film and TV career in Hollywood, died at the age of 73 in Westlake Village, California, U.S. on May 15, 2017.

1829) . Chris Cornell died in Detroit (USA) on May 17, 2017 at the age of 52. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Grammy Award
- b) Goldman Environmental Prize
- c) Abel Prize
- d) World Press Photo award

Singer Chris Cornell, the lead vocalist for the bands Soundgarden and Audioslave, died at the age of 52 in Detroit on May 17, 2017. He formed the grunge band Soundgarden alongside guitarist Kim Thyail and bassist Hiro Yamamoto in 1984, best known for their Grammy Award-winning singles 'Black Hole Sun' and 'Spoonman'.

1830) Mauno Koivisto died on May 12, 2017 at the age of 93.

- a) Finland
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

Mauno Koivisto, former President of Finland, died in Helsinki on May 12, 2017. He was 93. Koivisto served two six-year terms between 1982 and 1994.

1831) Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old boy, from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, was in news recently for developing which of the following?

- a) Smoke detector
- b) Satellite for NASA
- c) Vaccine for Malaria
- d) Low-cost water purifier

When the US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launches the world's smallest satellite KalamSat on June 21, it will be the first time ever that it would be piloting an experiment by an Indian student. Developed by Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old boy, from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, KalamSat weighs only 64 grammes. (May 15, 2017)

1832) Purnima Barman was selected for the prestigious Whitley Award, commonly referred to as the 'Green Oscars', in May 2017 for her efforts to save which of the following?

- a) Great Indian Bustard
- b) Indian Spot-billed Duck
- c) Indian Cormorant
- d) Greater Adjutant Stork

1833) Sanjay Gubbi was selected for the prestigious Whitley Award, commonly referred to as the 'Green Oscars', in May 2017 for his efforts to save which of the following??

- a) Blackbuck
- b) Swamp deer

- c) Red Panda
- d) Tiger

Two Indian activists on May 17, 2017 won the annual Whitley Awards, dubbed as the 'Green Oscars', for their works in the field of animal and bird conservation in India. The two Indians are among six global winners of the award shortlisted from 166 entries. Each of the winners receives 35,000 pounds (USD 45,374) prize money in project funding over one year. The Whitley Fund for Nature is a UK-based charity that works to highlight grassroots leaders in nature conservation across the developing world. Sanjay Gubbi won the award for his work to protect Karnataka's tiger corridors. Purnima Barman won for creating an all-female network to save the Greater Adjutant stork, known in India as Hargila, and its wetland habitat in Assam.

1834) Shrinivas Kulkarni has won Israel's Dan David prize for his work in which of the following fields?

- a) Accounting
- b) Astronomy
- c) Archaeology
- d) Ayurveda

Indian scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize for his contribution in the field of astronomy. He is a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. The honour will be conferred at a festive awards ceremony in Tel Aviv May 21, 2017.

1835) Who among the following Chief Ministers was conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service in Jaipur in May 2017?

- a) Pawan Chamling
- b) Sarbananda Sonowal
- c) Pema Khandu
- d) Nongthobam Biren Singh

Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling was on May 15, 2017 conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service by the President in Jaipur. Shekhawat was the vice-president between 2002 and 2007.

1836) Computers running on which of the following operating systems were affected by ransomware 'WannaCry' recently?

- a) Linux
- b) Tizen
- c) Mac OS
- d) Windows

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 15, 2017 asked banks to follow the instructions of CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team) to prevent the attack by ransomware, 'WannaCry', which has impacted various IT networks in over 150 countries. It infected computers running on older versions of Microsoft operating systems like XP, locking access to files on the computer. The cyber criminals demand a fee of about USD 300 in crypto-currencies like Bitcoin for unlocking the device.

1837) Which new post has been created at RBI recruitment according to a notification issued by the Central Bank on May 15, 2017?

- a) Chief Audit Officer
- b) Chief Financial Officer
- c) Chief Information Officer
- d) Chief Innovation Officer

In a first, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is creating a post of a chief financial officer (CFO) and has sought applications for the position in a recruitment notification on May 15, 2017.

1838) Which of the following launched the report 'Financial security for India's elderly: The imperatives' in association with PFRDA in May 2017? It says that by 2050 every fifth Indian will be in 60s as against every twelfth at present.

- a) IFCI
- b) CARE

- c) CRISIL
- d) SEBI

1839) Who among the following is the Chairman of PFRDA?

- a) Ashok Lavasa
- b) Shaktikanta Das
- c) Anjuly Chib Duggal
- d) Hemant G. Contractor

India will transform gradually from young to a 'greying' country and by 2050 every fifth Indian will be in 60s as against every twelfth at present. Flagging the demographic transition, a PFRDA-CRISIL report on May 15, 2017 said it is important that the development of the under-penetrated pension market in India be initiated now, when the situation is ripe. "Demographically, India will transition slowly from a 'young' to a 'greying' country, where persons above the age of 60 would increase from 8.9 per cent of the population now to 19.4 per cent by 2050," said PFRDA Chairman Hemant G Contractor in the report, 'Financial security for India's elderly - The imperatives'.

1840) Which of the following government-owned financial services organisations was in news for successful IPO in May 2017?

- a) HUDCO
- b) NHAI
- c) SIDBI
- d) NABARD

State-run HUDCO made a remarkable stock market debut on May 19, 2017, closing the trading session with almost 21 per cent gain over the issue price of Rs 60. The IPO of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) saw huge demand from investors and was oversubscribed 79.53 times. The price band for HUDCO, which concluded its Rs 1,224 crore initial public offer on May 11, was set at Rs 56- 60 a share.

1841) What will be tax rate on restaurants with Rs 50 lakh or below turnover according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) 0%
- b) 5%
- c) 12%
- d) 18%

1842) Hotels with tariff less than _____ are exempt from GST.

- a) Rs 1,000
- b) Rs 1,500
- c) Rs 2,000
- d) Rs 2,500

1843) Which of the following will be exempted from tax according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) Economy class air travel
- b) Non-AC train travel
- c) Cab services like Ola and Uber
- d) All the above

1844) What will be tax rate on e-commerce sellers according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) 0%
- b) 0.25%
- c) 0.5%
- d) 1%
- e) 1.25%

1845) Which of the following will not attract peak rate of 28% according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) Cinema tickets
- b) Horse race betting
- c) Business class travel on airlines
- d) Hotels with tariff above Rs. 5000

A bulk of services will be taxed at the standard rate of 18 per cent under the four-tier rate structure for services that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council finalised at its meeting held in Srinagar, May 19, 2017. Highlights are as follows:

- The GST Council had come out with a four-tier rate structure for goods. The Council had earlier agreed on a four-tier tax structure -- 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.
- The Council approved the tax rates for 1,211 items, of which 7 per cent will be exempted, 14 per cent will be in the 5 per cent slab, 17 per cent in the 12 per cent category, 43 per cent in the 18 per cent segment, while 19 per cent of goods will go into the top tax bracket of 28 per cent.
- There will be a cess on luxury and demerit goods such as tobacco, pan masala and aerated drinks. The cess will be used to compensate the states for revenue loss arising out of the GST implementation in first five years.
- Education, healthcare and general railway travel will be exempt from GST. All other exemptions would also continue under GST.
- Transport services will be taxed at 5 per cent. Economy class air travel will also be taxed at 5 per cent. Non-AC train travel, including in local trains and metro, as well as religious travel including Haj Yatra will remain exempted from GST. Five per cent rate will also apply to cab aggregators like Ola and Uber. AC train travel will attract 5 per cent tax. Business class travel on airlines would attract a 12 per cent tax.
- Works contracts would be taxed at 12 per cent.
- Restaurants with Rs 50 lakh or below turnover will attract 5 per cent tax. Non air-conditioned restaurants will attract a tax levy of 12 per cent whereas air-conditioned restaurants will fall in the 18 per cent tax bracket.
- Hotels with tariff between Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 will attract a GST of 18 per cent, whereas hotels with tariff of above Rs 5,000 will fall under the 28 per cent tax slab. However, hotels with tariff under Rs 1,000 are exempt from the GST regime.
- IT, telecom and financial services will attract 18 per cent GST.
- A peak rate of 28 per cent will be charged on five services, including five-star hotels and restaurants, cinema, gambling and horse race betting. States can also levy an additional entertainment tax on cinema that will be used for local bodies.
- The GST Council also decided to tax e-commerce sellers at 1 per cent. The Centre and the States would each levy a tax at the rate of 0.5 per cent at source on online sellers.

1846) Which of the following was named as the Cleanest Railway Station in A1 category in May 2017?

- a) Jammu Tawi
- b) Vijayawada
- c) Secunderabad
- d) Vishakhapatnam

1847) 23. Which of the following was named as the Cleanest Railway Station in A category in May 2017?

- a) Beas
- b) Durgapur
- c) Khammam
- d) Mancheria

1848) Which of the following was named as the Cleanest Railway Zone in May 2017?

- a) South East Central Railway
- b) South Central Railway
- c) East Coast Railway
- d) Central Railway

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu released Third Party Audit Report on Station Cleanliness in New Delhi on May 17, 2017. Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Beas in Punjab are the Cleanest Stations in A1 and A categories respectively. South East Central Railway was the cleanest Railway Zone. The survey was conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI) at 407 major railway stations (75 A1 category and 332 A category stations) of Indian Railways.

1849) Which of the following abbreviations is expressed incorrectly?

- a) NFC: Nuclear Fuel Complex
- b) AEC: Atomic Energy Commission
- c) PHWRs: Programmed Heavy Water Reactors
- d) NPCIL: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd

In a significant decision to fast-track India's domestic nuclear power programme, and give a push to country's nuclear industry, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 17, 2017 gave its approval for construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR). Their total installed capacity will be 7000 MW.

1850) Government announced SHAKTI to ensure adequate supply of fuel to power plants in May 2017. 'H' in SHAKTI is:

- a) Hydel
- b) Handling
- c) Heavy
- d) Harnessing

A new coal linkage policy to ensure an adequate supply of the fuel to power plants through reverse auction received approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in New Delhi on May 17, 2017. SHAKTI -- Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating of Koyala (coal) Transparently in India -- has been envisaged to make optimal allocation of the natural resource across power units.

1851) What was the total foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow into India in 2016-17, according to Commerce Ministry data released on May 19, 2017?

- a) \$45.08 billion
- b) \$50.08 billion
- c) \$55.08 billion
- d) \$60.08 billion

The total foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow into India reached a new high of \$60.08 billion during 2016-17, registering an increase of 8% as compared to \$55.56 billion in 2015-17, the Commerce Ministry said on May 19, 2017. The country in the year ending March 2015 received FDI of US Dollar 45.15 billion as against US Dollar 36.05 billion in the preceding fiscal.

1852) What is India's economic growth forecast for 2017 according to the mid-year update of the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects in May 2017?

- a) 6.4%
- b) 6.7%
- c) 7%
- d) 7.3%

The United Nations has revised downward India's economic growth forecast for 2017 but predicted an increased 7.9 per cent GDP growth in 2018. The mid-year update of the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects, launched on May 16, 2017, said India is projected to achieve a 7.3 per cent growth in 2017, a downward revision from the 7.7 per cent forecast for the year made when the report was launched in January 2017.

1853) . Which nation is ranked first in the 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' by EY released in May 2017?

- a) Canada
- b) Germany
- c) United States
- d) China

1854) 31. What is India's ranked in the 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' by EY released in May 2017?

- a) Sixth
- b) Second

- c) Third
- d) Fifth

India has been placed in the second spot behind China in the renewable energy country attractiveness index by EY. The UK accountancy firm noted the fast pace of growth in Indian renewable energy in the past three years. Over 10 gigawatt (Gw) of solar power was added between 2015 and 2017 and wind energy capacity grew to 5.4 Gw in 2017-18.

1855) 32. Government's BIRAC stands for _____ Industry Research Assistance Council.

- a) Binary
- b) Business
- c) Biopharma
- d) Biotechnology

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 17, 2017 gave its approval for Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating discovery research to early development for biopharmaceuticals. The Mission will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) - a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Total project cost to be funded by Government of India is Rs. 1500 crore for five years. 50% cost for the Mission Programme will be arranged through the World Bank loan.

1856) The government on May 13, 2017 revised the regional air connectivity levy charged from airlines flying on major routes to a uniform rate of _____.

- a) Rs 4,000 per flight
- b) Rs 4,500 per flight
- c) Rs 5,000 per flight
- d) Rs 5,500 per flight

The government on May 13, 2017 decided to reduce the regional air connectivity levy charged from airlines flying on major routes to a uniform rate of Rs 5,000 per flight. To fund the ambitious regional connectivity scheme -- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) -- the Civil Aviation Ministry is collecting a levy of up to Rs 8,500 per departure from airlines operating in major domestic routes, including Mumbai and Delhi.

1857) What is India's recent rank in World Bank's power accessibility list?

- a) 6
- b) 26
- c) 46
- d) 66

India has climbed up to twenty-sixth position in World Bank's electricity accessibility ranking in the current year from 99th spot in 2014, Power Minister Piyush Goyal said in London on May 14, 2017. The Minister also attended the Vienna Energy Forum held on May 11.

1858) Who among the following is the sole Indian in the 25 'Global Game Changers' list by Forbes in May 2017?

- a) Adi Godrej
- b) Ratan Tata
- c) Azim Premji
- d) Mukesh Ambani

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the sole Indian in the 25 'Global Game Changers' list by Forbes on May 17, 2017. The list selects people on the basis of their companies' corporate growth, innovation and international presence. includes founder of home appliances company Dyson, James Dyson, American global investment management corporation BlackRock cofounder Larry Fink, Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, social media company Snap cofounder Evan Spiegel and Chinese ride sharing giant Didi Chuxing founder Cheng Wei.

1859) Which of the following is India's most valuable brand, according to Brand Finance that released its 2017 report in May?

- a) Reliance
- b) Tata

- c) Airtel
- d) LIC

Tata Group is the most valuable brand in India at an estimated \$13.1 billion, according to Brand Finance, a global brand valuation and strategy consultancy firm that released its 2017 report on May 17, 2017. Tata topped the list of India's 100 most valuable brands once again. Mobile operator Airtel, with an estimated valuation of \$7.7 billion, ranked second in the list, followed by insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with \$6.8 billion. IT firm Infosys ranked fourth in the list with an estimated value of \$6.2 billion, up one rank from 2016. State Bank of India slipped to the fifth rank in 2017.

1860) Who among the following decided to donate 25 flats in Thane to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the April 24 Maoist attacks in Sukma?

- a) Ajay Devgn
- b) Vivek Oberoi
- c) Tiger Shroff
- d) Boman Irani

In a philanthropic gesture, actor Vivek Oberoi on May 13, 2017 decided to donate 25 flats to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the April 24 Maoist attacks in Sukma. While four flats have already been allotted, another 21 are being reserved in a housing complex constructed by his company, Karm Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd, in Thane.

1861) 39. Which state has decided to observe no bag days in all government schools on Saturdays?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Saturdays will be no bag days in all government schools in Uttar Pradesh. The decision was taken at a high-level committee meeting headed by Deputy CM and Minister for Secondary Education Dr Dinesh Sharma in Lucknow on May 12, 2017. There are around 1.8 crore children studying in 1.7 lakh government schools in 75 districts of the state.

1862) 40. Which state is launching 'She Pad' scheme of providing sanitary to girls in schools?

- a) Goa
- b) Puducherry
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

The Kerala government is all set to implement the 'She Pad' scheme wherein sanitary pads will be made available to girls in all the schools in Kerala. CM Pinarayi Vijayan on May 19, 2017 said that the approximate expenditure for the implementation will come to Rs 30 crore for five years. The system to dispose used pads without harming the environment will be set up as well. The funds for the scheme will be derived from local bodies under the supervision of the State Women's Development Corporation.

1863) Which of the following has decided to set up 'Maa' committees to keep an eye on quality of mid-day meals served to students in state-run primary schools?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh

'Maa' committee will now keep an eye on mid-day meals served to students in state-run primary schools in Uttar Pradesh to ensure that they get nutritious food prepared in hygienic conditions. UP basic education minister Anupma Jaiswal said on May 14, 2014 that it will be a committee of six mothers, from all sections of society, whose students are studying in that school".

1864) . Which paramilitary force conducted operation 'Garam Hawa' in the western sector in Rajasthan in May 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) Air Force

d) ITBP

The BSF has started operation 'Garam Hawa' in the western sector in Rajasthan, under which vigil along the international border with Pakistan has been stepped up. The operation, which started on May 15, 2017, will continue till May 23.

1865) Which of the following has signed MoU with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) for development of a Multimodal Logistics Park near Kamarajar Port in May 2017?

- a) Railways
- b) NHAI
- c) Coast Guard
- d) NHPC

The National Highways Authority of India signed MoU with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) in New Delhi on May 15, 2017, for development of a Multimodal Logistics Park in the Ponneri Industrial Node area near Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu.

1866) 44. S. Ramassamy died in Puducherry on May 15, 2017 at the age of 80. He was former Chief Minister of which of the following?

- a) Goa
- b) Puducherry
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Former Puducherry Chief Minister S. Ramassamy died in Puducherry on May 15, 2017 at the age of 80. He became Chief Minister in 1974 heading the AIADMK-CPI coalition ministry for a brief period. He was also the Chief Minister in the AIADMK government in 1977, which lasted in office for a little over one year. He successfully contested as Independent from Karaikal in 1985 and 1990. Ramassamy joined Congress in 1992.

1867) Who among the following won the only gold medal for India at the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi in May 2017?

- a) Bajrang Punia
- b) Sakshi Malik
- c) Vinesh Phogat
- d) Anil Kumar

India finished with 10 medals at the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi on May 14, 2017. India's medals included a gold won by Bajrang Punia in men's 65kg freestyle category, five silver and four bronze.

1868) . Anshu Jamsenpa became the first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest _____ times in May 2017.

- a) 3
- b) 4
- c) 5
- d) 6

Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa recently scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest for the fourth time. Jamsenpa started her expedition on May 13 and reached the highest peak of the world on the morning of May 16, 2017 to unfurl the national flag.

1869) Who among the following broke her own world record for the maximum number of Everest summits by a woman in May 2017?

- a) Phurba Tashi
- b) Lhakpa Sherpa
- c) Nimdoma Sherpa
- d) Bimala Tamang

A 44-year-old Nepalese mountaineer has broken her own world record for the most Everest summits by a woman after scaling the world's tallest peak for the eighth time. Lhakpa Sherpa, the mother of three, conquered Mt Everest for the

eighth time from the North Col (Tibetan side), according to expedition organisers in Kathmandu on May 14, 2017. She bettered her own record of scaling Mt Everest seven times.

1870) Who among the following won the Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona in May 2017?

- a) Pastor Maldonado
- b) Daniel Ricciardo
- c) Max Verstappen
- d) Lewis Hamilton

Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes on May 14, 2017 won the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid followed by Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari who finished in second place. Daniel Ricciardo finished in third place.

1871) 49. Which club was crowned champion of the English Premier League in May 2017?

- a) Chelsea
- b) Tottenham Hotspur
- c) Liverpool
- d) Leicester City

London-based football club Chelsea grabbed their second English Premier League (EPL) title in three seasons with a 1-0 victory over West Bromwich Albion on May 13, 2017.

1872) Which of the following is the paperless document attestation service for students and others launched by the government in May 2017?

- a) eSlate
- b) ePatra
- c) eSahaj
- d) eSanad

1873) . Which of the following is the online repository of marksheets and certificates launched by CBSE?

- a) Parinam Kosh
- b) Parinam Satya
- c) Parinam Darpan
- d) Parinam Manjusha

The Human Resource Development Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry on May 24, 2017 launched an online verification portal to make the document verification process easier for students who planning to study abroad. This has been made possible by integration of eSanad with Parinam Manjusha. This will help the applicants avoid long travels and precious resources of time and money for getting their documents attested by the concerned authorities in States. **eSanad** is aimed at online verification of the documents with an objective to extend contactless, cashless and paperless document attestation service to applicants in India as well as abroad. **Parinam Manjusha** is a digital academic repository launched by CBSE that allows students to find their marksheets, pass and migration certificates online. It has been developed by the board in collaboration with NEGD (DigiLocker) and is available at www.cbse.digitallocker.gov.in.

1874) The first train of which of the following categories was launched on Mumbai-Goa route by the Railways Minister on May 22, 2017?

- a) UDAY Express
- b) Tejas Express
- c) Antyodaya Express
- d) Humsafar Express

The country's first high-speed Tejas Express between Mumbai and Karmali in Goa, boasting of Wi-Fi, LCD screens, and automatic doors, was flagged off by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in Mumbai on May 22, 2017. The train -- with a speed of 130 km per hour -- is capable of clocking a maximum of 200 kmph. The coaches, manufactured at Indian Coach Factory in Chennai, include features like sensor-controlled water taps, water level indicators, hand dryers and bio-vacuum toilets.

1875) Which of the following aircrafts of the IAF crashed near border with China after taking off from Tezpur airbase in May 2017?

- a) MiG-29
- b) C-130J Super Hercules
- c) Rafael
- d) Sukhoi-30

The wreckage of the IAF's Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet, which went missing with two pilots on board, was found on May 26, 2017 in a dense forest near Tezpur in Assam after a three-day search operation, but fate of the crew is not known.

1876) Which of the following is the survey launched on Prime Minister's NaMo App in May 2017 to find public opinion of the government's performance?

- a) Jan ki Baat
- b) Aap ki Baat
- c) Desh ki Baat
- d) Sab ki Baat

A survey termed Jan ki Baat (voice of the people) has been launched on Prime Minister Modi's personal app, the NaMo App. Among other things, the survey (closing June 15) asks respondents to name one positive and one negative thing about the Narendra Modi government. Nearly all government schemes launched by the current dispensation have been listed for rating.

1877) 6. The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) has opened a showroom-cum-restaurant bearing the brand name "ONE" in New Delhi. ONE is:

- a) Our North East
- b) Organic North East
- c) Onward North East
- d) Oriental North East

The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) will make suitable arrangements for showcasing the Northeast organic products in the rest of India. Recently a showroom-cum-restaurant bearing a common brand name "ONE" (Organic North East) was opened in New Delhi. This was stated by MoS (IC) for DoNER Jitendra Singh while chairing a meeting of NERAMAC (North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation) at Guwahati, Assam on May 26, 2017.

1878) Which of the following was launched by Union Minister Uma Bharti to monitor the progress of Namami Gange programme in May 2017?

- a) Ganga Pragati Abhiyan
- b) Ganga Parikshan Abhiyan
- c) Ganga Nirikshan Abhiyan
- d) Ganga Swachhata Abhiyan

1879) Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute is located in which state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Gujarat
- c) West Bengal
- d) Bihar

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti on May 26, 2017 visited Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute located at Barrackpore, West Bengal during the first leg of her Ganga Nirikshan Abhiyan. This institution is specialized in Fisheries Research on river Ganga. During her fortnight long tour the Minister will visit several places from Ganga Sagar to Gangotri along the river Ganga to monitor the progress of Namami Gange programme.

1880) Who among the following has compiled Prime Minister's speeches into a book titled 'Mann Ki Baat: A Social Revolution on Radio'?

- a) Ajit Sharma

- b) Rajesh Jain
- c) Amit Singh
- d) Vinay Kelkar

1881) Who among the following is the author of 'Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm'?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Harish Khare
- c) Shyamlal Yadav
- d) Uday Mahurkar
- e) Sujit Chakraborty

President Pranab Mukherjee received the first copies of two books on the Prime Minister on May 26, 2017. The book 'Mann Ki Baat: A Social Revolution on Radio' is a compilation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's addresses to the nation on radio every month under the programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. The book has been compiled by Rajesh Jain. The book 'Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm' has been authored by Uday Mahurkar.

1882) Major Leetul Gogoi, who was in news for receiving Army Chief's Commendation Card in May 2017, belongs to which of the following?

- a) Maratha Light Infantry
- b) Rajputana Rifles
- c) Rashtriya Rifles
- d) The Grenadiers

Major Leetul Gogoi of 53 Rashtriya Rifles, who was involved in tying up a Kashmiri man to the front of a jeep to ward off stone pelters in the valley on April 9, was awarded the Army Chief's Commendation Card in May 2017.

1883) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities in May 2017?

- a) N. S. Hanspal
- b) H. T. Sangliana
- c) Wajahat Habibullah
- d) Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi

Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi assumed charge of the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities in New Delhi on May 26, 2017.

1884) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. He was the President of which sport's national federation from 1994 to 2008?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Basketball
- c) Football
- d) Hockey
- e) Boxing

1885) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. When was the Operation Black Thunder commanded by him happened?

- a) 1991
- b) 1990
- c) 1989
- d) 1988

1886) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. Which of the following national honours was conferred on him?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan

- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri

1887) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. He served as Security Advisor to who among the following Chief Ministers after retirement?

- a) Sheila Dixit
- b) Ashok Gehlot
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Manohar Parrikar

- K P S Gill, the former Director General of Punjab Police credited with rooting out terrorism in Punjab with an iron hand, passed away in New Delhi on May 26, 2017 at the age of 82.
- Gill headed Punjab Police from 1988 to 1990 and then again from 1991 until his retirement from service in 1995. A major feather in his crown was added when he commanded 'Operation Black Thunder' in May 1988 to flush out militants hiding in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The operation was a huge success as little damage was caused to the holiest shrine of Sikhs. In the Operation Black Thunder, around 67 militants had surrendered and 43 were killed.
- After the 2002 Gujarat riots, Gill was appointed security adviser to the then Chief Minister Modi.
- In 2006, he was made the adviser to the Chhattisgarh government to help control Naxalites. However, the stint was not as successful as in Punjab since it was marred by a major attack by the naxals in 2007 in which 55 policemen were killed.
- Gill took over as the President of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) – the then national body for the sport – in 1994 and held the post till 2008, when the body was suspended indefinitely.
- He received a Padma Shri award, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in 1989 for his work in the civil service.

1888) Which of the following hosted the RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting on May 21-22, 2017?

- a) Vientiane
- b) Hanoi
- c) Ulan Bator
- d) Yangon

1889) RCEP is Regional _____ Economic Partnership.

- a) Caucus
- b) Commerce
- c) Community
- d) Comprehensive

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation to the third RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting organised in Hanoi, Vietnam on May 21-22, 2017 in which Trade Ministers of 15 other RCEP countries participated.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega regional free trade agreement being negotiated amongst 16 countries including 10 ASEAN countries and six ASEAN FTA partners.

1890) Which state capital hosted the African Development Bank Meetings from May 22 to 25, 2017?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal
- c) Lucknow
- d) Gandhinagar

1891) Who among the following is the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB)?

- a) Ibukun Odusote
- b) Donald Kaberuka
- c) Akinwumi Adesina
- d) Abba Sayyadi Ruma

1892) The headquarters of the African Development Bank (AfDB) is located in which capital?

- a) Tunis
- b) Lagos
- c) Harare
- d) Abidjan

1893) The vision document for the proposed “Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)” supported by Japan and India was unveiled on May 24, 2017. Which of the following is not among one of its four pillars?

- a) Enhancing Capacity and Skills
- b) Defence and Security Cooperation
- c) Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity
- d) Development and Cooperation Projects

- The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Akinwumi Adesina thanked the Gujarat government for hosting the Annual Meetings of the bank held at Mahatma Mandir International Convention cum Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar from May 22 to 25, 2017. AfDB is a multilateral development finance institution headquartered at Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- The vision document for the proposed “Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)” supported by Japan and India was unveiled on May 24. AAGC will be based on four key pillars - Enhancing Capacity and Skills, Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity, Development and Cooperation projects and people to people partnership.

1894) Which of the following was the venue of ‘India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference’ on May 25-26, 2017?

- a) Suva
- b) Port Louis
- c) Bridgetown
- d) Kingston

India hosted the ‘India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference’ in the Fijian capital of Suva on May 25-26, 2017 and pledged to strengthen its partnership with the countries of the region as part of efforts to create a sustainable world. The Conference was hosted by India’s Ministry of External Affairs. The conference was held under the framework of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Co-operation (FIPIC), with India’s The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as its key knowledge partner.

1895) Which of the following hosted the first Africa Business Summit of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) on May 20-22, 2017?

- a) Durban
- b) Pretoria
- c) Centurion
- d) Cape Town

The first Africa Business Summit of NRI forum Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) was organised in Durban on May 20-22, 2017. GOPIO was established in New York in 1989.

1896) Who among the following was awarded the Dag Hammarskjold Medal given to UN peacekeepers posthumously in May 2017?

- a) Naik Rakesh Kumar
- b) Havildar Amal Deka
- c) Lance Naik Nand Ram
- d) Rifleman Brijesh Thapa

1897) How many Indians were awarded UN’s Dag Hammarskjold Medal in May 2017?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3
- d) 4

1898) The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 27
- b) May 28
- c) May 29
- d) May 30

1899) What was the theme of the 2017 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers?

- a) Together for Peace
- b) A Force for the Future
- c) Adapting to New Challenges
- d) Investing in Peace Around the World

1900) As many as 117 peacekeepers were awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal posthumously in May 2017. The medal is named after the _____ Secretary General of United Nations.

- a) first
- b) second
- c) third
- d) fourth

Two Indian peacekeepers were among 117 military, police and civilian personnel honored with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal awarded posthumously for their courage and sacrifice in the line of duty. Rifleman Brijesh Thapa who served with the UN Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Private Ravi Kumar who was deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon were honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29, 2017. The medals are collected by countries' Permanent Representatives to the UN on behalf of the fallen peacekeepers. The medal is named after the second UN Secretary General, who had died in a mysterious 1961 plane crash. The theme for the 2017 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Investing in Peace Around the World."

1901) May 25, 2017 was celebrated as World _____ Day.

- a) Liver
- b) Heart
- c) Brain
- d) Thyroid

May 25, 2017 was celebrated as World Thyroid Day. Established in 2008, the day is celebrated on May 25 each year to increase awareness of thyroid health and promote understanding of advances made in treating thyroid disease.

1902) Which of the following hosted the "Start-Up India Summit" on May 23-24, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Abu Dhabi

A two day "Start-Up India Summit" was organised in Abu Dhabi, UAE on May 23-24, 2017. It was organised by the Consul General of India (CGI) in Dubai and Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi in partnership with iSPIRIT, a non-profit think tank and supported by TiE, Dubai. The aim was to provide a shared platform for the Start-Up ecosystem in both India and UAE.

1903) Which of the following hosted the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue on May 22, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) London
- c) Vienna
- d) Berlin

1904) Who among the following is the Secretary General of OPEC?

- a) Edmund Daukoru
- b) Purnomo Yusgiantoro
- c) Abdallah Salem el-Badri
- d) Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo

The second High-level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue was held in Vienna on May 22, 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, and Dharmendra Pradhan, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

1905) Which of the following organised the India Financial Conference held in New York City on May 12, 2017?

- a) India Infoline
- b) SBI Securities
- c) ICICI Securities
- d) HDFC Securities

Ashok Lavasa, Finance Secretary, Government of India, interacted with renowned US based funds and global institutional investors with interests in the BFSI sector at the day-long India Financial Conference held in New York City on May 12, 2017. The India Financial Conference was hosted by ICICI Securities Limited. Chanda Kochhar, Managing Director, ICICI also attended the Conference along with senior officials of the finance industry of India.

1906) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Mauritius?

- a) Pravind Jugnauth
- b) Rashid Beebeejaun
- c) Navin Ramgoolam
- d) Dinesh Ramjuttun

Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth arrived in New Delhi on May 26, 2017 on a three-day visit to India. Jugnauth held discussions with Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) leader is on his first visit abroad as PM after assuming office in 2017.

1907) India held Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise with which of the following ASEAN countries in May 2017?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Thailand

Indo-Thailand Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Table Top Exercise 2017 was organised at Chiang Mai, Thailand from May 22 to 26, 2017 between the Indian Air Force and Royal Thailand Air Force (RTAF).

1908) Which of the following hosted the G7 Summit in May 2016?

- a) Taormina
- b) Perugia
- c) Turin
- d) Bari

1909) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Italy?

- a) Lamberto Dini
- b) Paolo Gentiloni
- c) Romano Prodi
- d) Silvio Berlusconi

The leaders of the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan - countries collectively known as the Group of Seven (G7) – met for a two-day summit in the resort town of Taormina, Italy on May 26-27, 2017. Participants:

US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, British PM Theresa May, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

1910) Which of the following hosted the Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in May 2017?

- a) Turkey
- b) Belgium
- c) France
- d) Germany

1911) Who among the following is the Secretary General of NATO?

- a) Kjell Magne Bondevik
- b) Gunnar Gundersen
- c) Thorbjorn Jagland
- d) Jens Stoltenberg
- e) Oyvind Korsberg

The 28th Summit of the heads of state and heads of government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on May 25, 2017. Montenegro was welcomed before it becomes an official member of the organization on June 5, 2017. The next summit (29th) will take place in Istanbul, Turkey in 2018. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced that member-states would begin submitting annual national plans this year in the interests of transparency.

1912) Which of the following is world's most crowded city in terms of population density according to World Economic Forum (WEF) in May 2017?

- a) Lagos
- b) Dhaka
- c) Manila
- d) Medellin

1913) Which of the following is India's most crowded city in terms of population density according to World Economic Forum (WEF) in May 2017?

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

Two Indian cities -- Mumbai and Kota -- have been named among the world's most crowded in a list topped by Dhaka, said World Economic Forum (WEF) citing UN Habitat data. With a population density of 44,500 people per square kilometre, Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is the most crowded city on the planet, followed by India's financial capital Mumbai, home to 31,700 people per square kilometre at the second place. Kota in Rajasthan with 12,100 people per square kilometre was ranked seventh. Others in the list include Medellin in Columbia ranked third, Manila, Philippines (4th, 14,800), Casablanca, Morocco (5th, 14,200), Lagos, Nigeria (6th, 13,300), Singapore (8th, 10,200) and Jakarta, Indonesia (9th, 9,600). (May 25, 2017)

1914) Which of the following hosted the Arab Islamic American Summit on May 21, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Abu Dhabi

US President Donald Trump attended the Arab Islamic American Summit organised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on May 21, 2017. He called on Muslim majority nations to do more to stamp out extremism.

1915) . Who among the following is the ruler of Saudi Arabia?

- a) Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
- b) Sultan Qaboos Said bin Said
- c) Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud
- d) Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and US President Donald Trump on May 20, 2017 signed nearly 110 billion dollar in agreements to bolster the military capabilities of Saudi Arabia. King Salman presented President Trump with the kingdom's highest civilian honour – King Abdulaziz al-Saud Medal.

1916) The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was observed on:

- a) May 21
- b) May 22
- c) May 23
- d) May 24

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was observed on May 21, 2017. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 2002 and celebrated annually on 21 May.

1917) Which of the following hosted the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) from May 22-26, 2017?

- a) Rabat
- b) Algiers
- c) Cancun
- d) Marrakesh

A high level Indian delegation headed by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju participated in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) at Cancun, Mexico from May 22-26, 2017.

1918) Who among the following was in news for a concert in Manchester (UK) on May 22, 2017 that saw a suicide bomb attack?

- a) Shakira
- b) Rihanna
- c) Mariah Carey
- d) Ariana Grande

UK police say they have arrested a 23-year old man in connection with a suicide bomb attack in Manchester which killed 23 people, including the attacker, and wounded dozens at a concert by US pop singer Ariana Grande. An improvised explosive device went off late on May 22 as thousands of - mostly young - fans streamed out of Manchester Arena in the northern English city at the end of Grande's performance.

1919) International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 21
- b) May 22
- c) May 23
- d) May 24
- e) May 25

1920) What was the theme of the 2017 International Day for Biological Diversity?

- a) Biodiversity: Life Insurance for our Changing World
- b) Protect Biodiversity in Drylands
- c) Biodiversity: Food, Water and Health for All
- d) Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism

The International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on May 22, 2017. 2017 Theme: "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

1921) May 25, 2017 was observed as which of the following?

- a) Americas Day
- b) Australia Day
- c) Asia Day
- d) Africa Day

Africa Day was observed on May 25, 2017. Africa Day was first held in 1963 in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, when 32 countries formed the Organisation of Africa Unity (OAU).

1922) Who among the following was elected as the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017?

- a) Kesetebirhan Admasu
- b) Demeke Mekonnen Teshome
- c) Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe
- d) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

1923) Which of the following statements regarding the new Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is not correct?

- a) He is from Ethiopia
- b) He will succeed Margaret Chan
- c) He is the first African elected to this post
- d) None of the above

Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus became the first African Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the poll held in Geneva on May 24, 2017. He will succeed Margaret Chan when she completes her five-year tenure at the end of June 2017. Tedros is the first WHO head who is not a medical doctor.

1924) Who among the following won Presidential election in Iran in May 2017?

- a) Ebrahim Raeisi
- b) Hassan Rouhani
- c) Mostafa Aqa-Mirsalim
- d) Sayyed Ali Khamenei

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was re-elected for a 2nd 4-year term on May 20, 2017. Rouhani, representing the Moderation and Development Party (MDP) got 57.13% of the vote while rival Ebrahim Raeisi got 38.3%.

1925) Actor Sir Roger Moore died at the age of 89 on May 23, 2017. Which of the following is not among the James Bond series of films featuring him?

- a) MoonRaker
- b) Licence to Kill
- c) Live and Let Die
- d) For Your Eyes Only

Actor Sir Roger Moore died in Switzerland at the age of 89 on May 23, 2017. He is best known for playing secret agent James Bond in seven feature films between 1973 and 1985. These are: Live and Let Die (1973), The Man With The Golden Gun (1974), The Spy Who Loved Me (1977), MoonRaker (1979), For Your Eyes Only (1981), Octopussy (1983) and A View To A Kill (1985).

1926) Scientists at NASA have named a bacteria found only on the International Space Station (ISS) after who among the following Indians?

- a) Sir C. V. Raman
- b) Swami Vivekananda
- c) APJ Abdul Kalam
- d) Rabindranath Tagore

NASA scientists named a new organism discovered by them after former Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam. Till date, the new organism — a form of a bacteria — has been found only on the International Space Station (ISS). Researchers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) named it Solibacillus kalamii to honour Kalam, who was a renowned aerospace scientist.

1927) Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2012 was presented to who among the following in May 2017?

- a) Lok Sainik Dal
- b) Ekta Sainik Dal

- c) Apna Sainik Dal
- d) Samta Sainik Dal

1928) Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2011 was presented to who among the following in May 2017?

- a) Sukhadeo Thorat
- b) Kulandei Francis
- c) Bezwada Wilson
- d) Patricia Mukhim
- e) M.S.S. Pandian

1929) Babu Lal Nirmal received the Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2014 in May 2017 for his work in which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Uttarakhand
- e) Rajasthan

1930) NGO Amar Sewa Sangam received the Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2014 in May 2017 for its work in which state?

- a) Goa
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the "Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and upliftment of Weaker Sections for the year 2011, 2012 and 2014" in New Delhi on May 26, 2017. The award for the year 2011 was presented to Professor Sukhadeo Thorat on New Delhi for his contributions towards the upliftment of the downtrodden. The award for the year 2012 was presented to Samta Sainik Dal that was founded by founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 25th November 1926. The award for the year 2014 was jointly presented to Babu Lal Nirmal of Rajasthan for his contributions in upholding the rights of poor persons in rural and urban areas of Baran District and to Amar Sewa Sangam of Tamil Nadu for its services for the welfare of the marginalized population of the society.

1931) . Who among the following, known for the comic strip Green Humour, has won this year's WWF International President's Award for efforts to change attitudes towards nature in May 2017?

- a) Dipali Biswas
- a) Mohit Sengupta
- c) Samar Mukherjee
- d) Rohan Chakravarty

Rohan Chakravarty, who has started comic strip Green Humour, has won this year's WWF International President's Award for his efforts to change attitudes towards nature. The award is the top accolade given by WWF to recognise leadership in young conservationists who are under the age of 30 from around the world. (May 22, 2017)

1932) . Which of the following has won the Porter Prize 2017 award for 'Excellence in Corporate Governance and Integration' and for its exemplary contribution in 'Creating Shared Value' in May 2017?

- a) Tata Steel
- b) Reliance Industries Ltd
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) ITC Ltd

ITC Limited has won the prestigious Porter Prize 2017 award for 'Excellence in Corporate Governance and Integration' and for its exemplary contribution in 'Creating Shared Value'. The award was presented by Prof. Michael E. Porter, the Harvard Business School Professor and a stalwart on competitive business strategies, to Sanjiv Puri, the CEO and Executive Director of ITC Ltd at a ceremony in Mumbai on May 26, 2017.

1933) Who among the following won the International Cricketer of the Year award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017 in May?

- a) Ajinkya Rahane
- b) Ravichandran Ashwin
- c) Virat Kohli
- d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on May 24, 2017 won the coveted International Cricketer of the Year award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017 at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai.

1934) 13. Balance in a semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) at any point of time cannot exceed:

- a) Rs. 10000
- b) Rs. 20000
- c) Rs. 30000
- d) Rs. 40000
- e) Rs. 50,000

1935) The total value of reloads during any given month in a semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) cannot exceed:

- a) Rs. 10000
- b) Rs. 20000
- c) Rs. 30000
- d) Rs. 40000

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 25, 2017 released guidelines for issuance of prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), or prepaid wallets, by cooperative banks having their own ATM network. The central bank also removed the Rs. 10,000-cap on utility bill payments through semi-closed wallets issued by eligible cooperative banks. "The matter has been revisited and it has now been decided to permit all licensed cooperative banks having their own ATM network to issue semi-closed PPIs, provided there is no restriction on acceptance or repayment of deposits," said RBI. Co-operative banks can issue open-system PPIs as long as they are core banking solution (CBS)-compliant and meet certain financial criteria.

Rules on operation of semi-closed PPIs: **1.** Balance limit in semi-closed PPI is Rs. 20,000. **2.** Total value of reloads during any given month cannot exceed Rs. 20,000. **Semi-Closed Prepaid Payment Instruments:** These are payment instruments which can be used for purchase of goods and services, including financial services at a group of clearly identified merchant locations/establishments which have a specific contract with the issuer to accept the payment instruments. These instruments do not permit cash withdrawal or redemption by the holder.

1936) Which of the following is the only Indian entity among the top 10 consumer financial services companies in the world in Forbes Global List 2017?

- a) LIC
- b) SBI
- c) ICICI Bank
- d) HDFC Ltd

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd is the only Indian company to be named among the top 10 consumer financial services companies in the world, with American Express claiming the first position. With profits of USD 1.6 billion and sales of USD 8.1 billion HDFC was ranked seventh on the Forbes Global List 2017 in the consumer financial services sector -- same as 2016. American Express topped the list, followed by Capital One Financial and Visa in the second and third place, respectively. (May 25, 2017)

1937) Who among the following is the Chairperson of the Banks Board Bureau?

- a) Vinod Rai
- b) Pramod Deo
- c) Ashok Chawla
- d) Gireesh Pradhan

Veteran banker H N Sinor, who had resigned as a member of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) nearly 10 days ago, has decided to re-engage himself with the body, the BBB said in a statement on May 22, 2017. Other members of the Bureau are Anil K Khandelwal, former CMD at Bank of Baroda and Rupa Kudwa, former MD & CEO at CRISIL. Former CAG Vinod Rai is the Chairperson of BBB. BBB is authorised to suggest to banks developing a robust leadership succession plan through appropriate HR processes, including performance management systems.

1938) India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project was inaugurated at which of the following places in May 2017?

- a) Delhi
- b) Rajkot
- c) Indore
- d) Nagpur

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis launched India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project at the Nagpur airport complex on May 26, 2017. It brings together e-buses, e-cabs, e-rickshaws and e-autos on a single platform, the Ola App, which will enable commuters in Nagpur to book them.

1939) According to the policy approved by the cabinet in May 2017, only local suppliers will be eligible in government procurement of goods for _____ and less.

- a) Rs. 10 lakh
- b) Rs. 25 lakh
- c) Rs. 50 lakh
- d) Rs. 75 lakh

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 24, 2017 approved a policy for providing preference to 'Make in India' in government procurements. Under the policy, preference in Government procurement will be given to local suppliers. Local suppliers are those whose goods or services meet prescribed minimum thresholds (ordinarily 50%) for local content. Local content is essentially domestic value addition. In procurement of goods for Rs. 50 lakhs and less, and where the Nodal Ministry determines that there is sufficient local capacity and local competition, only local suppliers will be eligible.

1940) The Union Cabinet on May 24, 2017 approved the phasing out of which of the following?

- a) Enforcement Directorate
- b) Competition Commission of India
- c) Securities Appellate Tribunal
- d) Foreign Investment Promotion Board

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 24, 2017 gave its approval to the phasing out of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The proposal entails abolishing the FIPB and allowing administrative Ministries/Departments to process applications for FDI requiring government approval.

1941) An entity (in sectors other than biotechnology) shall be considered as a Startup up to how many years from the date of its registration according to a Cabinet decision in May 2017?

- a) 6 years
- b) 7 years
- c) 8 years
- d) 9 years

1942) An entity in biotechnology sector shall be considered as a Startup up to how many years from the date of its registration according to a Cabinet decision in May 2017?

- a) 6 years
- b) 7 years
- c) 8 years
- d) 10 years

In order to promote entrepreneurship in the country, the Government of India has amended the definition of a Startup, said a press note issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on May 25, 2017. Taking into account the long gestation

period by Startups to establish, an entity shall be considered as a Startup up to seven years from the date of its incorporation/ registration (from earlier 5 years). However, in the case of Startups in the Biotechnology sector, the period shall be up to ten years from the date of incorporation/ registration.

1943) Which country attracted maximum FDI in 2016 according to fDi Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd.?

- a) Mexico
- b) South Korea
- c) India
- d) China

India has remained ahead of China and the US as far as FDI inflows were concerned in 2016, said the fDi Report 2017 compiled by fDi Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd on May 25, 2017. FDI by capital investment saw an increase of 2 per cent to USD 62.3 billion in 809 projects during 2016 in India. China has overtaken the US to become the second biggest country for FDI by capital investment, recording USD 59 billion of FDI, compared with USD 48 billion-worth in the US.

1944) Which of the following is the only provider of satellite phone service in India currently?

- a) Bharti Airtel
- b) Vodafone India
- c) Reliance Jio Infocomm
- d) Tata Communications

1945) BSNL announced the launch of satellite phone service provided by INMARSAT in May 2017. 'M' in INMARSAT is:

- a) Mass
- b) Multi
- c) Micro
- d) Mobile

The Minister of State for Communications (IC), Manoj Sinha launched BSNL's satellite phone service on May 24, 2017. It will be offered to government agencies in first phase and later opened for others in phased manner. The services will be provided by INMARSAT. International Mobile Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), which has a constellation of 14 satellites. Satellite phones in India are presently provided by Tata Communications, which inherited the licence from Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) (now Tata Communications Ltd). "The services of TCL will be phased out by June 30, 2017," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava said. All connections given by Tata Communications will be transferred to BSNL.

1946) The government announced the launch of a scheme in May 2017 to train rural youth to maintain mobile towers, repair optical fibres and fix other communication technologies across India. This scheme has been named after:

- a) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Minister of State for Communications (IC) Manoj Sinha launched BSNL's satellite phone service on May 24, 2017 announced the launch of the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan Scheme. The scheme will train rural youth to maintain mobile towers, repair optical fibres and fix other communication technologies across India.

1947) The government announced the launch of Telecom Skill Excellence Award Scheme in May 2017 to reward people doing innovative work in the telecom space. This scheme has been named after:

- a) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Minister of State for Communications (IC) Manoj Sinha on May 24, 2017 said that the government will reward people doing innovative work in the telecom space under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award Scheme.

1948) The government has decided to allocate _____ of the Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of National Waterways (NWs).

- a) 1%
- b) 1.5%
- c) 2%
- d) 2.5%

To boost inland water transport, the government on May 24, 2017 approved allocation of 2.5 per cent of the Central Road Fund for development of National Waterways (NWs). CRF is a duty on excise and customs imposed on petrol and high speed diesel. The cess at present is Rs 6 per litre.

1949) The power ministry launched the SEVA mobile app that will help in tracking of coal dispatch to power plants in May 2017. 'S' in SEVA stands for:

- a) Saral
- b) Sahaj
- c) Sugam
- d) Sulabh

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal launched the Saral Eindhyan Vitaran Application (SEVA), developed in-house by Coal India Limited (CIL) for power sector consumers, on May 23, 2017. The mobile app helps in tracking of coal dispatch to Power Plants.

1950) Which is the best ranked Indian company in Forbes magazine's annual list of the 2,000 biggest, most powerful and most valuable companies in the world in May 2017?

- a) Indian Oil
- b) Reliance Industries
- c) SBI
- d) HDFC

1951) Which is the best ranked company in Forbes magazine's annual list of the 2,000 biggest, most powerful and most valuable companies in the world in May 2017?

- a) Industrial & Commercial Bank of China
- b) Berkshire Hathaway
- c) JPMorgan Chase
- d) Bank of America

The number of Indian companies to feature in the Forbes 15th annual 'Global 2000' list for 2017 has risen to 58, compared to 56 the previous year. This comprehensive ranking of the world's biggest, most powerful and valuable publicly listed companies, released on May 24, 2017, is based on a mix of four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value. Forbes gave an equal weighting of all four metrics, to rank companies according to size. The Mukesh Ambani-led oil-to-yarn and retail conglomerate, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), ranked 106 (No. 121 last year) is the highest ranked Indian company in the list, with a market capitalisation of \$71.2 billion. World's Top ranked company is Industrial & Commercial Bank of China.

1952) Rajan Anandan was appointed new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). He works for which of the following companies?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Google's vice-president for South East Asia and India, Rajan Anandan has been appointed new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). Subho Ray continues to be the President of the Association, IAMAI said on May 25, 2017.

1953) Laura Biagiotti died in Rome on May 26, 2017 at the age of 73. She became famous for which business?

- a) Perfumes
- a) Fast Food
- c) Garments
- d) Publishing

Laura Biagiotti, an Italian fashion designer who conquered global markets with her soft, loose women's clothes and luxurious knits that won her the title "Queen of Cashmere", died in Rome on May 26, 2017 at the age of 73.

1954) Associated Journals announced in May 2017 that it will resume publication of its Urdu newspaper 'Qaumi Awaz'.

The company is owned by which party?

- a) Congress
- b) CPI-M
- c) IUML
- d) NCP

Congress-owned Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL) on May 24, 2017 announced its plan to resume publication of its Urdu newspaper 'Qaumi Awaz' along with its digital version and appointed veteran journalist Zafar Agha as its Editor-in-Chief. AJL is a company founded in 1937 by Jawaharlal Nehru and its Urdu newspaper 'Qaumi Awaz' is one of the pioneers of post-Independence journalism. It had temporarily suspended its publication in 2008.

1955) Which of the following launched hackathon 'Code For Banks' in May 2017 for developers, start-ups and students to come up with innovative ideas and solutions for the banking sector?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

State Bank of India (SBI) on May 24, 2017 said it has launched a national hackathon for developers, start-ups and students to come up with innovative ideas and solutions for the banking sector. The hackathon, named 'Code For Bank', will focus on the business value driven by technologies like predictive analytics, fin-tech/blockchain, digital payments, IOT, artificial intelligence, machine learning, BOTS and robotic process automation.

1956) Which of the following launched its Payments Bank in May 2017 with Renu Satti as its CEO?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

Paytm on May 23, 2017 unveiled its payments bank, becoming the first bank to offer cash-back on deposits. It will offer Rs. 250 cash-back to customers depositing Rs. 25,000 in an account. Also, customers will not have to fork out any charges for online transactions and there will be no minimum balance requirement. For savings accounts, it will offer 4 per cent interest per annum, and the bank will offer current accounts to its merchants. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the Chairman while Renu Satti is the CEO of Paytm Payments Bank. As a payments bank, Paytm can now accept customer deposits up to Rs. 1 lakh per customer in a savings or current account and offer other banking services, such as debit cards, online banking and mobile banking. Payments banks cannot offer financial products of their own, but partner with other banks.

1957) Which of the following signed MoU with the Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) in May 2017 to drive skill development through "Project Sangam"?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft

Microsoft India on May 22, 2017 signed MoU with the Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) to drive skill development through "Project Sangam" which is a Cloud hosted platform that leverages Microsoft Azure services, as well as the power of LinkedIn, to provide an integrated mobile-first platform for skilling, and employment.

1958) What was India's position in the list of leading stainless steel producers in the world in 2016?

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

India has pipped Japan to become the second largest stainless steel producer in the world after China, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) said on May 22, 2017. India overtook Japan as the second-largest producer in 2016.

1959) Japan's ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu, announced plans to build war museum in which state in May 2017?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Japan is going to build a war museum at the hillock at Maiba Lokpa in Bishnupur district, Manipur, where a Japanese camp was located during World War II. The Japanese ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu, said about 70,000 Japanese soldiers had died in battles from March to June 1944 in Imphal and Kohima. (May 21, 2017)

1960) Which state has decided to give a unique identification number called 'Bhudhar' for plots and agricultural lands, like Aadhar for individuals?

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

Lands in Andhra Pradesh will soon get a unique identification number called 'Bhudhar', like Aadhar for individuals. 'Bhudhar' will be a 11-digit unique number that will be issued for every plot and agricultural land, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced in Amaravati on May 23, 2017.

1961) . India's longest bridge of 9.15 km length was inaugurated on river Brahmaputra on May 26, 2017. It links Assam with which state?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) West Bengal
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh
- e) Mizoram

1962) India's longest bridge of 9.15 km length was inaugurated on river Brahmaputra on May 26, 2017. It has been named after:

- a) Jahnu Barua
- b) Hiteswar Saikia
- c) Bhupen Hazarika
- d) Gopinath Bardoloi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge on May 26, 2017. This new, three lane, 9.15 kilometre bridge has been built at a cost of about Rs 2,056 crore over river Lohit, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, linking Dhola in Assam to Sadiya in Arunachal Pradesh. The Govt. has named the bridge after Dadasaheb Phalke awardee singer Bhupen Hazarika.

1963) BJP candidate Khetrinmayum Bhabananda won which state's lone Rajya Sabha seat in May 2017?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

BJP leader Khetrinmayum Bhabananda won the state's lone Rajya Sabha seat, the election for which was held in Imphal on May 25, 2017. In the 60 member Manipur assembly BJP and its allies have 38 members.

1964) Which IIT has decided to assist the Madhya Pradesh government to develop 'Happiness Index' for measuring the well-being of residents?

- a) IIT Delhi
- b) IIT Madras
- c) IIT Bombay
- d) IIT Kharagpur

The Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur will collaborate with the Madhya Pradesh government to chalk out a 'Happiness Index' for measuring the well-being of residents, an official statement said in Kolkata on May 22, 2017.

1965) Who among the following was said to be the inspiration of Akshay Kumar's character in Bollywood film 'Airlift'? He passed away in Kuwait on May 20, 2017 at the age of 81.

- a) M. Mathews
- b) P. Menon
- c) A. Moopen
- d) S. Varkey

Prominent Indian businessman in Kuwait, Matthunny Mathews, who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of stranded Indians during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, passed away in Kuwait on May 20, 2017 at the age of 81. Mathews was said to be the inspiration of Akshay Kumar's character in Bollywood film 'Airlift'.

1966) Translation of Tamil classic "Thirukkural" in which language was released by CM K. Palaniswami in Chennai in May 2017?

- a) Greek
- b) Hebrew
- c) Korean
- d) Chinese

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on May 23, 2017 released the Korean translation of the classic "Thirukkural" in Chennai. The first copy was received by Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai Kim Hyung Tae.

1967) Who among the following was Man of the Match in the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017?

- a) Krunal Pandya
- b) David Warner
- c) Mitchell Johnson
- d) Jasprit Bumrah

1968) Who among the following was the coach of the 2016 Indian Premier League (IPL) winner Mumbai Indians?

- a) Daniel Vettori
- b) Brad Hodge
- c) Jacques Kallis
- d) Mahela Jayawardene

1969) Who among the following won the Orange Cap for scoring most runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017?

- a) Virat Kohli

- b) David Warner
- c) AB de Villiers
- d) Gautam Gambhir

1970) Who among the following won the Purple Cap for taking most wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017?

- a) Bhuvneshwar Kumar
- b) Shane Watson
- c) Mitchell Johnson
- d) Jasprit Bumrah

1971) Which of the following winners at the tenth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017 is/are matched correctly?

- a) Emerging Player of the Tournament – Mustafizur Rahman
- b) Fair Play trophy – Gujarat Lions
- c) Most Valuable Player – David Warner
- d) All the above

Rohit Sharma led Mumbai Indians were crowned the IPL champions following their thrilling one-run win over Rising Pune Supergiant captained by Steve Smith in the final in Hyderabad on May 22, 2017. Sharma opted to bat after winning the toss. Mumbai Indians' Krunal Pandya, who made 47 runs off 38 deliveries and gave away 31 runs in 4 overs, received the Man of the Match award. Brief Scores: Mumbai Indians: 129 for 8 in 20 overs. (Krunal Pandya 47, Rohit Sharma 24; J Unadkat 2/19) Rising Pune Supergiant: 128 for 6 in 20 overs. (Steve Smith 51, Ajinkya Rahane 44; Mitchell Johnson 3/26).

Awards: David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad won the **Orange Cap** for making most runs (641) in the tournament. Bhuvneshwar Kumar of Sunrisers Hyderabad won the **Purple Cap** for taking most wickets (26). Ben Stokes of Rising Pune Supergiant was named **Most Valuable Player** of the tournament. He took 12 wickets in with an average of 26.33 and also scored 316 runs. **Stylish Player of the Season** award went to Kolkata Knight Riders' skipper Gautam Gambhir while Basil Thampi of Gujarat Lions who took 11 wickets on **Emerging Player** award. **Fair Play** award went to Gujarat Lions.

1972) Who among the following won the 38th edition of the Federation Cup football in May 2017?

- a) East Bengal
- b) Shillong Lajong
- c) Bengaluru FC
- d) Mohun Bagan

JSW Bengaluru FC were crowned champions of the 38th edition of the Federation Cup after the Blues defeated Mohun Bagan 2-0 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on May 21, 2017. The 2 goals came from C.K Vineeth in 107th and 119th minutes.

1973) Who among the following won the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in China in May 2017?

- a) Padmini Rout
- b) K. Humpy
- c) Harika Dronavalli
- d) R. Vaishali

India's R. Vaishali won the women's title with eight points from nine rounds in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China, on May 21, 2017.

1974) Who among the following won the Moscow Grand Prix Chess tournament in May 2017?

- a) Ding Liren
- b) Sergey Karjakin
- c) Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
- d) Viswanathan Anand

Ding Liren of China clinched the Moscow Grand Prix on May 21, 2017. Ding finished with 6 points, a half point ahead of Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan.

1975) Who among the following was elected Member of the BWF Athletes' Commission in May 2017?

- a) Jwala Gutta
- b) P. V. Sindhu
- c) Kidambi Srikanth
- d) Ashwini Ponnappa

India's PV Sindhu, Kirsty Gilmour (Scotland), Akvile Stapusaityte (Lithuania) and Germany's Marc Zwiebler became new members of the BWF Athletes' Commission after voting in Gold Coast (Australia) on May 24, 2017. The new members join Shintaro Ikeda of Japan; Koen Ridder of the Netherlands; and India's Saina Nehwal on the players' representative body.

1976) Alex Korio (Men's) and Irene Cheptai (Women's) won 10 km race organised by which of the following in Bengaluru on may 21, 2017?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) HCL
- d) TCS

Alex Korio (Men's) and Irene Cheptai (Women's) made it a Kenyan double at the TCS World 10K run, clocking 28:12 and 31:51 respectively in the race in Bengaluru on May 21, 2017. Korio and Cheptai collected the winner's cheque for USD 26,000 each.

1977) Which of the following won the ice hockey world championship by beating Canada in the final played in Cologne, Germany on May 21, 2017?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

Sweden won the ice hockey world championship by beating Canada in the final played in Cologne, Germany by a penalty shootout on May 21, 2017. In the bronze medal game, Russia beat Finland 5-3.

1978) Indian women's hockey team lost all matches in 5-test series hosted by which of the following in May 2017?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Canada
- c) Chile
- d) Argentina

There was no end to the Indian women's hockey team's misery as it went down 2-6 to New Zealand in the final match for a 0-5 whitewash in the series, which concluded in Hamilton on May 20, 2017.

1979) Consider the following statements on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules 2017.

- I. Cattle cannot be bought for slaughter
- II. Cattle cannot be bought for slaughter from animal markets
- III. Cattle can be bought for slaughter from the farmers at the farms

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

The union environment ministry on May 27, 2017 said that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules 2017, which were notified on May 23 by the Harsh Vardhan-led ministry of environment, forest and climate change, ban trade of cattle for slaughter at animal markets. Animals for slaughter will have to be bought from the farmers at the farms. Meanwhile the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court on May 30, 2017 stayed for four weeks the operation of new central government rules on cattle trade.

1980) What is the strike range of the Prithvi-II missile that was successfully test-fired on June 2, 2017?

- a) 150 km
- b) 350 km
- c) 550 km
- d) 750 km

1981) Consider the following statements on Prithvi-II missile that was successfully test-fired on June 2, 2017.

- I. It can carry warheads upto 1000 kg
 - II. It is a surface to air missile
 - III. It is capable of carrying nuclear warheads
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only
- d) II and III only

1982) Prithvi-II, developed under the IMGDP by DRDO, was successfully test-fired for its full strike range on June 2, 2017. IMGDP stands for:

- a) Indian Guided Missile Design Program
- b) Integrated Guided Missile Development Program
- c) Indigenous Guided Missile Development Program
- d) Integrated Ground Missile Development Program

The indigenous nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha on June 2, 2017. The launch was carried out by the specially formed strategic force command (SFC), which was monitored by scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Prithvi-II missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines. The missile was inducted into Indian armed forces in 2003. It is the first missile to have been developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

1983) Navy's Khanderi submarine sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017. It is a submarine of which class?

- a) Viking
- b) Agosta
- c) Sturgeon
- d) Scorpene

1984) Navy's Khanderi submarine, which sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, was built with transfer of technology from DCNS of:

- a) Japan
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Portugal
- d) France

1985) Navy's Khanderi submarine, which sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, was built at which of the following shipyards?

- a) Goa Shipyard

- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

1986) Navy's Khanderi submarine, which sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, was built under which project of the Indian Navy?

- a) Project 25
- b) Project 50
- c) Project 75
- d) Project 100

Khanderi, the second of the six Scorpene class submarines, has sailed out from Mumbai harbour for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, in a step closer to its induction into the Indian Navy. The submarine will now be put through a rigorous set of trials. The construction of six Scorpene submarines is presently being progressed at Mazagon Dock Shipyard Limited (MDL), under Project 75 with Transfer of Technology from M/s DCNS, France as the collaborator. The first of the class submarine, Kalvari is presently undergoing sea trials and likely to be commissioned into Navy by Mid 2017.

1987) Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the newly built Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of DRDO in which state on May 28, 2017?

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka

The Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on May 28, 2017 inaugurated the newly built Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) at Chitradurga in Karnataka. The ATR is the first of its kind range in the country exclusively meant to conduct flight-tests of indigenous unmanned and manned aircrafts, developed by the DRDO including the naval and trainer versions of the Light Combat Aircraft, the unmanned air vehicles- Rustom-I and Rustom-II (Tapas); the Airborne Early Warning & Control Systems (AEW&C), Air-to-Ground weapons, parachutes and aerostats, etc. This outdoor testing and evaluating facility has been set up by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

1988) Which are the two hydrographic survey and inspection vessels launched by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on June 1, 2017 for the Haldia-Allahabad stretch of National Waterway-1?

- a) SL Godavari and SL Sindhu
- b) SL Ganga and SL Jhanvi
- c) SL Krishna and SL Pratibha
- d) SL Brahmaputra and SL Sarita

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on June 1, 2017 unveiled two hydrographic survey and inspection vessels for deployment in Ganga along the Haldia-Allahabad stretch of National Waterway-1. The vessels - SL Ganga and SL Jhanvi were constructed a cost of Rs 3.24 crore. IWAI chairman Nutan Guha Biswas said these specialised survey vessels will help identify exact nature of dredging requirements and sites to get assured three meters draft. Coming under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), National Waterway-1 will link Haldia and Varanasi.

1989) Which advertising agency has produced the advertisements for 'Darwaza Band' campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS) to promote toilet use in June 2017?

- a) JWT India
- b) Lowe Lintas
- c) Ogilvy & Mather India
- d) Taproot India

1990) Who among the following features in the advertisements for 'Darwaza Band' campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS) to promote toilet use in June 2017?

- a) Priyanka Chopra

- b) Deepika Padukone
- c) Vidya Balan
- d) Anushka Sharma

1991) Who among the following features in the advertisements for 'Darwaza Band' campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS) to promote toilet use in June 2017?

- a) Aamir Khan
- b) Salman Khan
- c) Amitabh Bachchan
- d) Akshay Kumar

The centre on May 30, 2017 launched an aggressive new campaign titled 'Darwaza Band' to promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation across the country's villages. The campaign has been produced for Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS). It was launched in the presence of Amitabh Bachchan and Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Narendra Singh Tomar in Mumbai. Advertisements for the 'Darwaza Band' campaign have been developed by Lowe Lintas, Mumbai under a World Bank Project. The Amitabh Bachchan series of ads encourages behaviour change in men who have toilets but are not using them. The Anushka Sharma series of ads encourages women who are more affected by this problem to stand up for this issue in their village and influence a positive change.

1992) Which of the following is related to disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945?

- a) Justice M. G. Sikri Commission
- b) Justice G.D. Khosla Commission
- c) Justice T. S. Sengupta Commission
- d) Justice V. N. Malimath Commission

Days after it said in an RTI response that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in 1945 in a plane crash in Taiwan, the Home Ministry said on June 2, 2017 that the reply was based on a "conclusion arrived at by the then UPA government in 2006" and it was willing to examine any new facts if they came up in future. "After considering the reports of the Shah Nawaz Committee, the Justice G.D. Khosla Commission and Justice Mukherjee Commission of Enquiry, the Government has come to the conclusion that Netaji has died in a plane crash in 1945," said the reply to an RTI query.

1993) Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed on:

- a) May 27
- b) May 28
- c) May 29
- d) May 30

The Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed on May 28, 2017. NGOs across the country are endeavouring to break the silence around menstruation.

1994) World No Tobacco Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 27
- b) May 28
- c) May 29
- d) May 31

1995) What was the theme of the WHO-sponsored World No Tobacco Day observed in May 2017?

- a) Tobacco: deadly in any form or disguise
- b) Raise taxes on tobacco
- c) Tobacco kills, don't be duped
- d) Tobacco – a threat to development

1996) Who among the following Ministers has won the 'Director General's Special Recognition Award' given by The World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017 for accelerating India's tobacco control initiatives?

- a) Maneka Gandhi
- b) Smriti Irani
- c) Rajnath Singh
- d) Jagat Prasad Nadda

The World No Tobacco Day was observed on May 31, 2017, highlighting the health and additional risks associated with tobacco use, and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme for this year is "Tobacco – a threat to development." The World Health Organisation (WHO) has selected Union Health Minister J P Nadda for the 'Director General's Special Recognition Award' for accelerating India's tobacco control initiatives and taking bold measures to protect people against hazards of tobacco use. Nadda is among the two recipients of the special global award this year. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia is the other awardee.

1997) Food and Agriculture Organization's World Milk Day was observed on:

- a) June 1
- b) June 2
- c) June 3
- d) June 4

World Milk Day was celebrated on June 1, 2017. This day is celebrated every year on June 1 and was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognise the importance of milk as a global food. This year's theme was "Raise a Glass". In India, National Milk Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Varghese Kurien on November 26.

1998) Who among the following is the author of 'Dialogue of the Deaf: The Government and the RBI' released recently?

- a) Nitin Desai
- b) Kaushik Basu
- c) Rajeev Malhotra
- d) Raghuram Rajan

1999) Who among the following is the author of 'Lone Fox Dancing: My Autobiography' released recently?

- a) Amish Tripathi
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Kiran Nagarkar
- d) Ruskin Bond

2000) 22. Who among the following UPA Ministers and Congress leader is the author of 'Indira Gandhi: A Life in Nature' released recently?

- a) Kapil Sibal
- b) Shashi Tharoor
- c) Jairam Ramesh
- d) P. Chidambaram

2001) Who among the following was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati in June 2017?

- a) Sunil Singhi
- b) George Kurian
- c) Sulekha Kumbhare
- d) Shashi Shekar Vempati

Shashi Shekar Vempati was on June 2, 2017 appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati.

2002) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in May 2017?

- a) Nihalchand
- b) Sanwar Lal Jat

- c) Mohanbhai Kundaria
- d) Ram Shankar Katheria

The President approved the appointments in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on May 31, 2017, for a period of 3 years. Prof (Dr) Ram Shankar Katheria is the Chairman and L. Murugan is the Vice-Chairman. K. Ramulu, Dr. Yogendra Paswan and Dr. (Ms) Swaraj Vidwan are Members.

2003) Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla was appointed as the Chancellor of which university in May 2017?

- a) Jamia Millia Islamia University
- b) Aligarh Muslim University
- c) Maulana Azad National Urdu University
- d) Osmania University

Manipur Governor and former minority affairs minister Najma Heptulla has been appointed as the chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia. Jamia Vice Chancellor Talat Ahmad confirmed the development on May 29, 2017, saying she has been appointed for a term of five years. The 77-year-old Heptulla is the first woman chancellor of the university since its establishment in 1920.

2004) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. He was Minister of State for which of the following in Manmohan Singh' Cabinet at the Centre?

- a) Coal
- b) Steel
- c) Tribal Affairs
- d) Civil Aviation

2005) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. Udhayam, founded by him in 1984, is a Telugu:

- a) FM Radio
- b) Magazine
- c) TV Channel
- d) Newspaper

2006) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. He won election for:

- a) Lok Sabha
- b) Rajya Sabha
- c) AP Legislative Council
- d) AP Legislative Assembly

2007) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. His name was featured in Limca Book of Records for:

- a) Acting in most number of movies
- b) Directing most number of movies
- c) Scripting most number of movies
- d) Producing most number of movies

2008) 30. Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. Which of the following is an award won by him?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) None of the above

Former Union Minister for Coal and one of the pillars of Telugu cinema industry, Dasari Narayana Rao, passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75 in Hyderabad. Rao commenced his acting career in 1952 with "Manavathi" and later donned the director's hat for "Tata Manavadu" in 1972. In a career spanning 45 years, Dasari excelled as a director, actor, script writer, and producer. Dasari also etched his name in the Limca Book of Records for directing the highest number of films — 151. He also produced 53 films, including a few Hindi movies. In the UPA-2 government led by Manmohan Singh, he was elected to Rajya Sabha in 2006 and became the Union Minister of State for Coal. He launched the popular Telugu daily Udhayam in 1984. However, he could not sustain it and had to sell it.

2009) Who among the following is India's Ambassador to Russia?

- a) Ranjit Rae
- b) Manpreet Vohra
- c) Ashok Tomar
- d) Pankaj Saran

2010) Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented over 100 volumes of 'Urga Kanjur' during his Russia visit in June 2017.

The volumes are sacred texts of:

- a) Jews
- b) Jains
- c) Parsees
- d) Buddhists

2011) India's GJEPC entered onto an agreement with ALROSA for cooperation in the field of diamond trade during PM Modi's visit to Russia in June 2017. Who among the following is the Chairperson of GJEPC?

- a) Krishna Lal Chadha
- b) Lokesh Kumar Singhal
- c) Arun Hastimal Firodia
- d) Praveen Shankar Pandya

2012) NPCIL and ROSATOM signed agreement for construction of Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam nuclear plant during PM Modi's visit to Russia in June 2017. Who among the following is the CMD of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)?

- a) Sekhar Basu
- b) Ratan Kumar Sinha
- c) Srikumar Bannerjee
- d) Satish Kumar Sharma

2013) Railways of India and Russia signed a contract for high-speed service linking which of the following to Secunderabad during PM Modi's visit to Russia in June 2017?

- a) Nagpur
- b) Ernakulum
- c) Mysore
- d) Kota
- e) Bhopal

2014) Which of the following is a member of the five-nation Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)?

- a) Tajikistan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Kyrgyzstan
- d) Azerbaijan
- e) Turkmenistan

2015) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) decided to rename the Officers' Mess Road in New Delhi's Chanakyapuri after Russia's former _____ in June 2017:

- a) Defence Minister
- b) Foreign Minister
- c) President
- d) Ambassador to India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 18th Annual India Russia Summit at St. Petersburg on June 1, 2017. Modi was on a two-day visit to Russia on June 1-2.
- An agreement for of cultural exchanges between Russia's Ministry of Culture and India's Ministry of Culture was signed by India's Ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran and Vladimir Medinskyii, Russia's Minister for Culture.
- An agreement for the construction of Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam nuclear plant along with the Credit Protocol was signed by Satish Kumar Sharma, Chairman NPCIL and Alexei Likhachev, CEO ROSATOM. Each of the two units will have a capacity to produce 1,000 MW of power.
- A contract between Russian Railways and Indian Railways on high-speed service at the Nagpur-Secunderabad section was signed by Saran and Oleg Beloseroov, President of Russian Railways.
- Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between ALROSA and the Council for the Promotion of the Export of Precious Stones and Jewellery of India was signed by Praveen Shankar Pandya, Chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and Sergei Ivanov, President ALROSA. The MoC covers areas like trade development, generic promotion of diamond and synthetic diamond detection.
- Marking 70 years of diplomatic ties, Modi and Putin on June 1 signed the St Petersburg Declaration, envisaging an action plan for deepening relations in all areas, including political and economic development of the two countries.
- Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Tigran Sargasyan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in St. Petersburg on June 2, 2017. The EAEU comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.
- PM Modi attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, an annual business and economic event hosted by the Russian President, in St. Petersburg on June 2.
- PM Modi on June 2 presented over 100 volumes of 'Urga Kanjur' to the head priest of the Datsan Gunzechoinei Buddhist Temple in St. Petersburg. 'Urga Kanjur' is a sacred Tibetan Buddhist text.
- The Officers' Mess Road in New Delhi's Chanakyapuri area now has a new name - Alexander M Kadakin Marg - with the NDMC passing a resolution to rename it after the former Russian Ambassador to India who passed away in January 2017. The decision by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at a meeting on June 1,

2016) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Spain, a country visited by PM Modi in May 2017?

- a) Rodrigo Rato
- b) Javier Arenas
- c) Ángel Acebes
- d) Mariano Rajoy

2017) Who among the following is the monarch of Spain, a country visited by PM Modi in May 2017?

- a) King Diego
- b) King Felipe
- c) King Alfonso
- d) King Michael

Answer 39:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first Indian PM to visit Spain since 1992, held wide-ranging talks with Spanish President Mariano Rajoy in Madrid on May 31, 2017. Modi also met King Felipe VI at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid.

2018) Who among the following is the President of Germany, a country visited by PM Modi in May 2017?

- a) Horst Kohler
- b) Roman Herzog
- c) Angela Merkel
- d) Frank-Walter Steinmeier

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel held talks in Berlin on May 30, 2017. Modi also paid a courtesy call to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at his official residence.

2019) Government-run Prasar Bharati got into an agreement with Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT) to step up cooperation in the broadcasting sector. SNRT is the government media organisation in which country?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Algeria
- c) Morocco
- d) Tunisia

Government-run Prasar Bharati has got into an agreement with Morocco's Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT) to step up cooperation in the broadcasting sector. The MoU was signed during the fifth India Morocco Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Rabat, Morocco's capital in May 2017.

2020) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Ratu Inoke Kubuabola of Fiji who came on an official visit to New Delhi in May 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Pranab Mukherjee
- d) Sushma Swaraj

The Minister of Defence and National Security of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola accompanied by his delegation met the Minister of Defence, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on May 29, 2017.

2021) India is supporting the National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius in augmenting its capacity through which of the following?

- a) Project Spear
- b) Project Hammer
- c) Project Arrow
- d) Project Trident

India and Mauritius on May 27, 2017 signed an agreement for maritime security as New Delhi extended a \$500-million credit line to the Indian Ocean island nation for various projects following delegation level talks in New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth. India would support the National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius in augmenting its capacity through Project Trident, an integrated development project.

2022) Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on May 29, 2017 gifted 10 ambulances and 15 sniffer dogs to which neighbouring country's army during his visit there?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Myanmar

Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on May 29, 2017 handed over keys of 10 ambulances and gifted 15 sniffer dogs to the Myanmar Army. Myanmar shares a 1,640-km-long border with a number of northeastern States.

2023) Who among the following Indian woman lawyers was selected by the UN in May for a fact-finding mission on human rights violations of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state?

- a) Indira Jaising
- b) Pinky Anand
- c) Sheela Murthy
- d) Pramila Nesargi

The United Nations on May 30, 2017 appointed an Indian human rights lawyer and two other experts to a fact-finding mission investigating alleged killings, rape and torture by security forces against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine

state. The mission will be led by Indira Jaising, an advocate of the Supreme Court of India. The other two members are Harvard-trained Sri Lankan lawyer Radhika Coomaraswamy and Australian consultant Christopher Dominic.

2024) Who amongst the following retired Indian diplomats was appointed as a public policy fellow at Washington-based think-tank Wilson Centre in June 2017?

- a) Shivshankar Menon
- b) Hardeep Singh Puri
- c) Nirupama Rao
- d) Shyam Saran

Former Indian Ambassador to US Nirupama Rao has been appointed as a public policy fellow to a Washington-based think-tank where she will work on a project on the Sino-India ties. Rao will be affiliated with the Wilson Centre's Asia programme and spend three months in residence at the Wilson Centre beginning in June 2017.

2025) Which of the following are the best and the worst ranked countries respectively in the Global Peace Index of 163 countries produced by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in June 2017?

- a) New Zealand, Iraq
- b) Iceland, Syria
- c) Japan, Afghanistan
- d) Austria, Sudan

2026) . What is India's rank in the Global Peace Index of 163 countries produced by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in June 2017?

- a) 111th
- b) 121st
- c) 131st
- d) 151st

The 11th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) was published by Sydney-based international think-tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) on June 1, 2017. India experienced a slight improvement in peace, rising four places in the GPI to rank 137 among 163 countries. Iceland was named the world's most peaceful nation this year, ahead of New Zealand, Portugal, Austria and Denmark. At the opposite end of the scale, unsurprisingly, peace levels were lowest in Syria whose civil war is still raging unabated. It is preceded in the ranking by Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen.

2027) . Who among the following is the former dictator of Panama, in news for his death at the age of 83 on May 30, 2017?

- a) Arnulfo Arias
- b) Vernon Alberto
- c) Manuel Noriega
- d) Francisco Rodríguez

Former Panama dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega died in Panama City on May 30, 2017 at the age of 83. Juan Carlos Varela, president of Panama, announced his death. Noriega had spent the last two and a half decades behind bars after being convicted on drug-trafficking and money laundering charges. He was first imprisoned in Florida, then in France, before being flown back to Panama in 2011. He was Panama's de facto leader from 1983 until 1989.

2028) Who among the following is the former Prime Minister of Greece, in news for his death at the age of 98 on May 29, 2017?

- a) Antonis Samaras
- b) Xenophon Zolotas
- c) Christos Sartzetakis
- d) Konstantinos Mitsotakis

Former Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis died in Athens on May 29, 2017 at the age of 98. Conservative Mitsotakis served as Prime Minister from 1990 to 1993. He quit politics in 2004.

2029) Zbigniew Brzezinski died at the age of 89 on May 26, 2017. He served as which of the following in US government?

- a) NASA Administrator
- b) National Security Advisor
- c) CIA Director
- d) Secretary of State

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who helped topple economic barriers between the Soviet Union, China and the West as President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, died at the age of 89 on May 26, 2017.

2030) Who among the following was appointed as the next United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President on May 31, 2017 to lead the 72nd session in September?

- a) Robert Fico
- b) Mikulas Dzurinda
- c) Miroslav Lajcak
- d) Robert Fico

Slovakian Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak was on May 31, 2017 appointed as the next United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President to lead the 72nd session in September.

2031) Which of the following is the wireless technology developed by IIT- Kharagpur for remote monitoring of patients' condition ferried in ambulances?

- a) AmbuEye
- b) AmbuSens
- c) AmbuTrack
- d) AmbuScene

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, on June 2, 2017 said it has come up with a wireless technology for remote monitoring of patients' condition ferried in ambulances. The technology called 'AmbuSens' has been developed in the SWAN lab of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) of the institute.

2032) Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) on May 27, 2017 said it has developed a grain moisture analyser which will help growers harvest crops at the right time after ensuring correct moisture levels. CSIO is based at:

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida
- c) Gurugram
- d) Faridabad

Chandigarh-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) on May 27, 2017 said it has developed a grain moisture analyser which will help growers harvest crops at the right time after ensuring correct moisture levels. "CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh developed Impedance based Grain Moisture Analyser (IGMA) which rapidly detects moisture levels on the spot without any need for chemical analysis," an official release said. CSIO is a unit of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

2033) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for achievements in Carnatic Music in May 2017?

- a) R. Vedavalli
- b) M. Manjunath
- c) K. Omanakutty
- d) Neela Ramgopal

2034) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for achievements in Sitar in May 2017?

- a) Arvind Parikh

- b) Kala Ramnath
- c) Ahmad Hussain
- d) Ratikant Mohapatra
- e) Arvind Mulgaonkar

2035) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for achievements in Theatre in May 2017?

- a) Bipin Kumar
- b) Kusum Kumar
- c) Rajkamal Nayak
- d) Ram Gopal Bajaj

2036) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for authoring books on the history of Dance in May 2017?

- a) Sunil Kothari
- b) Geeta Chandran
- c) Jitendra Maharaj
- d) Maisnam Kaminikumar Singh

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the Year 2016 were declared on May 24, 2017.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow: Four eminent persons in the field of performing arts, namely **Arvind Parikh** (a Hindustani classical musician and sitar player), **R. Vedavalli** (Carnatic vocalist), Ram Gopal Bajaj and **Sunil Kothari** (a noted Indian dance historian, scholar and critic) were selected as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna). The Fellowship of the Akademi is restricted to 40 numbers at any given time. **Ram Gopal Bajaj** is a noted Indian theatre director, academician, and a Hindi film actor. He has also been a faculty member and a former director of National School of Drama, New Delhi.

Sangeet Natak Awards: The General Council of the Akademi also selected forty-three (43) artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2016.

2037) Kerala Governor Justice (retd) P. Sathasivam on May 27, 2017 gave away "Sansad Ratna" awards to nine best performing parliamentarians in Chennai. The awards have been instituted by which NGO?

- a) Plus Point
- b) View Point
- c) Focus Point
- d) Prime Point

Kerala Governor Justice (retd) P. Sathasivam on May 27, 2017 gave away "Sansad Ratna" awards to nine best performing parliamentarians in Chennai. The awards, instituted by Chennai-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) Prime Point Foundation, were presented to Members of Parliament from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. This was the eighth edition of the Sansad Ratna awards.

2038) Which of the following won the Palme d'Or award at the annual Cannes Film Festival in May 2017?

- a) The Square
- b) Personal Shopper
- c) The Lobster
- d) I, Daniel Blake

2039) Which of the following awards given at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2017 is matched correctly with its winner?

- a) Best Director – Ken Loach
- b) Best Actress – Diane Kruger
- c) Best Actor – Asghar Farhadi

d) 70th Anniversary Award: Julia Roberts

Ruben Ostlund's "The Square", a satire on the contemporary art world and what it reveals about modern society, took home the **Palme d'Or** as the Cannes Film Festival rounded off its highlights-studded 70th edition in Cannes on May 28, 2017. Other winners were: Sofia Coppola bagged the **Best Director** Prize for "The Beguiled". Three acting prizes were awarded. Nicole Kidman won the **70th Anniversary Award**. Joaquim Phoenix won the prize for the **Best Actor** for his role in "You Were Never Really Here". German-American Diane Kruger won the **Best Actress** prize for he role in "In the Fade".

2040) Who among the following won the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story in May 2017?

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Anita Nair
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Jhumpa Lahiri

Two short fiction collections by Jhumpa Lahiri have convinced prize judges that she's a worthy recipient of the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. Lahiri will receive \$5,000 and will read at a December ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award selection committee on May 17, 2017 praised her for "deep introspection" and "meticulous attention" to language.

2041) The RBI initiated 'prompt corrective action' for which of the following in view of high net NPA and negative ROA (return on asset) in May 2017?

- a) Central Bank of India
- b) Dena Bank
- c) IDBI Bank
- d) Indian Overseas Bank

The RBI on June 2, 2017 put Dena Bank under watch by initiating prompt corrective action against it, a move that will place various restrictions on the lender, including on fresh loans and dividend distribution. "The RBI has initiated 'prompt corrective action' for Dena Bank in view of high net NPA and negative ROA (return on asset)," the bank said in regulatory filing. Dena Bank had reported widening of losses to Rs 575.26 crore for the quarter ended March 31, as bad loans rose sharply.

2042) Which of the following announced financing of rooftop solar projects of 100 MW worth Rs 400 crore for private developers under a World Bank programme in June 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

State Bank of India (SBI) on June 2, 2017 announced financing of rooftop solar projects of 100 MW worth Rs 400 crore for private developers under a World Bank programme. The World Bank-Clean Technology Fund (CTF) loan will support a number of solar PV business models, to expand the reach of rooftop PV systems to a variety of customer groups.

2043) Which of the following signed a \$100 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on May 30, 2017 to finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial and commercial buildings?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) Punjab National Bank

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Punjab National Bank (PNB) on May 30, 2017 signed a \$100 million loan — to be guaranteed by the Government of India — that will finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial and commercial buildings throughout India. The PNB will use the ADB funds to make further loans to various developers and end users to install rooftop solar systems.

2044) Who among the following was appointed as Independent Member to the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) in June 2017?

- a) Chitra Ramkrishna
- b) Vijayalakshmi R. Iyer
- c) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- d) Shubhlakshmi Panse

The government has expanded the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) headed by former CAG Vinod Rai by adding two more members. Former Allahabad Bank chairperson and managing director Shubhalakshmi Panse and private equity veteran Pradip Shah have been inducted into the board as independent members. Former CMD, Bank of Baroda, A K Khandelwal, former Joint MD H N Sinor and former CRISIL MD Roopa Kudva are other three independent members. Members in BBB from the government and the central bank side are secretary, Department of Financial Services, secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan.

2045) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed financial literacy week from June 5 to 9, 2017. The four broad themes covered did not include:

- a) Know Your Customer
- b) Exercising Credit Discipline
- c) Merging for Consolidation
- d) Grievance Redressal

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will observe financial literacy week from June 5-9 across the country. The financial literacy week will focus on four broad themes—know your customer (KYC), Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redressal and Going Digital (UPI and 99#). The main objective of observing the week is to emphasize the importance of financial literacy.

2046) What was the GDP growth in fourth quarter of 2016-17 as per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017?

- a) 6.1%
- b) 6.3%
- c) 6.5%
- d) 6.7%

2047) What was the GDP growth in 2016-17 as per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017?

- a) 6.5%
- b) 6.8%
- c) 7.1%
- d) 7.4%

The Gross Domestic Product during the fourth quarter fell sharply to 6.1 per cent from 7 per cent in the previous quarter while growth for the year as a whole also declined correspondingly. Data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017 revealed that GDP during 2016-17 grew at 7.1 per cent, at a rate lower than the 8 per cent achieved in 2015-16. GDP growth was 6.1 per cent in Q4.

2048) What is the per capita net national income during 2016-17 estimated at current prices by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017?

- a) Rs. 93,219
- b) Rs. 1,03, 219
- c) Rs. 1,13, 219
- d) Rs. 1,23, 219

India's per capita income grew by 9.7 per cent to Rs 1,03,219 in 2016-17 from Rs 94,130 a year ago. In 2015-16, the rate of growth of the country's per capita net income stood at 7.4 per cent. "The per capita income at current prices during 2016-17 is estimated to have attained a level of Rs 1,03,219 as compared to the estimates for the year 2015-16 of Rs 94,130 showing a rise of 9.7 per cent," an official released on May 31, 2017 said.

2049) Which of the following cut its growth forecast for the economy in 2017-18 to 7.2% in its India Development Update in May 2017?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) IMF
- c) WEF
- d) WB

The World Bank on May 29, 2017 cut its estimate of India's growth in gross domestic product (GDP) for the current and earlier financial years. It cited the impact of demonetisation and a slower than expected revival in the investment cycle. The growth estimate for the ongoing 2017-18 year (it began on April 1) was reduced to 7.2 per cent from the previous 7.6 per cent. That for 2016-17 was toned down to 6.8 per cent, from the earlier seven per cent, said its bi-annual India Development Update.

2050) Which country was the top source of FDI in India in 2016-17, according to a report released by the RBI in June 2017?

- a) Mauritius
- b) United States
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Singapore

Mauritius elbowed out Singapore to emerge as the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2016-17. Inflow from Mauritius in 2016-17 stood at \$15.72 billion whereas that of Singapore read \$8.71 billion, showed data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in June 2017. In 2015-16, Singapore was first.

2051) In May 2017, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to:

- a) 11%
- b) 12%
- c) 13%
- d) 15%

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to 15 per cent, from the existing 10 per cent, Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said on May 27, 2017. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) at Pune.

2052) The framework for strategic partnership (SP) model in defence production was released by the defence ministry on May 31, 2017. FDI will be limited to:

- a) 33%
- b) 49%
- c) 51%
- d) 66%

The framework for strategic partnership (SP) model in defence production was released by the defence ministry on May 31, 2017. Under the SP model, select private firms will be roped in to build military platforms like submarines and fighter jets in India in partnership with foreign entities. A 49 per cent FDI cap has been kept for setting up ventures under the SP model. The management of the applicant companies will have to be in Indian hands with majority representation on the board of directors. Chief executive of the applicant company shall be resident Indian.

2053) Which of the following is the portal launched by Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on June 1, 2017 to connect buyers and sellers of construction materials?

- a) GRAM-Pro+
- b) REAM-Pro+
- c) EKAM-Pro+
- d) INAM-Pro+

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari launched INAM-Pro+ to connect buyers and sellers of construction materials on June 1, 2017. INAM-Pro+ is an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, the web portal designed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) as a common platform to bring cement buyers and sellers together. The portal facilitates comparison of price, availability of materials etc. for the buyers to procure cement.

2054) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Chairman J. Satyanarayana launched 'T-Wallet' on June 1, 2017. It is the official e-wallet of which state's government for digital payments?

- a) Tripura
- b) Telangana
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Chhattisgarh

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) chairman J. Satyanarayana on June 1, 2017 launched 'T-Wallet', the official e-wallet of the Telangana government for digital payments, in Hyderabad.

2055) How much was deposited under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), launched post-demonetisation, as on June 1, 2017?

- a) Rs. 3000 crore
- b) Rs. 5000 crore
- c) Rs. 7000 crore
- d) Rs. 9000 crore

Deposits amounting to around Rs 5,000 crore were made under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), launched post-demonetisation, the government said on June 1, 2017. The scheme allowed deposits to be made in the form of cash or in an account with bank or post office or specified entity, with a tax, surcharge and penalty totalling up to 49.90%. Mandatory deposit of 25% of the undisclosed income is to be made in PMGKY. The deposits are interest-free and have a lock-in period of four years.

2056) Which of the following was the most profitable PSU with a net profit of Rs. 19,100 crore in 2016-17?

- a) Indian Oil
- b) NTPC
- c) ONGC
- d) SAIL

2057) Which of the following was India's most profitable company with a net profit of Rs. 29,901 crore in 2016-17?

- a) Reliance Industries Ltd
- b) TCS
- c) Asian Paints
- d) Larsen & Toubro

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has overtaken Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company. IOC posted net profit to Rs 19,106.40 crore in the financial year ended March 31, 2017. This was more than the Rs 17,900 crore net profit ONGC posted, making IOC the most profitable PSU. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries was India's most profitable company, posting a net Rs 29,901 crore in financial year 2016-17.

2058) With advancements in the field of biometric technology, India has topped globally in adoption of biometrics techniques. This was the finding of 'Trust in Technology' report of:

- a) HSBC
- b) Citibank
- c) Barclays Bank
- d) Bank of America

With advancements in the field of biometric technology, India has topped globally in adoption of biometrics techniques, says a report. "On an average, people in India (9 per cent) are three times more likely than any other country (3 per cent) surveyed to have used 'iris recognition' to identify themselves," said the HSBC's recent 'Trust in Technology' report. (May 28, 2017)

2059) Which of the following has tied up with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to set up technical schools across India under its Advanced Repair and Industrial Skills Enhancement (A.R.I.S.E.) program in August 2014?

- a) Tata Steel
- b) Maruti Suzuki India
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) Samsung

Samsung India on June 2, 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for its Samsung Technical School initiative, renewing its partnership for 10 existing schools run across the country and adding two new MSME-Samsung Technical Schools at Bengaluru and Jamshedpur. Samsung also announced the MSME-Samsung Technical School Scholarship program for girls and differently-abled trainees. The scholarship will cover the entire fee for the Samsung Advanced Repair and Industrial Skills Enhancement 2 (A.R.I.S.E.2) program.

2060) ESPN World Fame 100 list launched in May 2017 has four Indian players: Virat Kohli, former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and _____.

- a) Ravichandran Ashwin
- b) Ravindra Jadeja
- c) Ajinkya Rahane
- d) Suresh Raina

India captain Virat Kohli, former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and Suresh Raina have found places in this year's ESPN World Fame 100 list. While Kohli is placed in the 13th spot and Dhoni in the 15th, Yuvraj and Raina have been ranked 90th and 95th respectively. The list is ESPN's ranking of the 100 most famous active athletes in the world. Heading the list is top Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. The ranking is based on a formula which combines endorsements, social media reach and other data to create a comparative ranking system. (May 31, 2017)

2061) 33. Which of the following announced the launch of a technology tool -- DigiGST -- to provide organisations with end-to-end Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance support in May 2017?

- a) EY
- b) BCG
- c) Deloitte
- d) PwC

Global professional services organisation EY on May 31, 2017 announced the launch of a technology tool -- DigiGST -- to provide organisations with end-to-end Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance support.

2062) Which of the following launched CreditVision in May 2017 for banks to estimate the creditworthiness of a consumer applying for loan?

- a) Dun & Bradstreet
- b) CIBIL
- c) Equifax
- d) CRIF High Mark

Credit information company TransUnion CIBIL on May 31, 2017 launched a new solution to help banks expand their consumer base. The product, CreditVision, looks at the past credit behaviour of a consumer, predicts risks and helps banks to expand credit opportunities by studying his payment, exposure and spend behaviour.

2063) Which of the following was named as the world's most valuable football club by KPMG with an enterprise value of over €3 billion recently?

- a) Chelsea
- b) Barcelona
- c) Real Madrid
- d) Manchester United

KPMG has named Manchester United as the world's most valuable football club, becoming the first ever club to have an enterprise value of over €3 billion. Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester City also feature in the top five most valuable teams. KPMG has devised an algorithm which is a combination of five factors: profitability, popularity, sporting potential, broadcasting rights and stadium ownership. The combination of all these factors produces the Enterprise Value (EV).

2064) The government has decided to shift the proposed 6,000 MW nuclear power plant in Mithivirdi village of Gujarat to which state in May 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The proposed 6,000 MW nuclear power plant in Mithivirdi village in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat will be shifted to Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. This decision of the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) was conveyed to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on May 18, 2017. The plant was to be set up by state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) with technical support from Toshiba Corp's Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC).

2065) Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars were presented by the President to teachers of which state in May 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh

President Pranab Mukherjee on May 29, 2017 presented the Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars for the year 2017 in New Delhi. 15 distinguished teachers were bestowed with the Puraskars instituted in the name of Malti Mohinder Singh Syngle, an eminent educationist and crusader for promoting education for girls.

2066) 38. Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated Litchi processing plant at which of the following places in Bihar on May 29, 2017?

- a) Gaya
- b) Katihar
- c) Munger
- d) Muzaffarpur

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated Litchi processing plant at Muzaffarpur, Bihar on May 29, 2017.

2067) Which of the following organised Accessibility Summit in Hyderabad on May 30, 2017 aiming to enhance technology access for people with disabilities?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Microsoft India hosted Accessibility Summit in Hyderabad on May 30, 2017 aiming to enhance technology access for people with disabilities.

2068) Which is the first state in the country where cases of mosquito-borne Zika virus were reported by WHO recently?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Goa

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 27, 2017 confirmed three cases of mosquito-borne Zika virus, including a pregnant woman, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare-Government of India (MoHFW) reported three laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus disease in Bapunagar area of Ahmedabad. The virus is transmitted to people through a bite of an infected mosquito called Aedes Aegypti, which also transmits dengue and Chikungunya.

2069) 41. A stamp on who among the following writers was released by the Panjab University in Chandigarh on May 31, 2017?

- a) Gurbachan Singh Bhullar
- b) Kartar Singh Duggal
- c) Manjit Tiwana
- d) Balwant Gargi

A stamp on noted playwright and theatre director late Balwant Gargi was released in Chandigarh on May 31, 2017. The stamp was released on the commemoration of Balwant Gargi centenary by the Panjab University. On the occasion, the stamps of two other writers -- Krishan Chander and Bhisham Sahni, who are also the Panjab University (PU) alumni -- were released. Gargi was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1962 for his book 'Rang Manch'. This was followed by the Padma Shri (1972), and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Punjabi Playwriting in 1998.

2070) Who among the following resigned from the Committee of Administrators (CoA) set up by the Supreme Court to implement recommendations of Lodha Committee in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in June 2017?

- a) Vikram Limaye
- b) Ramchandra Guha
- c) Diana Edulji
- d) Vinod Rai

Ramchandra Guha on June 1, 2017 resigned from the Committee of Administrators (CoA) appointed by the Supreme Court to implement recommendations of Lodha Committee in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), citing personal reasons. Guha has sought the apex court's permission to relieve him of his duties. Historian Guha, along with former captain of the women's cricket team Diana Edulji and Managing Director and CEO of IDFC Limited Vikram Limaye, was a part of four-member CoA, which is headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai to run the BCCI.

2071) Who among the following won the Sudirman Cup Badminton tournament hosted by Australia in May 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) Denmark
- c) Indonesia
- d) South Korea

South Korea on May 28, 2017 won badminton's Sudirman Cup with a 3-2 victory over China at Australia's Gold Coast. The victory ended China's 14-year grip on the Sudirman Cup. China won Men's Doubles and Men's Singles matches while South Korea won Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles matches.

2072) 44. Who among the following won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix on May 28, 2017?

- a) Mark Webber
- b) Jenson Button
- c) Daniel Ricciardo
- d) Sebastian Vettel

Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix in Monte Carlo on May 28, 2017, followed by his Finnish team-mate Kimi Raikkonen in second place. Red Bull's Australian driver, Daniel Ricciardo, took the third place.

2073) Who among the following won the Golden Shoe award given to the top scorer in the European football leagues in 2016-17 season?

- a) Luis Suarez
- b) Cristiano Ronaldo
- c) Jonas Goncalves
- d) Lionel Messi

Barcelona striker Lionel Messi won the European Golden Shoe for a record equalling fourth time on Sunday having scored 37 goals this season in the Spanish league. The award goes every season to the leading goal scorer from every top division national league in Europe. The Argentinean striker pipped Bas Dost of Sporting Lisbon who ended the season with 34 goals.

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1) Consider the following statements regarding Agni-IV missile that was test-fired successfully on January 2, 2017.

I. It is a surface-to-surface missile

II. It can carry nuclear warheads

III. It can carry warheads weighing up to 1 tonne

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) II only

b) I and II only

c) II only

d) I, II & III*

2) Consider the following statements regarding Agni-IV missile that was test-fired successfully on January 2, 2017.

I. It is a single stage missile

II. It uses solid fuel

III. It uses liquid fuel

Which of the above statements is/are not correct?

a) II only

b) I and II only

c) II only*

d) II and III only

India successfully test-fired its intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-IV from the Abdul Kalam Wheeler Island off Odisha coast on January 2, 2017. The test was aimed at revalidating new technologies incorporated in Agni-IV system and checking the readiness of armed forces to launch the missile on its own. Agni-IV is a two-stage, surface-to-surface missile that is 20 metres long and weighs 17 tonnes. Agni-IV uses solid fuel. It can carry a one-tonne nuclear warhead over a distance of 4,000 kilometres. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) designed and developed AGNI-IV. This was the sixth test of the missile and second user associate launch from the Wheeler Island. Before January 2, 2017, the missile was tested successfully on November 9, 2015.

3) Women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children would receive how much financial assistance as per an announcement made by the Prime Minister on December 31, 2016?

a) Rs. 10,000

b) Rs. 8,000

c) Rs. 6,000*

d) Rs. 4,000

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced that women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children would get an assistance of Rs 6,000, a move aimed to improve maternal mortality rate and health of the mother and the child. "We are introducing a nation-wide scheme for financial assistance to pregnant women. Rs 6,000 will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of pregnant women who undergo institutional delivery and vaccinate their children," he said. So far pregnant women in 53 districts were getting an assistance of Rs 4,000 under the pilot project.

- 4)** The Indus Water Treaty (IWT) was signed between India and Pakistan in which year?
a) 1950 b) 1960* c) 1970 d) 1980
- 5)** Which of the following has a specific role of dispute resolution on Indus Water Treaty (IWT) between India and Pakistan?
a) International Monetary Fund b) United Nations c) Asian Development Bank d) World Bank*
- 6)** Pakistan has objected to the construction of Kishanganga Hydroelectric Plant by India. The Plant will divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in which river's basin?
a) Ravi b) Indus c) Jhelum* d) Beas
- 7)** Pakistan has objected to the construction of Ratle Hydroelectric Plant by India. The Plant is under construction on which of the following rivers?
a) Ravi b) Indus c) Jhelum d) Chenab*
- 8)** Who among the following Presidents of Pakistan signed the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) with India?
a) Ayub Khan*
b) Yahya Khan
c) Iskander Mirza
d) Fazal Ilahi Chaudhry

India on January 5, 2017 asked the World Bank not to rush in to broker a deal on its dispute with Pakistan over Kishanganga and Ratle project, asserting that the differences can be resolved bilaterally or through a neutral expert. India's position was conveyed during a meeting World Bank representative Ian H Solomon held with senior officials of External Affairs and Water Resources ministries in New Delhi. Solomon had come as part of World Bank's efforts to break the deadlock between the two neighbours on the Kishenganga and Ratle project which are coming up in Jammu and Kashmir. Under the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) signed by India and Pakistan in 1960, the World Bank has a specific role of dispute resolution between the two countries.

The Indus Waters Treaty is a water-distribution treaty between India and Pakistan, brokered by the World Bank (then the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development). The treaty was signed in Karachi on September 19, 1960 by Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and President of Pakistan Ayub Khan. According to this agreement, control over the three "eastern" rivers — the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej — was given to India, while control over the three "western" rivers — the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum — to Pakistan.

The **Kishanganga** Hydroelectric Plant is run-of-the-river hydroelectric scheme that is designed to divert water from the Kishanganga River to a power plant in the Jhelum River basin. It is located 5 km north of Bandipore in Jammu and Kashmir and will have an installed capacity of 330 MW. Construction on the project began in 2007 and is expected to be complete in 2016. Construction on the dam was temporarily halted by the Hague's Permanent Court of Arbitration in October 2011 due to Pakistan's protest of its effect on the flow of the Kishanganga River (called the Neelum River in Pakistan). In February 2013, The Hague ruled that India could divert a minimum amount of water for power generation.

The **Ratle** Hydroelectric Plant is a run-of-the-river hydroelectric power station currently under construction on the Chenab River, downstream of the village of Ratle in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

- 9)** The Election Commission announced schedule for assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa on January 4, 2017. What is the election spending limit for candidates in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand according to EC's rules?
a) Rs. 36 lakh
b) Rs. 32 lakh
c) Rs. 28 lakh*
d) Rs. 24 lakh
- 10)** What is the election spending limit for candidates in Goa and Manipur in the forthcoming Assembly elections according to Election Commission's rules?
a) Rs. 36 lakh
b) Rs. 32 lakh
c) Rs. 28 lakh

d) Rs. 20 lakh*

Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa will be held between February 4 and March 8, the Election Commission announced on January 4, 2017. Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi said all candidates have been directed to open bank accounts, and pay for all expenses above Rs.20,000 through cheques. The maximum limit for expenses for each candidate in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttarakhand is Rs.28 lakh. In Goa and Manipur, the limit is Rs.20 lakh.

11) Cabinet approved signing of agreement with Uruguay on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters in January 2017. Which of the following is the currency of Uruguay?

- a) Sol
- b) Real
- c) Bolivar
- d) Peso*

12) Which of the following is the capital of Uruguay?

- a) Asuncion
- b) Paramaribo
- c) Belmopan
- d) Montevideo*

The Cabinet on January 4, 2017 approved the signing and ratifying an agreement between India and Uruguay on cooperation and mutual assistance in customs matters. Uruguay is an important trading partner of India among members of the MERCOSUR, a trading block in Latin America. India signed a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) with the MERCOSUR which came into effect from 1st June, 2009. Uruguay has Montevideo as capital and Tabaré Vázquez as President. Countries and currencies: Peru-Sol, Brazil-Real, Venezuela-Bolivar, Uruguay-Peso and Paraguay-Guarani.

13) Which of the following hosted the 17th Swami Haridas-Tansen Sangeet-Nritya Mahotsava in January 2017?

- a) Lucknow
- b) Pune
- c) Hyderabad
- D) Delhi*

Aiming to revive and enhance interest in traditional Indian art forms, particularly among the younger generation, the 17th Swami Haridas-Tansen Sangeet-Nritya Mahotsava, presented by HCL Concerts and Bharatiya Sangeet Sadan was organised in New Delhi from January 5 to 8, 2017.

14) Which of the following organised the 44th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair in New Delhi in January 2017?

- a) Sahitya Akademi
- b) National Book Trust*
- c) Press Information Bureau
- d) Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity

The 44th edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair began at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on January 7, 2017. It has been themed 'Manushi', focusing on "writings on and by women". The 9-day-long fair, organised by National Book Trust (NBT), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, in association with India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), will aim to show and project the diversity of writings by women writers. The fair will close on January 15.

15) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Sri Lanka's Mahinda Amaraweera who came on an official visit to New Delhi in January 2017?

- a) Nitin Gadkari
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Radha Mohan Singh*
- d) Sushma Swaraj

India and Sri Lanka held Ministerial level talks on fishermen issues on January 2, 2017 in Colombo. Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare of India Radha Mohan Singh met with Minister for Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Development of Sri Lanka Mahinda Amaraweera. The talks followed the first meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) on fisheries held in New Delhi on December 31, 2016. The Ministers exchanged views on possible mechanisms to help find a permanent solution to the fishermen issues.

16) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Sri Lanka's Samantha Wimalathunge who came on an official visit to New Delhi in January 2017?

- a) Bipin Rawat
- b) Rajendra Singh*
- c) Sunil Lanba
- d) Krishna Chaudhary

A three member delegation led by Director General Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) Rear Admiral Samantha Wimalathunge visited India from January 3 to 5, 2017 for a High Level Meeting, with the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The Indian delegation was led by Director General, Indian Coast Guard Rajendra Singh. The visit was in continuation of the various efforts by the governments of the two countries in furthering cooperation between the coast guards of two countries on maritime issues of mutual concerns to formulate a cooperative approach.

17) Which of the following hosted a three-day International Conference on “Yoga for Diabetes” in January 2017?

- a) Lucknow
- b) Pune
- c) Hyderabad
- d) Delhi*

A three-day International Conference on “Yoga for Diabetes” organised in New Delhi from January 3 to 5, 2017. It was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) Shripad Yesso Naik. The conference held discussions on the role of Yoga in the prevention and management of Diabetes.

18) Smart Phones and Daisy Players were distributed by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) on January 4, 2017. Whose birth anniversary was observed on this day?

- a) Louis Pasteur
- b) Karl Landsteiner
- c) Jonas Salk
- d) Louie Braille*

Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawarchand Gehlot participated in the event organized on the occasion of Sir Louie Braille’s birth anniversary day in New Delhi on January 4, 2017. On the occasion, 270 Smart Phones and 40 Daisy Players were distributed to students with visual impairment under ADIP scheme of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. Scholarships cheques worth Rs. 5.00 lakhs also distributed to each of 66 Students with visual impairment under National Scholarship Scheme of National Federation of the Blind.

19) Who among the following is the author of ‘Chanakya in Daily Life’ released recently?

- a) Ashwin Sanghi
- b) Radhakrishnan Pillai*
- c) Kiran Nagarkar
- d) Chetan Bhagat

20) Ullekh N.P. is the author of a book on who among the following former Prime Ministers released in December 2016?

- a) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Atal Behari Vajpayee*
- d) Manmohan Singh

Recent releases: Chanakya in Daily Life by Radhakrishnan Pillai, The Untold Vajpayee: Politician and Paradox by Ullekh N.P.

21) What was the highest civilian honour conferred on Om Puri who passed away in Mumbai on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri*

22) Om Puri died on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He won the National Film Award for Best Actor for which of the following in in 1981?

- a) Aakrosh
- b) Arohan*
- c) Bhavni Bhavai

d) Dharavi

23) Om Puri died on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He won the National Film Award for Best Actor for which of the following in 1983?

- a) Ardh Satya*
- b) Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron
- c) Dhoop
- d) Mirch Masala

24) Om Puri died on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He was conferred with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in ____.

- a) 2007
- b) 2009*
- c) 2011
- d) 2013

Veteran actor Om Puri passed away in Mumbai on January 6, 2017 at the age of 66. He won National Film Award for Best Actor for "Arohan" in 1981 and "Ardh Satya" in 1983. He was honoured with the Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award in 1990. In 2004, was made an honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire. He was conferred with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009. Hailing from Ambala in Haryana, Puri studied at the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune. He was also an alumnus of the 1973 class of the National School of Drama. The actor made his film debut in 1976 with the Marathi film "Ghashiram Kotwal".

25) Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan passed away in Mumbai on January 4, 2017 at the age of 88. He was a noted exponent of which musical instrument?

- a) Sitar*
- b) Tabla
- c) Sarangi
- d) Violin

26) Hindustani classical musician Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan passed away in Mumbai on January 4, 2017 at the age of 88. What was the highest civilian honour conferred on him?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan*
- d) Padma Shri

Renowned sitar player Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan, - the last survivor of the 'Sitar Trinity' of India along with the late Pandit Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan - died in Mumbai on January 4, 2017 at the age of 88. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1970, Padma Bhushan in 2006 and was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 1987. Born in Jawra, Madhya Pradesh, he, during his music career spanning over six decades, played the sitar for various Bollywood films, including "Mughal-E-Azam", "Kohinoor", "Goonj Uthi Shehnai" and "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje", among many others.

27) Who among the following was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Air Staff in January 2017?

- a) K. K. Nohwar
- b) S. Mukerji
- c) D. C. Kumaria
- d) S. B. Deo*

Air Marshal S B Deo on January 2, 2017 took over as Vice Chief of Air Staff.

28) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in January 2017?

- a) Jacob M. Nisamoah
- b) Winston S. Acheampong
- c) Martin J. Rawlings
- d) David R. Syiemlieh*

David R Syiemlieh was appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) on January 2, 2017.

29) Rajen Habib Khwaja took charge as the Director General of which of the following institutions in January 2017?

- a) Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Delhi
- b) Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
- c) Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysuru
- d) Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad*

Retired IAS officer Rajen Habib Khwaja took charge as the Director General of the Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI) in Hyderabad on January 3, 2017. The ASCI was started jointly by the Government of India and the representatives of industry as an autonomous institute in the year 1956 to impart training in the field of management development. It specialises in training of civil servants and managers of corporate and government sectors and urban management.[]

30) India and _____ on January 1, 2016 exchanged lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between the two countries.

- a) China
- b) Russia
- c) USA
- d) Pakistan*

India and Pakistan on January 1, 2017 exchanged respective lists of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between the two countries. The exchange was done through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad. This is the twenty sixth consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.

31) India and Kazakhstan signed a protocol to amend the existing double taxation avoidance convention (DTAC) on January 6, 2017. BEPS refers to:

- a) Base Erosion and Profit Sharing
- b) Base Erosion and Profit Shifting*
- c) Basic Erosion and Profit Sharing
- d) Basic Erosion and Profit Shifting

India and Kazakhstan on January 6, 2017 signed a protocol to amend the existing double taxation avoidance convention (DTAC) between the two countries. The protocol has among other things inserted a limitation of benefits (LOB) article to provide a main purpose test to prevent misuse of the DTAC and to allow application of domestic law and measures against tax avoidance or evasion. The original DTAC was signed on December 9, 1996. The protocol also inserts specific provisions to facilitate relieving of economic double taxation in transfer pricing cases. This is a taxpayer-friendly measure and is in line with India's commitment under Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) action plan to meet the minimum standard of providing mutual agreement procedure (MAP) access in transfer pricing cases. The protocol has inserted service Permanent Establishment (PE) provisions with a threshold and also provides that the profits to be attributed to PE will be determined on the basis of apportionment of total profits of the enterprise.

32) Which of the following is setting up an agency to combat a flood of news on social media that was "slanderous, fake, misleading and spread hate" in January 2017?

- a) Indonesia*
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Singapore

Indonesia is setting up an agency that will tackle fake news after a flood of untrue stories on social media, an official said in Jakarta on January 5, 2017. The new cyber agency will also seek to protect state institutions from hackers, said the presidential spokesman. The government said that the move was necessary to combat a flood of news on social media that was "slanderous, fake, misleading and spread hate". Among the agency's tasks would be to monitor news circulating online to check for false stories. It will be overseen by the security ministry and will work alongside other government agencies. It came after President Joko Widodo declared his intention to combat fake news at a cabinet meeting in December 2016.

33) Which of the following has become the first country in Europe to pay its unemployed citizens a basic monthly income from January 2017?

- a) The Netherlands
- b) Denmark
- c) Sweden
- d) Finland*

Finland has become the first country in Europe to pay its unemployed citizens an unconditional monthly sum, in a social experiment that will be watched around the world amid gathering interest in the idea of a universal basic income. Under the two-year, nationwide pilot scheme, which began on 1 January, 2,000 unemployed Finns aged 25 to 58 will receive a guaranteed sum of €560 (£475). The income will replace their existing social benefits and will be paid even if they find work. Kela, Finland's social security body, said the trial aimed to cut red tape, poverty and above all unemployment, which stands in the Nordic country at 8.1%. The present system can discourage jobless people from working since even low earnings trigger a big cut in benefits.

34) Who among the following former Army Chiefs of Pakistan was appointed as head of Saudi Arabia-led 39-nation Islamic military coalition formed to combat terrorism in January 2017?

- a) Abdul Waheed Kakar
- b) Jehangir Karamat
- c) Pervez Musharraf
- d) Raheel Sharif*

Pakistan's recently retired army chief Gen Raheel Sharif will head a Saudi Arabia-led 39-nation Islamic military coalition formed to combat terrorism, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said in Islamabad on January 6, 2017. The headquarters of the new Saudi-led coalition would be based in Riyadh. The coalition includes countries like Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Tunisia, Sudan, Malaysia, Egypt and Yemen among others.

35) Indian-American Rajiv Shah was in news for his appointment as head of which of the following non-profit institutions in United States in January 2017?

- a) Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- b) Bloomberg Foundation
- c) Carnegie Foundation
- d) Rockefeller Foundation *

Rajiv Shah, a former administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, will be the Rockefeller Foundation's next president, the U.S.-based philanthropic organization announced on January 4, 2017.

36) Who among the following was appointed as the Prime Minister of Romania in January 2017?

- a) Dacian Ciolos
- b) Sorin Grindeanu*
- c) Traian Basescu
- d) Adrian Nastase

Veteran leftist Sorin Grindeanu has been named Romania's Prime Minister-designate by President Klaus Iohannis. The former telecommunications minister was proposed for the job on January 4, 2017 by Romania's Social Democrat party (PSD), victor of a general election in December 2016.

37) French police on January 5, 2017 arrested Ramush Haradinaj for alleged war crimes. He is the former Prime Minister of:

- a) Serbia
- b) Kosovo*
- c) Croatia
- d) Macedonia

French police on January 5, 2017 arrested the former Prime Minister of Kosovo Ramush Haradinaj based on a Serbian arrest warrant for alleged war crimes. Haradinaj served as a rebel commander in the 1998-1999 Kosovo conflict, which eventually led to the Kosovo declaring independence. Haradinaj was arrested by police at Basel Mulhouse Freiburg airport in eastern France.

38) Who among the following is the artiste associated with the idea behind Disney film 'Bambi'? He died aged 106 in Los Angeles on December 30, 2016.

- a) Tim Blake
- b) Derek Parfit
- c) John Berger
- d) Tyrus Wong*

British philosopher Derek Parfit died on January 2, 2017 in London at 74. John Berger, the British critic, novelist and screenwriter known for his 1972 television series and book, 'Ways of Seeing', died in Paris on January 2, 2017 at the age of 90. Tyrus Wong, the artist whose works inspired the Disney film 'Bambi', died aged 106 in Los Angeles on December 30, 2016. Kyriakos Amiridis, Greece's ambassador to Brazil, was murdered in Rio de Janeiro in December 2016.

39) A 'leap second' was added to the Indian clock at 5:29.59 hours on January 1, 2017 to synchronise with the Earth's rotational clock. This was done by which of the following government institutions?

- a) IIT Madras
- b) Indian Institute of Science
- c) National Physical Laboratory*
- d) Centre for Advance Technology

A 'leap second' was added to the Indian clock at 5:29.59 hours on January 1, 2017 to synchronise with the Earth's rotational clock. As the atomic clock at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in New Delhi struck 23:59:59 on December 31, 2016, it was programmed to add an extra second to 2017 to compensate for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation. Adding the leap second to the Indian clock is done by the NPL under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Atomic clocks are so precise that the margin of error in its functioning is just of a second in 100 million years. To

be in sync with the Indian Standard Time (IST) and the Earth's rotational clock, the Indian clock need to be adjusted after the insertion of a leap second.

40) Who among the following is the General President of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) which organised the 104th Indian Science Congress in Tirupati in January 2017?

- a) R. Vishnu Vardhan
- b) Ashok Kumar Saxena
- c) Malay Bhattacharyya
- d) D. Narayana Rao*

41) What was the theme of the 104th Indian Science Congress organised in Tirupati in January 2017?

- a) Science and Technology for Rural Development
- c) Science and Technology for Indigenous Development
- c) Science and Technology for Urban Development
- d) Science and Technology for National Development*

The 104th Indian Science Congress (ISC) was organised at the Sri Venkateswara University Campus in Tirupati from January 2 to 7, 2017. Professor D. Narayana Rao is the General President of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) which organises the ISC. Theme of the 104th ISC was 'Science and Technology for National Development'. The 6th Women Science Congress was organised as part of the 104th ISC at the same venue on January 4, 2017. Children's Science Congress was organised at the same venue from January 4-6, 2017.

42) Who among the following was announced as the winner of Bharatiya Jnanpith's Navlekhan award in January 2017 for the poem 'Akash Mein Deh'?

- a) Amlendu Tiwari
- d) Balram Kawant
- c) Om Naagar
- d) Ghyansham Kumar Devansh*

Two new Hindi writers Shradha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh have been chosen for Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award for the year 2016, the literary organisation announced in New Delhi on December 29, 2016. The decision to confer the award on Shradha for her short story, 'Hawa Mein Phadphadati Chitthi' and on Devansh for his poem 'Akash Mein Deh' was taken unanimously by a selection panel chaired by eminent poet Vishnu Nagar.

43) What is the new credit guarantee limit for small and medium businesses announced by the government on December 31, 2016?

- a) Rs. 1 crore
- b) Rs. 2 crore*
- c) Rs. 3 crore
- d) Rs. 4 crore

To give a boost to the small entrepreneurs and job creation, the government on December 31, 2016 doubled the credit guarantee limit for small and medium businesses to Rs 2 crore to help them tide over the liquidity problems. Earlier, the scheme only covered bank loans. It will cover loans given by NBFCs (non-banking financial companies) as well. This decision will enable better access to credit for small shop-owners and small enterprises, the Prime Minister said, adding banks and NBFCs "will not" levy high interest on these loans, as the government is bearing the cost of underwriting them. The micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) sector, which provides bulk of employment, accounts for 45 per cent of India's manufacturing; 40 per cent of exports and nearly 8 per cent to the country's GDP.

44) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced ____ waiver from payment of interest on crop loan taken by farmers for the winter rabi sowing from district co-operative banks and primary societies.

- a) 30 days
- b) 45 days
- c) 60 days*
- d) 75 days

Farmers will get 60 days waiver from payment of interest on crop loan taken for the winter rabi sowing from district co-operative banks and primary societies. Those who have already paid will get back the money in their accounts. This was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016.

45) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced fixed 8 per cent return on bank deposits up to Rs 7.5 lakh of ____ maturity for Senior Citizens.

- a) 6 year
- b) 8 year
- c) 10 year*
- d) 12 year

In order to protect senior citizens from any decline in interest rates, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 said they will get a fixed 8 per cent return on 10-year bank deposits of up to Rs 7.5 lakh. The interest will be paid monthly. Currently, banks give senior citizens an additional interest of 0.50 per cent over the regular rates on fixed deposits.

46) Consider the following regarding cash withdrawals from January 1, 2017?

I. Daily cash withdrawal limit: Rs. 4500

II. Weekly cash withdrawal limit from Banks (including ATMs) for individuals: Rs. 24,000

III. Weekly cash withdrawal limit from Banks (including ATMs) for small traders: Rs. 50,000

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II and III*

The Reserve Bank on December 30, 2016 said cash withdrawal limit from ATMs will be increased to Rs 4,500 per day from the current Rs 2,500 from January 1, 2017. However, there has been no change in the weekly withdrawal limit, which stands at Rs 24,000, including from ATM, for individuals (Rs 50,000 in case of small traders). Following demonetisation of old Rs 500/1000 notes on November 9, limits had been imposed on withdrawal of cash from banks as well as ATMs.

47) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 3, 2017 instructed banks to ensure that at least _____ of bank notes are supplied to rural areas

- a) 10 per cent
- b) 20 per cent
- c) 30 per cent
- d) 40 per cent*

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 3, 2017 instructed banks to ensure that at least 40 per cent of bank notes are supplied to rural areas, in denomination of Rs 500 or below, as the notes being supplied to rural areas "are not commensurate with the requirements of rural population".

48) The Finance Ministry on January 2, 2017 notified the interest rates for different small savings schemes for the quarter ending March 2017. The highest rate is available on which of the following?

- a) Kisan Vikas Patra
- b) Public Provident Fund
- c) 5-year recurring deposit
- d) Sukanya Samriddhi Account*

Interest rates of all small savings schemes for the January-March quarter have been kept unchanged at the levels of the previous quarter, a Finance Ministry notification said on January 2, 2017. "On the basis of the decision of the government, interest rates for small savings schemes are to be notified on a quarterly basis," the ministry said, notifying the interest rates for the fourth quarter of the current fiscal from January 1 to March 31. Investments in Public Provident Fund (PPF) as well as in the 5-year National Savings Certificate scheme will continue to earn an annual interest rate of 8 per cent. Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) investments will continue to fetch 7.7 per cent and mature in 112 months. The Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme for the girl child and the 5-year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme will both continue to yield 8.5 per cent per annum. A savings deposit will fetch 4 per cent interest annually while term deposits of 1-5 years will offer 7-7.8 per cent. The 5-year recurring deposit will continue to yield 7.3 per cent.

49) The Indian economy is expected to grow _____ in 2016-17, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) said in its 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017.

- a) 6.9 per cent
- b) 7.1 per cent*
- c) 7.3 per cent
- d) 7.5 per cent

50) Which of the following will see the worst growth (-1.8%) in 2016-17, according to Central Statistics Office's 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017?

- a) Manufacturing
- b) Agriculture
- c) Mining & Quarrying*

d) Financial services, real estate, insurance and professional services

51) Which of the following will see the best growth (9%) a negative growth in 2016-17, according to Central Statistics Office's 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017?

- a) Manufacturing
- b) Agriculture
- c) Mining & Quarrying
- d) Financial services, real estate, insurance and professional services*

52) Who among the following is the Chief Statistician of India?

- a) TCA Anant*
- b) R.B. Barman
- c) P. V. Sukhatme
- d) Bibek Debroy

The Indian economy is expected to grow 7.1 per cent in 2016-17, the Central Statistics Office (CSO) said in its 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released on January 6, 2017.

CSO Estimates of growth (%)		
	2016-17	2015-16
Manufacturing	7.4	9.3
Agriculture	4.1	1.2
Mining & Quarrying	-1.8	9.3
Financial services, real estate, insurance and professional services	9.0	10.3

TCA Anant, Chief Statistician of India made it clear that the CSO had not factored in deposits into the banking system in November 2016, the first month of demonetisation. The surge in deposits in November caused volatility, which the CSO wanted to avoid in the computation although his office had all the relevant data, he said.

53) What is the per capita net national income during 2016-17 estimated at current prices by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in January 2017?

- a) Rs. 93,007
- b) Rs. 1,03,007*
- c) Rs. 1,13,007
- d) Rs. 1,23,007

India's per capita income, a gauge for measuring living standard, is estimated to cross Rs 1 lakh in 2016-17, up from Rs 93,293 in the previous financial year. As per the 'First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2016-17' released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on January 6, 2017, the per capita net national income during 2016-17 is "estimated to be Rs 1,03,007" at current prices. This is higher by 10.4 per cent compared to Rs 93,293 during 2015-16. "The per capita income in real terms (at 2011-12 prices) during 2016-17 is likely to attain a level of Rs 81,805 as compared to Rs 77,435 for the year 2015-16," the estimates said.

54) The IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police launched in January 2017 has been developed by government's Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and which industry chamber?

- a) FICCI*
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII
- d) PHDCCI

The Commerce & Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police in New Delhi on January 4, 2017. The toolkit has been jointly prepared by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). This toolkit will be a ready reckoner for police officials across the country in dealing with IP crimes, specifically Trade Marks counterfeiting and Copyrights piracy. CIPAM comes under the aegis of the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) of the Commerce & Industry Ministry. CIPAM in

collaboration with the International Trademark Association will also launch an IPR awareness campaign for schoolchildren.

55) . PSU oil marketing companies Indian Oil, BPCL & HPCL are offering how much discount on LPG refill bookings made online from January 3, 2017?

- a) Rs. 5*
- b) Rs. 10
- c) Rs. 15
- d) Rs. 20

PSU oil marketing companies Indian Oil, BPCL & HPCL are offering an upfront discount of Rs 5 on every LPG refill to all LPG customers who will book and pay for their LPG cylinders online from January 3, 2017. Customers can make payment through existing online modes i.e. net banking, credit & debit cards at the time of web-booking their refills.

56) Which of the following is the training programme for essential digital skills launched by Google for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India in January 2017?

- a) Digital Cracked
- b) Digital Directions
- c) Digital Unlocked*
- d) Digital Developed

57) Which of the following is the free tool to develop a website launched by Google for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India in January 2017?

- a) My Industry Website
- b) My Business Website*
- c) My Company Website
- d) My Enterprise Website

58) Which of the following is the free mobile app designed to teach digital marketing skills launched by Google in India in January 2017?

- a) Driver
- b) Seller
- c) Trader
- d) Primer*

Google CEO Sundar Pichai on January 4, 2017 announced two initiatives 'Digital Unlocked' and 'My Business Website' for small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India. Google, along with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), has developed a training programme called 'Digital Unlocked', to empower thousands of Indian SMBs with essential digital skills that would enable them to get online and start using the power of the internet to grow their businesses.

Google also started another initiative 'My Business Website'. It is a free tool, which would help make a website in 10 minutes. 'My Business Website' is available in English, Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Further, for India's mobile-first audience, Google also launched Primer, a free mobile app uniquely designed to teach digital marketing skills in a quick, easy and interactive way. Primer also works offline and is currently available in English and Hindi. Tamil, Telugu and Marathi versions are coming up shortly.

59) Which of the following has launched "Internet Saathi" digital literacy initiative for women in India?

- a) Apple
- b) Google*
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM

Tata Trusts and Google India have expanded Internet Saathi, a digital education initiative, by enabling cashless transactions through MobiKwik, with an aim to drive digital economy in rural parts of India. Launched in July 2015,

Internet Saathi is now live in 10 States, reaching out to over 26,000 villages. Close to 12 lakh women have benefited from the programme by getting trained on digital and internet literacy. (January 4, 2017)

60) Who among the following Indian American CEOs received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at IIT Kharagpur on January 6, 2017?

- a) Shantanu Narayen
- b) Sundar Pichai*
- c) Indra Nooyi
- d) Ajay Banga

Google CEO Sundar Pichai received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at IIT Kharagpur on January 6, 2017.

61) Which of the following launched CNG-fuelled two-wheeler in Mumbai on January 1, 2017?

- a) Indraprastha Gas Limited
- b) Mahanagar Gas Limited*
- c) Bharat Gas Limited
- d) Indane Gas Limited

Mahanagar Gas Limited on January 1, 2017 launched CNG-fueled two-wheeler, whose cost of running comes to 60 paise a kilometre and will also help in cutting emission level. The vehicle was launched by Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Mumbai. In the initial phase, the scooters shall be retrofitted with a CNG kit manufactured by Lovato which has got approval for 18 scooter models of various OEMs present in the market.

62) Which of the following states/union territories launched 'Good Samaritan Policy' in January 2017 under which monetary incentive of Rs 2,000 and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims?

- a) Goa
- b) Delhi*
- c) Kerala
- d) Chandigarh

Delhi government on January 6, 2017 approved 'Good Samaritan Policy' under which monetary incentive of Rs 2,000 and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims in the national capital. Announcing the Cabinet's decision, Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia said that the scheme is intended to encourage people to take accident victims in emergency situation to hospitals so that someone's life could be saved.

63) Who among the following announced the launch of 'Guru Circuit' to tap Sikh tourism potential in the state in January 2017?

- a) Nitish Kumar*
- b) Akhilesh Yadav
- c) Devendra Fadnavis
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on January 5, 2017 said that his government would carve out "Guru Circuit" connecting important destinations of Sikhs in the state to attract larger footfall of devotees. Kumar made this announcement during concluding function of 350th Prakash Parva of 10th Sikh Guru Govind Singh in Patna which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal at Gandhi Maidan.

64) Which of the following hosted 10-day Island Tourism Festival in January 2017?

- a) Mahe
- b) Port Blair*
- c) Kavaratti
- d) Karaikal

A 10-day Island Tourism Festival 2017 was organised at Port Blair by the Directorate of Tourism of Andaman and Nicobar Administration from January 6 to 15, 2017.

65) H.S. Mahadeva Prasad died at the age of 58 in Chikmagalur on January 2, 2017. He was member of:

- a) Legislative Assembly*
- b) Legislative Council
- c) Lok Sabha
- d) Rajya Sabha

Karnataka Cooperation and Sugar Minister H.S. Mahadeva Prasad died on January 2, 2017 at the age of 58 in Chikmagalur. Born on August 5, 1958, Prasad was elected from the Gundlupet constituency in Chamarajnagar district from the Congress.

66) Who among the following Chief Ministers laid the foundation for Brahmanda Science Museum at an estimated cost of Rs 1,300 crore on January 4, 2017?

- a) K. Siddaramaiah
- b) Pinarayi Vijayan
- c) K. Chandrasekhar Rao
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu*

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for a National Science Museum, which will be built at an estimated cost of Rs 1,300 crore, near Tirupati on January 4, 2017. The Brahmanda Science Museum, housing a planetarium and other science related structures, will be constructed as per international standards in about 100 acres of land at the foothills of Tirumala. It will be a seven dome colossal complex, resembling the sacred seven hills of Lord Venkateswara.

67) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched Aarogya Raksha family health insurance scheme in January 2017? It will cover every individual in a family on monthly premium of Rs.100 per head for a year.

- a) K. Siddaramaiah
- b) Pinarayi Vijayan
- c) K. Chandrasekhar Rao
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu*

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu began the New Year by launching the Aarogya Raksha family health insurance scheme in Vijayawada on January 2, 2017. It is intended to provide health insurance cover to every individual in a family on payment of a monthly premium of Rs.100 per head for a year. Naidu said it was a Universal Health Coverage (UHC) scheme for the Above Poverty Line families. Similar schemes targeted at the BPL families would continue, he said, allaying apprehensions in this regard. Under the Aarogya Raksha, end-to-end cashless services would be rendered for 1044 diseases under secondary and tertiary care through 432 government and private hospitals.

68) Which state launched 'Bharosa Cell' to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of any crime in January 2017?

- a) Haryana
- b) Goa
- c) Bihar
- d) Maharashtra*

Maharashtra Police will start 'Bharosa Cell' in all the districts to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of any crime, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on January 1, 2017. "The formation of Bharosa Cell is the need of the hour to address the problems of the victims (women and children). Such cell will provide all assistance including psychiatric help and legal advice to them," said Fadnavis after the inauguration of Bharosa Cell of Nagpur police.

69) Who among the following Chief Ministers announced Rs 1,000 monthly living wages for "distressed lonely women" in the state from January 2017?

- a) K. Siddaramaiah
- b) Pinarayi Vijayan
- c) K. Chandrasekhar Rao*
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao on January 6, 2017 announced Rs 1,000 monthly living wages for "distressed lonely women" in the state. Making an announcement in the Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad, Rao said that the scheme will be implemented for the next financial year and necessary directions are issued to all District Collectors to enroll the details of lonely women. The Chief Minister however did not elaborate on the eligibility guidelines of the scheme.

70) Who among the following was appointed as the brand ambassador of fire services in India in January 2017?

- a) Irrfan Khan
- b) Manoj Bajpayee
- c) Rajkumar Rao
- d) Randeep Hooda*

The Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC), a Central government body, has roped in Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda as the brand ambassador of fire services in India. "Every service has a brand ambassador, likewise we decided to have our own. The SFAC and the Union Government approached the actor, who is already associated with the Mumbai fire brigade, to be the face of fire services," P S Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer of Mumbai Fire Brigade, said. The decision to

make Hooda the brand ambassador was taken at the two-day 38th meeting of the SFAC, held in Mumbai on Mumbai on January 6-7, 2017. SFAC is the apex body set up by the Centre to advise on fire service-related matters.

71) Which state saw the opening of India's first transgender school on December 30, 2016?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala*
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh

India's first transgender school opened in Kochi on December 30, 2016. The school, named Sahaj International, was inaugurated by transgender activist, writer and actor Kalki Subramaniam at Thrikkakara in Kerala's Ernakulam district.

72) Which of the following formed a new government in Arunachal Pradesh on December 31, 2016?

- a) Congress
- b) Janata Dal (United)
- c) Trinamool Congress
- d) Bharatiya Janata Party*

In a dramatic development, BJP formed a new government in Arunachal Pradesh in Itanagar on December 31, 2016 with 33 MLAs of PPA led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu joining the party, two days after he was suspended by his own party. Khandu paraded the 33 of the 43 MLAs of Peoples' Party of Arunachal (PPA) before Assembly Speaker Tenzing Norbu Thongdok who recognised them as BJP members in a House of 60. BJP has 11 MLAs.

73) Who among the following is the Chairperson of the Committee on National Sports Development Code set up by the Sports Ministry in January 2017?

- a) Narinder Batra
- b) Injeti Srinivas*
- c) Bishweshwar Nandi
- d) Nandan Kamath

Union Sports Ministry on January 5, 2017 constituted a nine-member committee to make recommendations for bringing out a comprehensive National Sports Development Code across sports disciplines. Sports Secretary Injeti Srinivas will chair the committee that will also include sportspersons and others. "The terms of reference of the committee are to identify basic universal principles of ethics and good governance based on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Charter international best practices, draft National Sports Development Bill, National Sports Development Code of 2011, Supreme Court and High Court judgments," the ministry said in a statement.

74) Who among the following lawyers is Amicus Curiae to the Supreme Court regarding implementation of Justice RM Lodha committee recommendations by the BCCI?

- a) Gopal Subramaniam*
- b) Harish Salve
- c) Lalit Bhasin
- d) Satish Maneshinde

The BCCI's existing power structure was dismantled by the Supreme Court of India in a landmark order on January 2, 2017, which directed the removal of the board president Anurag Thakur and secretary Ajay Shirke from office with immediate effect. The order was the culmination of a long-standing impasse between the BCCI and the Justice (Retd.) Rajendra Lodha Committee. The Board had resisted implementing the majority of the committee's recommendations despite being told to do so by a Supreme Court order on July 18. Amicus Curiae Gopal Subramaniam and senior advocate Anil Divan were asked by the court to suggest names of persons having "integrity and experience in managing a similar enterprise" for the committee of administrators.

75) Who among the following became the first batsman in test cricket in January 2017 to score centuries in 11 countries that have hosted test matches?

- a) Alastair Cook
- b) Younis Khan*
- c) Hashim Amla
- d) AB de Villiers

Veteran Pakistan batsman Younis Khan on January 5, 2017 became the first player in Test cricket to score centuries in 11 countries that have hosted the longest format of the game. He has scored centuries in 10 countries and one at United Arab Emirates (UAE), which is currently Pakistan's home venue for international matches. Opponent countries refuse to play in Pakistan owing to security reasons. The 39-year-old slammed his 34th century against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

76) Who among the following became the most experienced umpire in cricket when he old supervised his 332nd international match in January 2017?

- a) Ian Gould
- b) Aleem Dar*
- c) Marais Erasmus
- d) Chris Gaffaney

Pakistan umpire Aleem Dar has surpassed South African Rudi Koertzen's record of officiating in the highest number of international games to become cricket's most experienced umpire. The 48-year-old supervised his 332nd international match which was the second Test between South Africa and Sri Lanka in Cape Town in January 2017. His 332 matches include 109 Tests, 182 ODIs, and 41 T20Is. Koertzen had stood in 331 international matches.

77) India won the SAFF Women's Football Championship title in January 2017 at which of the following venues?

- a) Itanagar
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Siliguri*

A dominant India defeated Bangladesh 3-1 to win their fourth consecutive SAFF Women's Football Championship title in Siliguri on January 4, 2017. Goals for India came from Dangmei Grace (12th minute), Sasmita Malik (12th minute) and Indumathi (67th minute). Bangladesh's only goal came from Sirat Jahan Shopna in the 40th minute.

78) Somdev Devvarman announced retirement from professional tennis in January 2017. He won gold medal in which of the following?

- I. Commonwealth Games
- II. Olympics
- III. Asian Games

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) III only
- d) I and III only*

79) . Somdev Devvarman announced retirement from professional tennis in January 2017. What was his highest ever career ranking?

- a) 62*
- b) 82
- c) 102
- d) 122

Somdev Devvarman on January 1, 2017 announced his retirement from professional tennis at the age of 31. Having made his debut in 2008, he was a regular in India's Davis Cup squad. His best achievement so far on the ATP World Tour has been reaching the final of the Chennai Open in 2009. In 2010, Somdev won the gold medal in the men's singles event of Commonwealth Games in New Delhi, and he followed it up with both men's singles and doubles gold in the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China. He was conferred the Arjuna award -- the country's second highest sporting honour - in 2011. He achieved the highest ranking of 62 in July 2011.

80) Who among the following won the FIDE World Blitz chess championship in Doha, Qatar in December 2016?

- a) Viswanathan Anand
- b) Sergey Karjakin*
- c) Vladimir Kramnik
- d) Vassily Ivanchuk

81) Who among the following won the FIDE World Rapid chess championship in Doha, Qatar in December 2016?

- a) Viswanathan Anand
- b) Sergey Karjakin
- c) Vladimir Kramnik
- d) Vassily Ivanchuk*

Russia's Sergey Karjakin won the FIDE World Blitz chess championship in Doha, Qatar that concluded on December 30, 2016 while Norway's world champion Magnus Carlsen finished second. Both players had finished on 16.5/21 points each but Karjakin won the title on additional criteria of having won his last match. Vassily Ivanchuk of Ukraine won the FIDE

World Rapid Championship at the same venue. Among women, Ukraine's Anna Muzychuk won both FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Championships.

82) Who among the following won the second IIFL Wealth Mumbai International Open chess tournament in Mumbai in January 2017?

- a) Nigel Short
- b) P. Harikrishna
- c) Michael Adams
- d) Adam Tukhaev*

Ukrainian Grandmaster Adam Tukhaev won the second IIFL Wealth Mumbai International Open chess tournament in Mumbai on January 3, 2017.

83) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subsidy of ____ on urban housing loans upto Rs. 9 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana taken in 2017.

- a) 1 per cent
- b) 2 per cent
- c) 3 per cent
- d) 4 per cent*

84) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subsidy of ____ on urban housing loans more than Rs. 9 lakh but not exceeding Rs. 12 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana taken in 2017.

- a) 1 per cent
- b) 2 per cent
- c) 3 per cent*
- d) 4 per cent

85) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subvention of ____ on rural housing loans upto Rs. 2 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana taken in 2017.

- a) 1 per cent
- b) 2 per cent*
- c) 3 per cent
- d) 4 per cent

In a bid to boost rural and urban housing post demonetisation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on December 31, 2016 announced interest subsidy of up to 4 per cent on loans taken in 2017 under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana. In urban areas housing loans of up to Rs 9 lakh and up to Rs 12 lakh will receive interest subsidy of 4 per cent and 3 per cent respectively, while in rural areas housing loans up to Rs 2 lakh will get an interest subvention of 3 per cent. The number of houses being built for the poor in rural areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana is being increased by 33 per cent, he added

86) What was the theme of the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) organised in Bengaluru in January 2017?

- a) Global Indian and National Development
- b) Engaging the Diaspora: Inclusive Growth
- c) Engaging Diaspora: The Indian Growth Story
- d) Redefined Engagement with Indian Diaspora*

87) The first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was organised in which year?

- a) 2003*
- b) 2004
- c) 2005
- d) 2006

The three-day 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was organised in Bengaluru from January 7 to 9, 2017. The theme for this year was 'Redefined Engagement with Indian Diaspora'. PBD is held on January 9 each year to commemorate the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa in 1915. It is celebrated to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of the country. Organised for the first time in 2003 by the Vajpayee government, PBD

continued as an annual event till 2015 when the government decided to make it biennial. The 13th PBD was organised in Gandhinagar.

88) Navy's submarine Khanderi was launched on January 12, 2017. It is a submarine of which class?

- a) Viking
- b) Agosta
- c) Sturgeon
- d) Scorpene*

89) Navy's submarine Khanderi was launched on January 12, 2017. It was built with transfer of technology from DCNS of:

- a) Japan
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Portugal
- d) France*

90) Navy's submarine Khanderi was launched on January 12, 2017. It was built at which of the following shipyards?

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders*
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

Khanderi, the second of Indian Navy's Scorpene' class stealth submarine, was 'launched' at the Mazagon Dock Shipyard Limited (MDL) on January 12, 2017 paving the way for her sea trials. The construction of six Scorpene submarines is presently being progressed at MDL, under Project 75 with Transfer of Technology from M/s DCNS, France as the Collaborator. The first of the class submarine, Kalvari is presently undergoing sea trials and likely to be commissioned into Navy by Mid 2017. These submarines, post induction, would form the core of Navy's conventional Submarine Arm.

91) January 11 to 17, 2017 was observed as _____ in India.

- a) Immunisation Week
- b) Climate Change Week
- c) Primary Education Week
- d) Road Safety Week*

92) Who among the following is the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister?

- a) S. Christopher
- b) M. Annadurai
- c) Tessy Thomas
- d) G. Satheesh Reddy*

93) Consider the following defence R&D organisations.

I. Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE)

II. Research Centre Imarat (RCI)

III. Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)

Which of the above are based in Hyderabad?

- a) II only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only*

The Pinaka Rocket converted to a Guided Pinaka was successfully test-fired from Launch Complex-III, ITR, Chandipur on January 12, 2017. The Pinaka Rocket Mark-II, which evolved from Pinaka Mark-I is equipped with a navigation, guidance and control kit and has been transformed to a Guided Pinaka. This conversion has considerably enhanced the range and accuracy of Pinaka. The guided Pinaka has been jointly developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), Hyderabad-based Research Centre Imarat (RCI) and Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL). Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and Director-General (Missiles and Strategic Systems) Dr G. Satheesh Reddy was present during the mission. DRDO Chairman Dr S. Christopher congratulated the teams participated in the successful mission.

94) Which of the following is the indigenously-developed howitzer that has successfully completed trials? This was announced by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in January 13, 2017.

- a) Surya
- b) Trishul
- c) Aditya
- d) Dhanush*

After successfully completing field trials of indigenously-developed howitzer Dhanush, another self propelled gun 155/52 is in the final stages of being ordered, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said on January 13, 2017. The 155mm/45-calibre Dhanush howitzer has been tested and field trials have been completed, he said at the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit in Gandhinagar. Indian army has not had a new 155mm artillery gun inducted since the Bofors scandal of 1987. 'Dhanush' is indigenously-developed 155mm gun with 45 calibre having advanced features with a strike range of 38 km. The towed howitzer 'Dhanush' has larger range than 27-km of the imported Bofors.

95) Which of the following is the special rescue force inducted by the Army to respond in case of emergencies at Siachen glacier?

- a) Avalanche Pumas, Mountain Rescuers
- b) Avalanche Lions, Mountain Rescuers
- c) Avalanche Tigers, Mountain Rescuers
- d) Avalanche Panthers, Mountain Rescuers*

In order to check the casualties caused by the snow avalanches at Siachen Glacier, the highest battlefield in the world, Army has inducted a special rescue force, 'Avalanche Panthers, Mountain Rescuers' to respond in case of an emergency. The force was inducted by the General Officer Commanding in Chief (GOC-in-C) of the Northern Command, Lt Gen D Anbu who visited the camp in Jammu on January 11, 2017.

96) Which of the following is the firepower exercise conducted by the Indian Army near Nashik in Maharashtra in January 2017?

- a) Sarvatra Vijay
- b) Sarvatra Prahar*
- c) Sarvatra Shanti
- d) Sarvatra Suraksha

A firepower exercise 'Sarvatra Prahar' by the Indian Army was conducted in the ranges of School of Artillery at Devlali in Nashik district of Maharashtra. During the exercise, held on January 9, by the artillery wing of the Army, the "Gunnery" displayed their prowess and deadly firepower, an official release said in Mumbai on January 11, 2017.

97) Which of the following hosted the 21st National Youth Festival in January 2017?

- a) Hissar
- b) Karnal
- c) Rohtak*
- d) Chandigarh

98) Which of the following was the theme of the 21st National Youth Festival organised in Haryana in January 2017?

- a) Youth for Digital India*
- b) Youth for Vibrant India
- c) Youth for Demographic Dividend
- d) Youth for Rural Resurgence

The 21st National Youth Festival was organised with the theme "Youth for Digital India" in Rohtak, Haryana from January 12 to 16, 2017. The Youth Festival is organised to celebrate the life, legacy and teachings of Swami Vivekananda. The first festival was held in 1985 after the central government had decided to commemorate the day to inspire the youths to emulate the path taken by Vivekananda.

99) Which of the following has launched campaign "Puchna Mat Bhulo" (Don't Forget to Ask) for doctors to promote organ donations in January 2017?

- a) Medical Council of India
- b) Indian Medical Association*

- c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences
- d) Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched a country wide campaign "Puchna Mat Bhulo" as a part of which it will urge doctors to request relatives or legal heirs, in case of routine death, for donation of eyes and organs (in case of brain death). As a part of the initiative, IMA members will be sent text alerts reminding them to ask families to donate organs of their deceased loved ones to promote organ donation in the country. "Doctors should counsel the families and encourage them to donate the organs after a death," IMA president Dr KK Aggarwal said on January 12, 2017.

100) Who among the following has compiled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio broadcast of 'Mann ki Baat' as a book that was released in January 2017?

- a) Sameer Sharma
- b) Pranay Sinha
- c) Sujeet Krishna
- d) Rajeev Gupta*

A book compiling Prime Minister Narendra Modi's monthly radio broadcast of 'Mann ki Baat' in which he addresses the nation on various issues was launched by Union minister Jual Oram at the World Book Fair in New Delhi on January 11, 2017. The book compiled by 29-year-old Rajeev Gupta, a research scholar from Uttar Pradesh's Faizabad, covers the 'Mann ki Baat' episodes broadcast between October 3, 2014 and November 27, 2016. The book is titled "Pradhanmantri Ke Mann Ki Baat".

101) Which of the following is being set up by the government in Mumbai? The Museum Advisory Committee is chaired by Shyam Benegal.

- a) National Museum of Indian Culture
- b) National Museum of Indian Cinema*
- c) National Museum of Indian Media
- d) National Museum of Indian Crafts

The upcoming National Museum of Indian Cinema (NMIC) has appealed people from within the industry to come forward and donate memorabilia related to Indian cinema. The Museum Advisory Committee, chaired by veteran film maker Shyam Benegal, on January 10, 2017 appealed to the film industry to donate rare artefacts, vintage instruments and other memorabilia to the National Museum, which chronicles the century old journey of cinema in India. The museum will be set up in the Films Division premises in Mumbai.

102) Which of the following is the government programme that aims to connect institutions of higher education such as IIMs and IITs with rural development processes through adoption of village clusters?

- a) Safal Bharat
- b) Viksit Bharat
- c) Saksham Bharat
- d) Unnat Bharat*

IITs and IIMs will soon adopt village clusters, carry out field studies and come up with developmental solutions which could be implemented by district authorities under a unique initiative planned by the Centre. Secretaries of Union ministries of HRD, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj signed an MoU in New Delhi on January 12, 2017 under the 'Unnat Bharat' programme, which aims to connect knowledge institutions with rural development processes through adoption of village clusters. The programme is being implemented in 92 districts in Phase-I.

103) 'An Unsuitable Boy' is the forthcoming book by who among the following film personalities?

- a) Shoojit Sircar
- b) Rajkumar Hirani
- c) Anurag Kashyap
- d) Karan Johar*

104) Who among the following is the author of 'The People's President: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam' released recently?

- a) Pranay Lal
- b) S. M. Khan*
- c) Usha Thakkar

d) Sekhar Bandyopadhyay

105) Who among the following Chairpersons of ISRO is the author of 'My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man behind the Mangalyaan Mission' released recently?

- a) U. R. Rao
- b) K. Kasturirangan
- c) G. Madhavan Nair
- d) K. Radhakrishnan*

Recent Books: •Gandhi in Bombay: Towards Swaraj by Usha Thakkar and Sandhya Mehta • Indica: A Deep Natural History of the Indian Subcontinent by Pranay Lal • Religion and Modernity in India by Edited by Sekhar Bandyopadhyay and Aloka Parasher Sen • When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics by Milan Vaishnav • An Unsuitable Boy by Karan Johar •The People's President: A.P.J. Abdul Kalam by S.M. Khan • My Odyssey: Memoirs of the Man behind the Mangalyaan Mission by K. Radhakrishnan with Nilanjan Routh • The Modern Monk: What Vivekananda Means to Us by Hindol Sengupta

106) Who among the following is the author of 'Olympus - An Indian Retelling of the Greek Myths' released recently?

- a) Maha Khan Phillips
- b) Devdutt Pattanaik*
- c) Anamika Mukherjee
- d) Vamsee Juluri

Recent Books: •The Curse of Mohenjodaro by Maha Khan Phillips • Olympus - An Indian Retelling of the Greek Myths by Devdutt Pattanaik • Survivors by Anamika Mukherjee • Saraswati's Intelligence by Vamsee Juluri • The Trail of Four by Manjiri Prabhu

107) Who among the following was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff in January 2017?

- a) Lt Gen B. S. Negi
- b) Lt Gen Devraj Anbu
- c) Lt Gen P. M. Hariz
- d) Lt Gen Sarath Chand*

Lieutenant General Sarath Chand, Army Commander of Jaipur-based South Western Command, was appointed as the new Vice Chief of Army Staff on January 12, 2017.

108) Who among the following Union Ministers in the previous government was appointed as Senior Fellow of US-based think tank Atlantic Council I January 2017?

- a) Girija Vyas
- b) Kapil Sibal
- c) Jairam Ramesh
- d) Manish Tewari*

Congress leader and former Union Minister Manish Tewari has been appointed senior fellow of US-based think tank Atlantic Council, headquartered in Washington DC. (January 11, 2017)

109) Easwar Sagar, who died in USA at 95 on January 8, 2017, was well-known as a:

- a) Scientist
- c) Journalist*
- c) Musician
- b) Sculptor

Veteran journalist Easwar Sagar, who was a long-time correspondent for The Hindu in Washington and a deputy editor, passed away at the age of 95 in died in Centreville, Virginia on January 8, 2017.

110) Journalist Ramu Sharma passed away in New Delhi on January 10, 2017 at the age of 81. He was known for his articles on:

- a) Politics
- c) Economy
- c) Science
- b) Sports*

Senior sports journalist Ramu Sharma passed away in New Delhi on January 10, 2017. He was 81. Sharma worked as a Senior Sports Correspondent with the Statesman for three decades before taking over as Sports Editor of the Indian Express in 1990.

111) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Israel's Uri Ariel who came on an official visit to New Delhi in January 2017?

- a) Nitin Gadkari
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Radha Mohan Singh*
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister, Radha Mohan Singh met Israeli delegation led by the Agriculture and Rural Development Minister of Israel, Uri Ariel to discuss issues relating to bilateral cooperation in agriculture between the two countries in New Delhi on January 11, 2017.

112) Which neighbouring country was provided financial assistance by India for construction of embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers?

- a) Bhutan
- c) Nepal*
- c) Bangladesh
- b) Myanmar*

India has provided Nepali Rs 619.63 million in financial assistance to Nepal for construction of embankments along three major rivers in the country's south to check flooding in the downstream areas. Ambassador of India to Nepal Ranjit Rae on January 11, 2017 handed over a cheque of NRs 619.63 million to Nepal's Minister of Irrigation as India's contribution towards constructing the embankments along Lalbakeya, Bagmati and Kamla rivers, Indian Embassy said in a statement in Kathmandu.

113) Which of the following is the Indian counterpart of CNES of France?

- a) Railways
- b) RBI
- c) ISRO*
- d) DRDO

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and French Space agency CNES (Centre National d'Études Spatiales) signed a partnership agreement in satellite launch technology. The agreement was signed between ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall in the presence of visiting French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Marc Ayrault in Bengaluru on January 10, 2017.

114) Who among the following is the President of Kenya in news for official visit to India in January 2017?

- a) Eliud Kipchoge
- b) Dennis Kimetto
- c) Stanley Biwott
- d) Uhuru Kenyatta*

India and Kenya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the agriculture sector and allied sector and Line of Credit for USD100 million for agricultural mechanisation. The MoU was signed following delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in New Delhi on January 11, 2017.

115) Who amongst the following is the President of Rwanda in news for coming on an official visit to India in January 2017?

- a) Emmanuel Habyarimana
- b) Augustin Bizimana
- c) Pasteur Bizimungu
- d) Paul Kagame*

India on January 10, 2017 announced a grant of USD 3 million for medicines and purchase of medical equipment as well as a Line of Credit of USD 81mn for a road project in Rwanda after wide-ranging talks in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rwandan President Paul Kagame declared elevation of bilateral ties to "strategic partnership".

116) The government is organising a Festival of India in which of the following from January 25 to March 16, 2017?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Gabon
- c) Ghana*
- d) Rwanda

A Festival of India is being organised in Ghana from January 25 to March 16, 2017. The activities of the Festival include amalgamation of Indian classical dances, Sufi & Folk Music and Saptarang – confluence of seven classical dance forms. To complete the experience, a Food Festival, Yoga and Meditation, Film Festival will also be organised during the Festival. The Festival events are being showcased in four cities of Accra, Kumasi, Cape Coast and Takoradi.

117) Who among the following politicians was honoured with National Order of Knighthood by Portugal's Prime Minister Antonio Costa in Panaji on January 12, 2017?

- a) Michael Lobo
- b) Eduardo Faleiro*
- c) Avertano Furtado
- d) Atanasio Monserrate

Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa on January 12, 2017 honoured former Union Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro with the 'Grande Oficial da Ordem do Infante da Henrique', the Portuguese national order of knighthood. The order was bestowed on Faleiro (76), a veteran Congress leader, by Costa, in Panaji.

118) The annual Vishwa Hindi Diwas was celebrated by the External Affairs Ministry on_____, 2017

- a) January 9
- b) January 10*
- c) January 11
- d) January 12

External Affairs Ministry as well as over 160 Indian Missions on January 10, 2017 celebrated 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas' as part of efforts to popularise the language. The MEA and Indian Missions have been celebrating 'Vishwa Hindi Diwas' on January 10 every year since 2006 by organising various events.

119) What was the global unemployment rate in 2016 according to the World Employment and Social Outlook report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released in January 2017?

- a) 4.7 per cent
- b) 5.7 per cent*
- c) 6.7 per cent
- d) 7.7 per cent

120) What was the unemployment in India according to the World Employment and Social Outlook report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) released in January 2017?

- a) 7.7 million
- b) 17.7 million*
- c) 27.7 million
- d) 37.7 million

121) Who among the following is the Director-General of International Labour Organisation (ILO)?

- a) Liu Yung
- b) Guy Ryder*
- c) Juan Somavia
- d) Daniel Funes de Rioja

The United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its 2017 World Employment and Social Outlook report on January 12, 2017. The report said that global unemployment levels and rates are expected to remain high in the short term, as the global labour force continues to grow. In particular, the global unemployment rate is expected to rise modestly in 2017, to 5.8 per cent (from 5.7 per cent in 2016) - representing 3.4 million more unemployed people globally (bringing total unemployment to just over 201 million in 2017). "We are facing the twin challenge of repairing the damage caused by the global economic and social crisis and creating quality jobs for the tens of millions of new labour market entrants every year," said ILO Director-General Guy Ryder. "Unemployment in India is projected to increase from 17.7

million last year to 17.8 million in 2017 and 18 million next year. In percentage terms, the unemployment rate will remain at 3.4 per cent in 2017-18," the report added.

122) Which of the following identified economic inequality, societal polarisation and growing environmental dangers as the top risks facing the world in its Global Risks Report released in January 2017?

- a) UNICEF
- b) World Bank
- c) World Economic Forum*
- d) Maplecroft

Economic inequality, societal polarisation and growing environmental dangers are the top risks facing the world over the next 10 years while India alone can see this year a staggering 93 per cent holding jobs without social security benefits, said the World Economic Forum's (WEF) in its Global Risks Report 2017 released in London on January 11, 2017.

123) Which of the following has estimated India's share in Global GDP at 17% in its global economy watch (GEW) report released in January 2017?

- a) E&Y
- b) McKinsey
- c) BCG
- d) PwC*

India grew fastest among major economies worldwide at over 7.5 per cent in 2016 and will continue to drive global growth in 2017 with its share in the world GDP expected to rise to 17 per cent, a study said on January 12, 2017. "Asia will remain the fastest-growing region of the world, but the spotlight will shift away from China to India and Indonesia," PwC's global economy watch (GEW) said.

124) Which of the following became the first country to begin replacement of FM radio broadcasting with digital from January 2017?

- a) The Netherlands
- b) Denmark
- c) Sweden
- d) Finland*

Norway has become the first country to cease FM radio broadcasting as the Nordland County stopped broadcasting using analogue frequencies from January 11, 2017 as the Government plans to roll out digital-only radio over the course of the year. The change is occurring county by county, starting with Nordland. According to the national broadcaster, NRK, nationwide radio channels began switching to digital audio broadcasting that offers a wider range of broadcasting options and greater sound quality.

125) Which former Chief of Indian Army was in news for joining a political party in January 2017?

- a) Gen. S. Padmanabhan
- b) Gen. Deepak Kapoor
- c) Gen. D. S. Suhag
- d) Gen. J. J. Singh*

Former Army Chief Gen (retd) J. J. Singh joined the ruling Shiromani Akali Dal in Chandigarh on January 7, 2017. On January 31, 2005, Singh had assumed the office of Chief of Army Staff. After his retirement in September 2007, Gen Singh served as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from 2008 to 2013.

126) Who among the following CMs announced the launch of the newly constituted 'Happiness Department' in the state in January 2017?

- a) Nitish Kumar
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Shivraj Singh Chauhan*

With an aim to bring cheer in the lives of people, Madhya Pradesh CM, Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the launch of the newly constituted 'Happiness Department' which started its maiden week-long functions from January 14, 2017. A week-long programme of Happiness Department christened as Anandam started on January 14. Cultural and sports programmes are scheduled throughout the week in all the 51 district headquarters. In 2016, Madhya Pradesh became the

first State in the country to set up a 'Happiness Department', with an aim to ensure "happiness in the lives of common people".

127) Which state runs the Jayprakash Narayan Senani Samman Pension scheme?

- a) Bihar*
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh

RJD President Lalu Prasad would get JP Senani Samman Pension of Rs 10,000 per month after being declared eligible for it. Prasad's application has been approved to make him eligible to get a monthly pension of Rs 10,000 under JP Senani Samman Pension Scheme, officials in the state Home Department said in Patna on January 11, 2017. Prasad, who was a student leader when Jayprakash Narayan (popularly known as JP), launched "Sampoorna Kranti" (total revolution) in 1974 and was jailed under MISA (Maintenance of Internal Security Act). Prasad would be eligible to get the monthly pension in accordance with amended JP Senani Samman Pension scheme brought in 2015.

128) Gold medals won by three Chinese women at 2008 Beijing Olympics in which sport were withdrawn in January 2017? They were disqualified for doping following a reanalysis of their drug tests.

- a) Cycling
- b) Athletics
- c) Gymnastics
- d) Weightlifting*

Three Chinese women's weightlifting gold medallists at the 2008 Beijing Olympics were disqualified for doping following a reanalysis of their drug tests, the International Olympic Committee said in Lausanne on January 13, 2017. Cao Lei, the 75kg champion, Chen Xiexia, the 48kg gold medallist, and Liu Chunhong, who won the 69kg category, were stripped of their 2008 titles. The three Chinese weightlifters, all aged between 31 and 34, tested positive for the banned GHRP-2, a human growth hormone.

129) How many teams will participate in the 2026 FIFA World Cup according to a decision announced in January 2017?

- a) 32
- b) 36
- c) 40
- d) 48*

FIFA's ruling council on January 10, 2017 unanimously approved an expansion of the World Cup to 48 teams in 2026, in a major coup for the body's president Gianni Infantino. The World Cup expanded to 24 teams in 1982 in Spain before moving to its current 32-team version at France 1998. The landmark decision to expand the tournament is the latest overhaul of the World Cup, which has seen its global popularity and financial might surge since the inaugural edition in 1930. That contest, won by Uruguay, had just 13 countries.

130) Which Indian player became a member of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee in January 2017?

- a) S. V. Sunil
- b) S. K. Uthappa
- c) P. R. Sreejesh*
- d) Birendra Lakra

The Indian men's hockey team captain PR Sreejesh on January 11, 2017 became a member of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee. FIH Athletes' Committee comprises a total of eight current and former hockey players who have the responsibility to act as a liaison between the FIH and the athletes to make sure the players have voice in the FIH decision making process.

131) Which of the following regarding title winners at the January 2017 Brisbane International tennis and their countries is not matched correctly?

- a) Men's Singles winner Grigor Dimitrov: Romania*
- b) Men's Doubles winner Thanasi Kokkinakis: Australia
- c) Women's Singles winner Karolína Plíšková: Czech Republic
- d) Women's Doubles winner Bethanie Mattek-Sands: United States

India's Sania Mirza and American Bethanie Mattek-Sands won the Brisbane International Women's Doubles title by beating the Russian pair of Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina 6-2, 6-3 in Brisbane on January 7, 2017. Men's Singles title was won by Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov who beat Japan's Kei Nishikori 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in the final while the Women's Singles title was won by Karolína Plíšková of Czech Republic who beat Alizé Cornet of France 6-0, 6-3. Men's Doubles Title was won by the Australian pair of Thanasi Kokkinakis and Jordan Thompson who defeated Luxembourg's Gilles Müller and United States' Sam Querrey in the final 7-6(9-7), 6-4.

132) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the Shenzhen Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Peng Shuai and Andrea Hlavackova*
- b) Raluca Olaru and Olga Savchuk
- c) Katernia Siniakova and Alison Riske
- d) Timea Babos and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova

Czech Republic's Katernia Siniakova won the Women's Singles title at the \$750,000 Shenzhen Open on January 7, 2017 when she overcame Alison Riske of the United States in the final 6-3, 6-4 to claim her first-ever WTA title. The Women's Doubles title was won by China's Peng Shuai and Andrea Hlavackova of the Czech Republic who beat Raluca Olaru of Romania and Olga Savchuk of Ukraine 6-1, 7-5 in two straight sets 6-1, 7-5 in the final.

133) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Chennai Open tennis tournament in January 2017?

- a) Aljaz Bedene
- b) Borna Coric
- c) Frederik Nielsen
- d) Roberto Bautista Agut*

134) Who among the following won the Men's Doubles title at the Chennai Open tennis tournament in January 2017?

- a) Vasek Pospisil and Radek Štěpánek
- b) Leander Paes and Raven Klaasen
- c) Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan*
- d) P. Raja and D. Sharan

Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut won the Men's Singles title by Chennai Open tennis 2017 by beating Russia's Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-4 in the final on January 8, 2017. Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan defeated P. Raja and D. Sharan 6-3, 6-4 in the final to win the Men's Doubles title.

135) Government of which neighbouring country overturned a 26-year-old decree in January 2017 that required top bureaucrats of the country to wear a suit and tie?

- a) China
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka*
- d) Pakistan

Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena on January 9, 2017 overturned a 26-year-old decree that required top bureaucrats to wear a suit and tie, saying they could now opt for "more comfortable" clothing instead. He made the announcement while speaking at a conference in Colombo and said that the 1991 decree had forced officials in the tropical country to suffer in uncomfortable clothing. Sri Lanka's civil service is largely based on traditions inherited from the country's former British colonial rulers who governed the island nation from 1815 until 1948.

136) Which neighbouring country's Supreme Court prohibited registration of public figures as trademarks from January 2017?

- a) China*
- b) Nepal
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Pakistan

China's top court has ruled that the names of public figures in areas such as politics, economy, culture and religion cannot be registered as trademarks. The Supreme People's Court (SPC) on January 11, 2017 issued a document on handling cases involving trademark approval. The new rules state that trademarking public figures' names is forbidden in accordance with trademark law, due to the "negative influence" on the public interest and social order that it could cause.

137) Which of the following is the Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM) testfired by Pakistan in January 2017?

- a) Babar-3

- b) Aurangzeb-3
- c) Hatf-3
- d) Jahangir-3

Pakistan on January 9, 2017 conducted its first successful test-fire of Submarine Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM), capable of carrying a nuclear warhead from an undisclosed location in the Indian Ocean. Babur-3 has a range of 450 kilometers.

138) Nikola Gruevski was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Macedonia in January 2017. What is the currency of Macedonia?

- a) Euro
- b) Lira
- c) Riyal
- d) Denar*

Macedonia's President Gjorge Ivanov on January 10, 2017 appointed veteran politician and ex-premier Nikola Gruevski to form a new government after his conservative party won a narrow victory in the election held on December 11, 2016. Macedonian denar is the currency while Skopje is the capital.

139) Who among the following was President of Iran from 1989 to 1997? He died at 82 on January 8, 2017.

- a) Sadeq Larijani
- b) Syed Ali Khamenei
- c) Mahmoud Ahmadinejad
- d) Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani*

Former Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died in Tehran on January 8, 2017. He was 82. Rafsanjani was the President of Iran from 3 August 1989 until 3 August 1997.

140) Who among the following was President of Portugal from 1986 to 1996? He died at 92 on January 7, 2017.

- a) Carlos Pinto
- b) Mário Soares*
- c) Jorge Sampaio
- d) Aníbal Cavaco Silva

Ex-Portuguese President and Prime Minister Mario Soares died at the age of 92 in Lisbon on January 7, 2017. Soares was Prime Minister between 1976 and 1978. He served as president between 1986 and 1996.

141) Roman Herzog died at the age of 82 on January 10, 2017. He served as which of the following in Germany?

- a) President*
- b) Army Chief
- c) Head of Bundesbank
- d) National football coach

142) Who among the following is the singer-songwriter of the popular song 'Where Do You Go To'? He died at 75 on January 8, 2017.

- a) Nat Hentoff
- b) Leonard Cohen
- c) Peter Sarstedt*
- d) Juan Gabriel

143) Clare Hollingworth, who died aged 105 in Hong Kong on January 10, 2017, became well-known as a/an:

- a) Architect
- b) Journalist*
- c) Singer
- d) Scientist

Author, journalist and Jazz critic Nat Hentoff died in New York on January 7, 2017 at the age of 91. Singer-songwriter Peter Sarstedt, best known for the song Where Do You Go To (My Lovely), died at the age of 75 on January 8, 2017 in Sussex, United Kingdom. Former German president (1994-99) Roman Herzog died at the age of 82 on January 10, 2017. Veteran British war correspondent Clare Hollingworth, who broke the news that World War II had started, died aged 105

in Hong Kong on January 10, 2017. C.G. Weeramantry, who was the first Sri Lankan to be appointed to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, passed away in Colombo on January 7, 2017.

144) Which of the following is the reading machine for the visually challenged developed by Chandigarh-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO)?

- a) Divya Drishti
- b) Divya Nayan*
- c) Divya Kiran
- d) Divya Prakash

Visually challenged persons can now get the most advanced reading machine, at an affordable cost. The machine would bring to an end dependence on others to read and learn. Chandigarh-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), under the CSIR has developed a reading machine for visually challenged, the most advanced so far. The scanner named "Divya Nayan" scans any script and read it aloud for visually challenged to understand. (January 2017)

145) 11. Which state will host the 2nd National Biodiversity Congress in February 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala*
- c) West Bengal
- d) Sikkim

National Biodiversity Congress (NBC) 2017, one of the significant biodiversity mega events of the country, will be held in Thiruvananthapuram from February 22. It will be hosted by the Kerala State Biodiversity Board, a release said on January 12, 2017.

146) Prime Minister of which of the following was among the recipients of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) in January 2017?

- a) Fiji
- b) Jamaica
- c) Trinidad & Tobago
- d) Portugal*

As many as 30 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) were conferred during the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations held in Bangalore from January 7 to 9, 2017. The jury considered their contribution for achievements on philanthropic investments and charitable work in India and for contribution towards India's development. The winners included: Pravind Kumar Jugnauth (Finance Minister of Mauritius) for Public Service; Priti Patel (Secretary of State for International Development in United Kingdom) for Public Service and Antonio Luis Santos da Costa (Prime Minister of Portugal) for Public Service.

147) Which state won the Gold award for 'Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering' for its 'Loan Charge Creation Module of the Land Administration' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017?

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh*

148) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of technology in e-Governance' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its State Pension Portal Online Social Security Schemes Management system (OSSSMS).

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

149) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of GIS Technology in e-Governance' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its G Triangulation project.

- a) Haryana*
- b) Karnataka

- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

150) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of Mobile Technology in e-Governance Governance' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its Hawk Eye Mobile App.

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka
- c) Telangana*
- d) Madhya Pradesh

151) Which state won the Gold award for 'Innovative use of ICT by State Government PSUs/Cooperatives/Federations/Societies Go' at the National e-Governance Awards in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017? The award was given for its Nation's First Intelligent Transport System with Mobile App.

- a) Haryana
- b) Karnataka*
- c) Telangana
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The two day National Conference on e-Governance concluded in Visakhapatnam on January 10, 2017. "Digital Transformation" was the core theme of the Conference. Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Law & Justice P.P. Chaudhary gave away the awards to the winners.

Category –I: Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering

- Gold was won by Loan Charge Creation Module of the Land Administration of Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh
- Silver was won by Madhya Pradesh Shram Seva Portal of Civil Supplies & Food Department

Category- II: Outstanding performance in citizen centric service delivery

- Aadhaar enabled Public Distribution System of Department of Consumer Affairs, Food and Civil Supplies, Andhra Pradesh
- SAHAJ – Online LPG connection and Cylinder e-payment of Union Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas

Category III: Innovative use of technology in e-Governance

- Gold was won by State Pension Portal Online Social Security Schemes Management system (OSSSMS) of Social Justice and Disabled Welfare department of Madhya Pradesh
- Silver was won by Setting up of wireless LAN in Kedar valley from district HQ upto Kedarnath temple on yatra route by District Disaster Management Authority, Rudra Prayag of Uttarakhand government

Category IV: Incremental Innovations in existing projects

- Gold was won by NREGASoft of Union Ministry of Rural Development
- Silver was won by E-Filing Project of Income Tax department

Category V: Best District level initiative in citizen-centric service delivery through ICT

- Silver was won by SUGAM COLLECTORATE of Junagarh, Gujarat

Category VI: Innovative use of GIS Technology in e-Governance

- Gold was won by G Triangulation of Gurgaon, Haryana
- Silver was won by Implementation of GIS app along with GIS database at Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC), Gujarat

Category VII: Innovative use of Mobile Technology in e-Governance

- Gold was won by Hawk Eye Mobile App Hyderabad City Police, Telangana

Category VIII: Sectoral Award: Digital Transformation towards transforming India

- Gold was won by MyGov project of the Union Ministry of Electronic & Information Technology

Category IX: Innovative use of ICT by Central Government PSUs

- Gold was won by Village Electrification Mission of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Ltd.
- Silver was won by GyanEraOnline Learning Management System of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, Andhra Pradesh

Category X Innovative use of ICT by State Government PSUs/Cooperatives/Federations/Societies

- Gold was won by Nation's First Intelligent Transport System with Mobile App at Mysore City of KSRTC, Karnataka

- Silver was won by Transformation of TNHDC (Tamil Nadu Handicraft Development Corporation) using Information Technology of Tamil Nadu
Category XI Outstanding e-Governance initiative by Academic and Research institutions
- Silver was won by Indira Gandhi Information Management System (IGMIS) of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishvavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur, Chhattisgarh

152) Which of the following was the Best Motion Picture-Musical/Comedy at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Sing Street
- b) Deadpool
- c) La La Land*
- d) Florence Foster Jenkins

153) Which of the following was the Best Motion Picture-Drama at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Lion
- b) Moonlight*
- c) Hacksaw Ridge
- d) Hell or High Water

154) Which of the following was the Best Animated Feature Film at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Sing
- b) Moana
- c) Zootopia*
- d) My Life as a Zucchini

155) Which of the following was the Best Foreign Language Film at the 74th Golden Globe awards given in Los Angeles in January 2017?

- a) Elle*
- b) Divines
- c) Neruda
- d) The Salesman

Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone-starrer musical comedy “La La Land” clinched as many as seven honours at the 74th Golden Globe Awards in Los Angeles on January 8, 2017. The winners are selected by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association for performances in movies and television. Winners include: Best motion picture – drama: Moonlight; Best motion picture - comedy or musical: La La Land; Best animated feature film: Zootopia; Best foreign language film: Elle (France)

156) Claudio Ranieri won Men’s Coach of the Year award at the Best FIFA Football Awards in Zurich on January 9, 2017. He won for coaching which of the following EPL teams?

- a) Chelsea
- b) Tottenham Hotspur
- c) Liverpool
- d) Leicester City*

157) Who among the following won the Puskas Award for Goal of the Year at the Best FIFA Football Awards in Zurich on January 9, 2017? He plays for Malaysian club Penang FC.

- a) Elias Sulaiman
- b) Mohd Faiz Subri*
- c) Mohd Azrul Ahmad
- d) Mohd Syukur Saidin

158) Which of the following winners at the Best FIFA Football Awards in January 2017 and their countries is matched correctly?

- I. Silvia Neid – Germany
- II. Carli Lloyd – United States
- III. Atletico Nacional – Portugal

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) I and III only
- d) II and III only

The Best FIFA Football Awards were conferred on winners in Zurich on January 9, 2017. Mohd Faiz Subri's remarkable swerving free kick was named the best goal of the year by FIFA. The breath-taking strike earned the Malaysian forward the 2016 FIFA Puskás Award. Playing for Malaysian club Penang, Subri hit a swerving long-range free-kick against Pahang in the Malaysia Super League on February 16, 2016. ALL WINNERS: **Men's Player** - Cristiano Ronaldo; **Women's Player** - Carli Lloyd (United States); **Men's Coach** - Claudio Ranieri (coach of EPL club Leicester City); **Women's Coach** - Silvia Neid (Germany); **Fair Play Award** - Atletico Nacional (Colombian club); **Award for Outstanding Career** - Falcao; **Puskas Award** - Mohz Faiz Subri; **Fan Award** - Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool supporters

159) Who among the following was honoured by the US Embassy to acknowledge his immense contribution to the India-US ties on tuberculosis in January 2017?

- a) Anupam Kher
- b) Boman Irani
- c) Amitabh Bachchan*
- d) Akshay Kumar

Amitabh Bachchan was honoured by the US Embassy to acknowledge his immense contribution to the India-US ties on tuberculosis. The award was presented by US Ambassador to India Richard R. Verma to the 74-year-old actor, who himself is a TB survivor and brand ambassador for the cause, in Mumbai on January 9, 2017.

160) Which country was the top source of FDI in India in 2015-16, according to a report released by the RBI in January 2017?

- a) Mauritius*
- b) United States
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Singapore

161) Which country was the top destination for ODI (Overseas Direct Investment) by Indian companies in 2015-16, according to a report released by the RBI in January 2017?

- a) Mauritius
- b) United States
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Singapore*

Mauritius provided the maximum inward foreign direct investment, accounting for 20.8 per cent of FDI in India, followed by the US, Britain, Singapore and Japan till the end of the last fiscal, the RBI said in its 'Census on Foreign Liabilities and Assets of Indian Direct Investment Companies for 2015-16' released on January 10, 2017. The major destination for ODI (Overseas Direct Investment) by Indian companies was Singapore (20.6 per cent) in March 2016.

162) Which of the following statements regarding Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) is/are correct?

- I. The number of free withdrawals in a month is limited
- II. Bank can't levy charge for non-operation/activation of BSBDA
- III. BSBDA does not have requirement of any minimum balance

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only
- d) I, II and III*

163) Which of the following statements regarding Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account (BSBDA) is/are correct?

- I. There is no limit on the number of deposits that can be made in a month
- II. Banks are required to issue cheque books free of cost to BSBDA holders
- III. Holders of BSBDA will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only*
- d) II and III only

The Centre has asked banks to obtain and link permanent account number (PAN) or Form 60 (where PAN is not available) in all existing bank accounts by February 28, 2017. The income tax rules have been amended for the purpose.

The directive will, however, not apply to the basic savings bank deposit account (BSBDA), according to an official release on January 7, 2017.

About 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' (BSBDA):

- This account shall not have the requirement of any minimum balance.
- While there will be no limit on the number of deposits that can be made in a month, account holders will be allowed a maximum of four free withdrawals in a month, including ATM withdrawals.
- No charge will be levied for non-operation/activation of in-operative 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'.
- Holders of 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account' will not be eligible for opening any other savings bank deposit account in that bank. If a customer has any other existing savings bank deposit account in that bank, he/she will be required to close it within 30 days from the date of opening a 'Basic Savings Bank Deposit Account'.
- There is no provision for issue of cheque book with these accounts. Regarding paid facilities, banks can provide additional value-added services beyond the stipulated basic minimum services on reasonable and transparent basis.

164) Which of the following became the first bank to have a national tie-up with India Post in January 2017?

- a) HSBC
- b) Citibank
- c) Barclays Bank*
- d) Bank of America

British lender Barclays Bank on January 10, 2017 became the first bank to have a national tie-up with the India Post which runs over 1,55,000 post offices across the country. The tie-up allows the bank to access to parts of the country that its existing branch network doesn't cover.

165) Consider the following statements regarding Payment Banks.

- I. They can issue Debit Cards
- II. They can issue Credit Cards
- III. They can offer loans

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) II only*
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) II and III only

166) Consider the following statements regarding Payment Banks.

- I. They can accept current deposits
- II. They can accept savings bank deposits
- III. Minimum balance in account can't exceed Rs. 1 lakh

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) II only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) I, II and III*

Airtel Payments Bank commenced operations on January 12, 2017 offering an interest rate of 7.25 per cent on deposits in savings accounts. Customer's mobile number will serve as his bank account number. The bank will allow transfer of money to any bank account in India at a cost, but money transfers from an Airtel number to another Airtel number within the Payments Bank will be free. There are no charges for depositing money into the account but the Payments Bank will levy a charge of 0.65% when a customer makes physical cash withdrawal. A customer will be able to withdraw cash only at the banking retail points. The bank is a joint venture between Bharti Airtel (80.1 per cent) and Kotak Mahindra Bank (19.9 per cent).

RBI norms on Payments Banks

- Payments Bank can hold a maximum balance of Rs. 1 lakh per individual customers
- They cannot offer loans.
- They are however allowed to issue ATM/debit cards and other prepaid payment instruments.
- They are not allowed to issue credit cards.
- These banks can also distribute non-risk sharing simple financial products like mutual funds and insurance products.
- Payment banks can accept demand deposits, i.e., current deposits, and savings bank deposits from individuals, small businesses and other entities. No NRI deposits can be accepted

167) Consider the following.

- I. Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX)
- II. Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
- III. National Stock Exchange (NSE)

Which of the above is/are listed as on January 14, 2017?

- a) I only*
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) II and III only

Asia's oldest bourse BSE will launch its much-awaited Rs 1,500 crore initial public offering (IPO) on January 23. The shares are expected to list on rival National Stock Exchange (NSE) on or around February 3. The IPO, which would open on January 23, closes on January 25, according to Red Herring Prospectus (RHP) filed by BSE with markets regulator SEBI on January 13, 2017. Multi Commodity Exchange of India is the only publicly listed exchange in the country. It was listed on BSE in 2012.

168) The India International Exchange (INX) was inaugurated at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) in GIFT City, Gandhinagar, on January 9, 2017. It is owned by which of the following?

- a) NSE
- b) BSE*
- c) MCX
- d) NCDEX

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the India International Exchange (INX), the country's first international exchange at International Financial Service Centre (IFSC), Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) City, Gandhinagar, on January 9, 2017. India INX is one of the world's most advanced technology platforms with a turn-around time of 4 micro seconds. It will operate for 22 hours a day to allow international investors and NRI to trade from anywhere across the globe. The India INX is a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE Ltd is expected to start trading before the end of January 2017. The exchange can trade securities and products other than Indian rupees. The securities and products that could be traded on the India INX are: equity shares of companies incorporated outside India, depository receipts, debt securities, currency and interest rate derivatives, index based derivatives, commodity derivatives and such other securities that may be allowed.

169) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for December 2016?

- a) 2.41%
- b) 3.41%*
- c) 4.41%
- d) 5.41%

Retail inflation eased further to nearly 3-year low of 3.41 per cent in December, reflecting weak demand as consumers grappled with cash crunch following demonetisation, government data showed on January 12, 2017. The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation stood at 3.63 per cent in November 2016, as per the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. A year ago, in December 2015, retail inflation was at 5.61 per cent.

170) Which of the following, in its report titled "Global Economic Prospects" released in January 2017 has forecast 7% growth for the Indian economy in 2016-17?

- a) IMF
- b) WEF
- c) OECD
- d) World Bank*

The World Bank on January 11, 2017 cut India's GDP growth for 2016-17 fiscal to 7 per cent from its previous estimate of 7.6 per cent citing the impact of demonetisation, but forecast that the country would regain momentum in the following years with a growth of 7.6 per cent and 7.8 per cent due to a number of reform initiatives. "The immediate withdrawal of a large volume of currency in circulation and subsequent replacement with new notes announced by the government in November contributed to slowing growth in 2016," the World Bank said in its latest report titled Global Economic Prospects.

171) Where was world's largest street light replacement programme launched in January 2017? The existing lights will be replaced by LED.

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi*

Union Minister of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal dedicated the LED based Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), currently running in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) area, to the nation on January 9, 2017. It is the world's largest street light replacement programme, which is being implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power.

172) Consider the following regarding trade data in April-December 2016?

- I. Imports
- II. Exports
- III. Trade Deficit

Which of the above decreased over the same period of 2015?

- a) I only
- b) I and III only*
- c) I and II only
- d) II and III only

India's exports continued to grow for the fourth straight month in December 2016, expanding by 5.72 per cent to USD 23.9 billion compared to USD 22.6 billion in the same month of previous year. Imports too rose by 0.46 per cent to USD 34.25 billion during the month under review, leaving a trade deficit of USD 10.36 billion, the trade data released by Commerce and Industry Ministry on January 13, 2017 showed. During April-December period, exports grew marginally by 0.75 per cent USD 198.8 billion. However, Imports dipped 7.42 per cent to USD 275.3 billion. Trade deficit during the nine-month period stood at USD 76.54 billion as against USD 100 billion in the same period last year.

173) Which of the following is the new ticketing app launched by IRCTC in January 2017?

- a) IRCTC Rail Click
- b) IRCTC Rail Clip
- c) IRCTC Rail Credit
- d) IRCTC Rail Connect*

Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) on January 10, 2017 launched a new ticketing App, IRCTC Rail Connect, to facilitate booking of train tickets in a faster and easier way.

174) Who among the following sportspersons is not a golf player?

- a) Kevin Durant*
- b) Tiger Woods
- c) Rory Mcilroy
- d) Jordan Spieth

A study prepared by the London School of Marketing has revealed that Swiss tennis player Roger Federer was the world's most marketable sports person in 2016. According to the study, published by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) website on January 12, 2017, the former World No.1, currently ranked 17th, earned nearly \$60.7 million in 2016. The world's top 10 marketable sportsmen are: 1) Roger Federer (tennis) 2) LeBron James (basketball) 3) Phil Mickelson (golf) 4) Tiger Woods (golf) 5) Kevin Durant (basketball) 6) Rory Mcilroy (golf) 7) Novak Djokovic (tennis) 8) Cristiano Ronaldo (football) 9) Jordan Spieth (golf) 10) Rafael Nadal (tennis).

175) KM Philip did at 104 in Chennai on January 11, 2017. He was known for contribution to which industry?

- a) Cement
- b) Tea
- c) Steel
- d) Rubber*

KM Philip, 104, former whole-time director on the board of MRF, passed away in Chennai on January 11, 2017. A founding member of the All India Rubber Industries Association, he played a key role in the establishment and growth of the domestic rubber and tyre industries.

176) . Which of the following has 51% shareholding in Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL)?

- a) ISRO
- b) Air India

- c) ONGC*
- d) HAL

Moving ahead with the strategic sale of Pawan Hans, the government on January 11, 2017 said it will sell its entire 51 per cent stake and transfer the management control of the helicopter service operator. Pawan Hans Helicopter Ltd. (PHHL) was incorporated in 1985. Presently the shareholding of the Government of India is 51% and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is 49%. PHHL was incorporated with the primary objective of providing helicopter support services to the oil sector for its off-shore exploration operations, services in remote and hilly areas and charter services for promotion of tourism.

177) Which of the following said it will reserve six seats for women on its flights operating on domestic routes from January 18, 2017?

- a) GoAir
- b) IndiGo
- c) Jet Airways
- d) Air India*

In a first-of-its-kind move in the aviation industry, national carrier Air India will reserve six seats for women on its flights operating on domestic routes from January 18, 2017. At times, a woman travelling alone gets a middle or window seat on aircraft, which puts her to inconvenience, particularly while going to washroom. This necessitated for the airline to keep some seats reserved for them on aircraft flying on domestic routes, an Air India spokesperson said. Keeping this in mind, it has been decided to keep all the six seats in the third row of the economy class on Airbus A320 reserved only for women. However, woman travelling with their family members would not be entitled to these seats.

178) Who among the following was appointed as the new MD & CEO of firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in January 2017?

- a) Aman Mehta
- b) Ishaat Hussain
- c) V. Thyagarajan
- d) Rajesh Gopinathan*

Country's largest IT services firm Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) on January 12, 2017 named Rajesh Gopinathan as its new MD and CEO after the incumbent N. Chandrasekaran was elevated as Chairman of Tata Sons -- the group's holding company. TCS also appointed N. Ganapathy Subramaniam as President and Chief Operating Officer. Chandrasekaran will assume charge as the Chairman of Tata Sons Ltd from February 21, 2017.

179) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of Tata Sons in January 2017?

- a) Ravindra Pisharody
- b) N. Chandrasekaran*
- c) Satish Borwankar
- d) C. Ramakrishnan

Tata Sons on January 12, 2017 named TCS Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director N Chandrasekaran as its new Chairman over two months after the unceremonious sacking of Cyrus Mistry. The 54-year-old was chosen to step into the shoes of interim Chairman Ratan Tata, who took over on October 24, 2017 after the removal of Mistry.

180) Where was India's biggest public Wi-Fi network with 500 dedicated hotspots launched in January 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai*
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi

India's biggest public Wi-Fi network, and among the world's largest, went live at 500 dedicated hotspots across Mumbai on January 9, 2017. The Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation (MITC) has collaborated with US-based companies like Hewlett Packard and Fortinet for the technical aspects. The Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd is the bandwidth provider and Larsen & Toubro is the systems integrator.

181) The first Khadi Lounge was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) at which of the following in January 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai*
- c) Chennai

d) New Delhi

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on January 7, 2017 opened its first high end Khadi outlet named Khadi lounge in Mumbai, which will showcase designer line of garments and exclusive fabric for men and women. The designer wear includes high fashion garments including ready to wear designed by Ritu Beri, an acclaimed fashion designer.

182) Which of the following showcased human-sized robot Ira for banking operations in January 2017?

- a) Kotak Bank
- b) Axis Bank
- c) ICICI Bank
- d) HDFC Bank*

The private lender HDFC Bank on January 9, 2017 launched what it claimed to be the first 'humanoid' in the domestic banking space, and also said it is looking to partner with start-ups having technological solutions for rural operations. The bank showcased human-sized robot Ira, developed in association with Kochi-based Asimov Robotics, and said it will be deployed soon. In 2016, City Union Bank had introduced robot 'Lakshmi', which uses artificial intelligence to handle 125 topics.

183) What was the theme of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit organised in Gandhinagar in January 2017?

- a) Bringing India to the World
- b) Bringing Gujarat to the World
- c) Connecting India to the World*
- d) Connecting Gujarat to the World

The eight edition of the biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit was organised at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar from January 10 to 12, 2017. Themed around 'Connecting India to the World', the three-day summit had started with a grand opening ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in his valedictory address termed the event a big.

184) Which of the following has decided to build gaushalas (cow-sheds) in prisons in the state that have adequate land for the purpose?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Haryana*

The Haryana government has decided to build gaushalas in all those prisons in the state that have adequate land for the purpose and first of these cow-sheds will come up at Karnal District Jail. "In the first phase gaushalas will be constructed in six jails of the state. The first will come up at the Karnal District Jail," State Jail Minister Krishan Lal Panwar said in Safidon, Jind on January 11, 2017. The Minister said the gaushalas will serve the dual purpose of cow protection and make milk available to inmates, who will help in upkeep of the sheds.

185) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the Apia International tennis tournament in Sydney in January 2017?

- a) Peng Shuai and Andrea Hlavackova
- b) Raluca Olaru and Olga Savchuk
- c) Katernia Siniakova and Alison Riske
- d) Timea Babos and Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova*

Sania Mirza and Czech Republic's Barbora Strycova went down to Timea Babos of Hungary and Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova in straight sets in the Women's Doubles final of the Apia International tennis tournament in Sydney on January 13, 2017. The top seeded pair of Sania and Strycova lost 4-6, 4-6.

186) Who among the following won the Men's race at the Wipro Chennai Marathon on January 8, 2017?

- a) Isaac Kemboi*
- b) Eliud Kipchoge
- c) Philemon Baaru
- d) Edisa Merga Ejigu

187) Who among the following won the Women's race at the Wipro Chennai Marathon on January 8, 2017?

- a) Kavita Raut
- b) Simta Sharma*

c) Monica Athare

d) Sudha Singh

Isaac Kemboi from Kenya and Simta Sharma from Mumbai won the men's and women's full marathon respectively, in the 5th edition of 'The Wipro Chennai Marathon 2016,' held in Chennai on January 8, 2017. Kemboi clocked the 42.2 kilometers distance in 02:37:39. Simta Sharma took 3 hours and 34 minutes to emerge victorious in the Women's Full Marathon

188) Which of the following places in New Delhi hosted the Bharat Parv organised by the government from January 26 to 31, 2017?

a) India Habitat Centre

b) Rashtrapati Bhawan

c) Parliament House

d) Red Fort*

189) Which was the first foreign contingent to participate in India's Republic Day Parade in 2016?

a) Australia

b) Russia

c) United Kingdom

d) France*

The Nation celebrated its 68th Republic Day on January 26, 2017. The day honours the date on which the Constitution came into force on 26th January in 1950 replacing the Government of India Act (1935) as the governing document. The main function was held in New Delhi. A major highlight of the parade was 149-member marching contingent from UAE comprising personnel from Presidential Guards, the Air Force, the Navy and Army, led by a band comprising 35 musicians from the Gulf country. The UAE is the second country after France whose troops participated in the Republic Day in 2016. Bharat Parv was organized by the Government of India at the Red Fort, Delhi from January 26 to 31, 2017. The objective was to promote the rich cultural diversity of the country and to popularise the idea of "Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat". The Ministry of Tourism was designated as the nodal Ministry for the event.

190) The 'TROPEX' naval exercise started on January 24, 2017. Acronym TROPEX stands for:

a) Theatre Readiness and Offensive Exercise

b) Theatre Readiness and Operational Exercise*

c) Theatre Reconnaissance and Offensive Exercise

d) Theatre Reconnaissance and Operational Exercise

The annual Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX) started on January 24, 2017. The month-long exercise has ships and aircraft of both the Western and Eastern Naval Commands, as also the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard exercising together.

191) Which of the following social media was launched as helpline by Chief of Army staff General Bipin Rawat to receive grievances of the army personnel on January 27, 2017?

a) WhatsApp*

b) Pinterest

c) Twitter

d) Facebook

Chief of Army staff General Bipin Rawat on January 27, 2017 launched a WhatsApp helpline to receive grievances of the army personnel. The aggrieved armed personnel will be able to directly communicate with the Army chief with the help of this helpline. It comes in the backdrop of complaint being uploaded by some soldiers on social media platform.

192) Which of the following hosted the Combined Commanders Conference on January 21, 2017?

a) Shimla

b) Dehradun*

c) Bhopal

d) Panaji

The day-long Combined Commanders Conference was held at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) in Dehradun on January 21, 2017 where top military commanders along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, defence minister Manohar Parrikar and National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval took stock of security challenges before the country. The conference saw presentations from Chiefs of Navy, IAF and Army.

193) Which of the following was used by AIIMS to digitise services? The AIIMS has been asked to replicate the project in government hospitals across the country.

- a) Communication Project
- b) Automation Project
- c) Networking Project
- d) Transformation Project*

The Centre has asked AIIMS in New Delhi to help public hospitals across the country replicate the premier medical institute's Transformation Project for digitising services. The Union Health Ministry has mandated AIIMS to help the states and Union territories replicate the initiative which comprises the institute's digital project and OPD Transformation, AIIMS Deputy Director (Administration) informed the media in on January 26, 2017.

194) National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 24, 2017 to mark which of the following?

- a) Date on which independent India's first government was sworn in
- b) Date on which the first vote was cast in independent India
- c) Date on which the first voter identity card was issued
- d) Date on which the Election Commission as founded*

195) The ____ National Voters' Day (NVD) was celebrated by the Election Commission of India on January 25, 2017.

- a) 6th
- b) 7th*
- c) 8th
- d) 9th

196) What was the theme of the National Voters' Day was celebrated on January 24, 2017?

- a) Inclusive and Qualitative Participation
- b) Proud to be a Voter – Ready to Vote
- c) Empowering Young & Future Voters*
- d) Easy Registration, Easy Correction

197) Which of the following is the book launched by the election Commission on National Voters' Day on January 24, 2017?

- a) Observing Indian Elections- Saga of Living Democracy
- b) Energising Indian Elections- Saga of Living Democracy
- c) Chronicling Indian Elections- Saga of Living Democracy
- d) Unfolding Indian Elections- Journey of Living Democracy*

The 7th National Voters' Day (NVD) was celebrated by the Election Commission of India on January 25, 2017 with theme the "Empowering Young & Future Voters". NVD is being celebrated since 2011 on 25th January, the foundation Day of Election Commission of India (25th January 1950). Chief Election Commissioner Nasim Zaidi released the book "Unfolding Indian Elections- Journey of Living Democracy" and presented first copy to the President. This book has been brought out by the Election Commission of India and Publication Division, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

198) National Girl Child Day was observed on:

- a) January 23
- b) January 24
- c) January 25
- d) January 26

199) Consider the following women achievers.

- I. Avani Chaturvedi – Woman fighter pilot
- II. Arunima Sinha – Amputee mountaineer
- III. Deepa Malik – Cricketer

Which of the above is/are matched correctly?

- a) II only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

200) . 'Child Vulnerability Map', a district-wise map depicting problems facing children in the country, was released by the WCD Ministry in January 2017. It has been prepared by which NGO?

- a) Childline India*

- b) Askhay Patra Foundation
- c) Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- d) Child Rights and You

The Ministry of Women & Child Development celebrated the National Girl Child Day at a special function in New Delhi on January 24, 2017. The theme of the program was Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. The National Plan of Action for Children, 2016 was also released followed on the occasion by WCD Minister Maneka Gandhi. Special addresses were given by eminent speakers including Deepa Malik (Silver medalist at Rio Paralympics), Avani Chaturvedi (is among the first 3 women fighter pilots inducted in the Indian Air Force in June 2016), Arunima Sinha (1st women amputee to climb Mount Everest) and Shanno (former street girl and advisor of Balaknama newspaper by street children). In another initiative, a district-wise map depicting problems facing children in the country was released. Called 'Child Vulnerability Map', prepared by NGO Childline India Foundation, it covers 409 of total 678 districts in the country and shows prevalence of various issues affecting children therein.

201) The country's first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) were launched at Dahod and _____ on January 25, 2017.

- a) Nagpur
- b) Kanpur
- c) Pune
- d) Mysore*

In order to extend passport services to citizens on a larger scale and to ensure wider area coverage, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Department of Posts (DOP) have now agreed to utilize the Head Post Offices (HPO) in the various States as Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) for delivering passport related services to the citizens of our country. The pilot projects for this joint venture between MEA and DOP was inaugurated on January 25, 2017 at the HPO at Mysore in Karnataka and at Dahod in Gujarat.

202) Consider the following statements on trains conferred UNESCO World Heritage Site Status in India – Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, Nilgiri Mountain Railway and Kalka Shimla Railway.

- I. Nilgiri Mountain Railway was the first to receive this status
- II. Kalka Shimla Railway was the last to receive this status
- III. Railways and UNSECO signed agreement to develop Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway in January 2017

Which of the above is/are matched correctly?

- a) II only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only*

The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) is all set to receive a major conservation boost with the Indian Railways on January 20, 2017 signing a fund-in-trust agreement worth \$5,33,332 to enable UNESCO develop a Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan (CCMP) and a framework for an effective management system for it. DHR was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1999. While the CCMP for Darjeeling Himalayan Railway had actually commenced in April, 2016, once successful, it would be replicated in Nilgiri Mountain Railway and Kalka Shimla Railway too. While Nilgiri Mountain Railway was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2005, Kalka Shimla Railway was given the same status in 2008. The three together are called UNESCO's 'Mountain Railways of India World Heritage Site.'

203) The Supreme Court on January 23, 2017 constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the allegations of abuse of authority committed by former CBI Director Ranjit Sinha in which of the following?

- a) 2G scam
- b) Coal scam*
- c) Adarsh scam
- d) Commonwealth Games scam

The Supreme Court on January 23, 2017 constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the allegations of abuse of authority committed by former CBI Director Ranjit Sinha to scuttle investigation and enquiries in coal block allocation cases. A bench, comprising Justices Madan B Lokur, Kurian Joseph and A K Sikri, observed that a prima facie case has definitely been made out for probe into the abuse of authority by Sinha.

204) Who among the following is the author of 'Veerappan: Chasing the Brigand'?

- a) Milan Vaishnav
- b) Vera Hildebrand
- c) K. Vijay Kumar*
- d) Ashok Banker

Recent book releases: 'When Crime Pays: Money and Muscle in Indian Politics' by Milan Vaishnav, 'Women At War' by Vera Hildebrand, 'Veerappan: Chasing the Brigand' by K. Vijay Kumar, 'Ashoka: Lion of Maurya' by Ashok Banker, 'The Tartan Turban: In Search of Alexander Gardner' by John Keay and 'Beauty is a Wound' by Eka Kurniawan

205) Who amongst the following was appointed as the CEO of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) by the government in January 2017?

- a) Satya Paul
- b) Sandeep Khosla
- c) Rina Dhaka
- d) Anshu Sinha*

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on January 24, 2017 appointed Anshu Sinha as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Mumbai under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises for a period upto 29.01.2019.

206) Pakistan Military Authorities handed over Chandu Babulal Chavan to Indian Authorities at Wagah Crossing Point on January 21, 2017. He belonged to which of the following?

- a) SSB
- b) Rashtriya Rifles*
- c) Assam Rifles
- d) BSF

Pakistan Military Authorities handed over Sepoy Chandu Babulal Chavan to Indian Authorities at Wagah Crossing Point on January 21, 2017. The Rashtriya Rifles soldier had crossed over to Pak Occupied Kashmir from own Krishna Ghati sector on September 29, 2016 just hours after surgical strike across Line of Control.

207) Renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri died in Mumbai on January 22, 2017. His real name was:

- a) Wasim Rana
- b) Sukhwinder Negi
- c) Vipin Purohit
- d) Jaswant Rai*

Renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri died in Mumbai on January 22, 2017. Naqsh was born as Jaswant Rai in the town of Lyallpur in Punjab (now in Pakistan).

208) The iconic Burj Khalifa building was displayed in the tri-colour on January 25-26, 2017. The building is in:

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Dubai*

As a goodwill gesture to mark the historic visit of the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi to India as the Chief Guest on the 68th Republic Day, the iconic Burj Khalifa in Dubai was displayed in the tri-colour on January 25-26, 2017. Burj Khalifa is the tallest building in the world and is a major tourist attraction.

209) Which of the following hosted the G-20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting in January 2017?

- a) Bonn
- b) Berlin*
- c) Frankfurt
- d) Dresden

Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Radha Mohan Singh on January 22, 2017 addressed the G-20 Agriculture Ministers' Meeting at Berlin, Germany.

210) India contributed \$100,000 for the UN Haiti ____ Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund in January 2017.

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Pneumonia
- c) Avian Flu
- d) Cholera*

India contributed \$100,000 to a UN trust fund designed to support Haiti in recovering from the ravages of the 2010 Cholera epidemic and building improved sanitation and health systems in the country. First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Ashish Sinha handed over \$100,000 cheque for the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund in Jan 2017.

211) Alexander M. Kadakin passed away on January 26, 2017 at the age of 67. He was Russia's _____

- a) Defence Minister
- b) Foreign Minister
- c) Head of Central Bank
- d) Ambassador to India*

Russian Ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin passed away in New Delhi on January 26, 2017. He was 67. Kadakin was serving as the Ambassador since 2009.

212) Which of the following is the communications satellite launched by Japan on January 24, 2017 to promote sharing of military information?

- a) Osumi-2
- b) Selene-2
- c) Nozomi-2
- d) Kirameki-2*

Japan on January 24, 2017 launched a new communications satellite designed to promote the sharing of military information. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. launched the X-band Kirameki-2 satellite aboard the H-2A Launch Vehicle from the Tanegashima Space Centre in Kagoshima prefecture. It is the first satellite launched by Japan's Ministry of Defence, which shoulders the mission to upgrade the Self-Defence Forces' (SDF) communications network.

213) Which of the following is the surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSM) of 2200 km range that was test fired by Pakistan in January 2017?

- a) Abdali
- b) Ghazni
- c) Ghauri
- d) Ababeel*

Pakistan on January 24, 2017 successfully conducted the first test flight of the radar-evading 'Ababeel' surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSM) capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 2,200 kms, bringing many Indian cities within its range.

214) Who among the following was named as the new Prime Minister of Mauritius in January 2017?

- a) Pravind Jugnauth*
- b) Rashid Beebeejaun
- c) Navin Ramgoolam
- d) Dinesh Ramjuttun

Mauritius Prime Minister Anerood Jugnauth resigned in capital Port Louis on January 23, 2017. The 86-year-old veteran politician will be succeeded by his son Pravind Jugnauth, the current Minister of Finance and also leader of the Militant Socialist Movement (MSM), the largest party in the governing coalition. Mauritius is a multi-ethnic archipelago nation of 1.2 million people off the east coast of Africa. It is the only Hindu-majority country in Africa. It was colonised by the Dutch in the 17th century, then the French and finally Britain before gaining independence in 1968.

215) The Survey of India said in January 2017 that it has decided to 're-measure' the height of Mount Everest. Who among the following is the Surveyor General of India?

- a) Prithvish Nag
- b) Vinay Kant Nagar
- c) Swarna Subba Rao*

- c) Chandra Prakash Mehta
- d) Surinder Mohan Chadha

The height of Mount Everest will soon be “re-measured” by the Survey of India to determine whether the world’s tallest peak has really shrunk following a devastating earthquake in Nepal two years ago. An expedition from the Survey of India would depart for Nepal in two months to conduct the exercise. Mount Everest officially stands at 8,848 metres (29,028 feet) above sea level. The project, for which required sanctions have been obtained, would help the future scientific studies as well, Surveyor General of India Swarna Subba Rao said in Hyderabad on January 24, 2017.

216) Who among the following singers won 2017 Padma Vibhushan award?

- a) Yesudas*
- b) Vani Jairam
- c) P. Susheela
- d) S. Janaki

Kattassery Joseph Yesudas won the National Award for the Best Male Playback Singer seven times, 5 Filmfare Awards and the State Award for the Best Playback Singer 43 times, which consists of awards by the state governments of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and West Bengal. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1975, the Padma Bhushan in 2002 and Padma Vibhushan in 2017 by the Government of India for his contributions towards the arts.

217) Which of the following is the NGO founded by 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev?

- a) Janaagraha
- b) Isha Foundation*
- c) Navsarjan Trust
- d) Nimmagadda Foundation

218) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev is a winner of which of the following awards?

- a) Gandhi Peace Prize
- b) Right Livelihood Award
- c) Ramon Magsaysay Prize
- d) Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar*

Isha Foundation is a non-profit, spiritual organization founded in 1992 by 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev. It is based at the Isha Yoga Center near Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and at the Isha Institute of Inner Sciences at McMinnville, Tennessee in the United States. He was conferred with the Indira Gandhi Paryavaran Puraskar by the Government of India in June 2010.

219) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sharad Pawar served in which of the following positions at the centre in 1993-95?

- a) Home Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Human Resource Development Minister
- d) Defence Minister*

220) Consider the following about 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Sharad Pawar.

- I. Former Chief Minister of Maharashtra
- II. Currently Lok Sabha Member from Maharashtra
- III. Served as Union Cabinet Minister in 2009-2014

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only*

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Sharad Pawar is currently a Rajya Sabha MP from Maharashtra. He was the Chief Minister of Maharashtra for three terms: July 1980-Aug. 1981, Dec. 1983-Jan. 1985 and March 1985-Dec. 1986. He was Union Cabinet Minister of Defence in 1993-95 and Union Cabinet Minister of Agriculture; Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution in May 2009- Jan. 2014. He served his sixth term in fourteenth Lok Sabha from 23 May 2004 to May 2009. The NCP was formed on 25 May 1999, by Sharad Pawar, P. A. Sangma, and Tariq Anwar after they were expelled from the Indian National Congress (INC).

221) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Murlu Manohar Joshi served in which of the following positions at the centre in 1999-2005?

- a) Home Minister
- b) Finance Minister
- c) Human Resource Development Minister
- d) Defence Minister*

222) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Murlu Manohar Joshi is the Lok Sabha member from:

- a) Allahabad
- b) Agra
- c) Lucknow
- d) Kanpur*

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee and current BJP Lok Sabha member from Kanpur Murlu Manohar Joshi served as Minister of Human Resource Development in May 1998 – May 2004 and Minister of Science and Technology in May 1999 – May 2005.

223) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Udupi Ramachandra Rao is a former head of which of the following organisations?

- a) Atomic Energy Commission
- b) Indian Institute of science
- c) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation*

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Udupi Ramachandra Rao, popularly known as U. R. Rao, was the Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) from 1984 to 1994. Rao was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1976.

224) Consider the following about 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Purno Agitok Sangma.

- I. Former Chief Minister of Meghalaya
- II. Was Lok Sabha member when he died in 2016
- III. Had served as Minister at the Centre

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III*

225) 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Purno Agitok Sangma served as Lok Sabha Speaker from:

- a) 1992-94
- b) 1996-98*
- c) 2000-02
- d) 2004-06

226) Consider the following about 2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee and former Lok Sabha Speaker Purno Agitok Sangma.

- I. First from opposition to become Speaker
- II. First from Scheduled Tribe to become Speaker
- III. Youngest to become Speaker

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III*

2017 Padma Vibhushan awardee Purno Agitok Sangma passed away in New Delhi on March 4, 2016. 68 year old Sangma was sitting member of Lok Sabha from Tura Constituency in Meghalaya. He was elected to the Lower House nine times. In 1977, he was elected to the 6th Lok Sabha from Tura and remained a member of the lower house until 15th Lok Sabha, except for the 9th Lok Sabha. He became Minister of State for Commerce and Civil Supplies in the Rajiv Gandhi government in the 1980s. From 1988 to 1990, he served as Meghalaya Chief Minister. He served as a Minister of State for Coal (independent charge) in the Narasimha Rao government in the 1990s. On May 23, 1996 Sangma was

elected Lok Sabha Speaker. This marked many firsts — of being unanimously elected Speaker, of being the first Speaker from the Opposition, the first from a Scheduled Tribe as well as the first Christian and at 49 the youngest ever in the post. He served as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha from 1996 to 1998.

227) Who among the following musicians is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees?

- a) L. Subramaniam
- b) Shivkumar Sharma
- c) Vishwa Mohan Bhatt*
- d) Kuzhalmannam Ramakrishnan

228) Tehemton Udwadia was conferred Padma Bhushan in 2017 for achievements in the field of:

- a) Literature & Education
- b) Social Work
- c) Civil Service
- d) Medicine*

229) Who among the following citizens of Thailand is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees?

- a) Thaksin Shinawatra
- b) Bhumibol Adulyadej
- c) Maha Chakri Sirindhorn*
- d) Samak Sundaravej

230) Who among the following is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees in 'Others-Yoga' category?

- a) Swami Satyananda Saraswati
- b) Swami Swaroopanand Saraswati
- c) Swami Niranjanananda Saraswat*
- d) Swami Ganapathi Sachchidananda

231) Who among the following is among the 2017 Padma Bhushan awardees in 'Others- Spiritualism' category?

- a) Mahaprajna Maharaj
- b) Tarun Sagar Maharaj
- c) Vidyananda Maharaj
- d) Ratnasundar Maharaj*

2017 Padma Bhushan awardees: Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (Art-Music), Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi (Literature & Education), Tehemton Udwadia (Medicine), Ratnasundar Maharaj (Others-Spiritualism), Swami Niranjanananda Saraswati (Others-Yoga), Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner-Literature & Education), Late Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous-Literature & Education: Journalism)

232) 2017 Padma Shri awardee Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO) has been honoured for his work in which field?

- a) Law
- b) Music
- c) Medicine
- d) Information Technology*

Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO) was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Literature & Education'. He is a professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

233) Who among the following is the Nepalese social activist awarded 2017 Padma Shri for social work?

- a) Indira Ranamagar
- b) Anuradha Koirala*
- c) Pushpa Basnet
- d) Durga Ghimire

2017 Padma Shri awardee Anuradha Koirala is a Nepalese social activist and the founder and director of Maiti Nepal – a non-profit organization in Nepal, dedicated to helping victims of sex trafficking.

234) 2017 Padma Shri awardee (posthumously) Suniti Solomon is known for her work in which field of medicine?

- a) AIDS*
- b) Malaria

- c) Leprosy
- d) Blindness

2017 Padma Shri awardee (posthumously) Suniti Solomon was a physician and microbiologist who pioneered AIDS research and prevention in India after having diagnosed the first Indian AIDS cases in Chennai in 1985. She died on July 28, 2015 in Chennai.

235) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Social Work' has been honoured for having planted over one crore saplings spanning over the last five decades?

- a) Bipin Ganatra
- b) Karimul Hak
- c) Girish Bhardwaj
- d) Daripalli Ramaiah*

2017 Padma Shri awardee Daripalli Ramaiah has planted over one crore saplings spanning over the last five decades. Ramaiah, known as 'Chettla Ramaiah' in his home district Khammam in Telangana, moves around on his cycle with seeds in his pocket and plants them wherever he sees barren land.

236) . Imrat Khan has won 2017 Padma Shri award in 'Art-Music' for his expertise in which of the following instruments?

- a) Flute
- b) Sarod
- c) Veena
- d) Surbahar*

Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO) was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Art-Music'. Khan, who lives in St Louis, Missouri, is the younger brother of late Sitar maestro Vilayat Khan, and is considered one of the world's greatest player of the surbahar, a deep-toned, sitar like instrument developed by his great grandfather, Ustad Sahabdad Khan.

237) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Social Work' has been honoured for building steel bridges in rural areas?

- a) Bipin Ganatra
- b) Karimul Hak
- c) Girish Bhardwaj*
- d) Daripalli Ramaiah

2017 Padma Shri awardee Girish Bharadwaj is known for building steel bridges in rural areas. Till date, he has built 128 bridges. Most of them are in Karnataka (91) and in Kerala, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. Girish Bharadwaj has built three bridges in his native Sullia taluk.

238) Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Trade & Industry' for his achievements in which industry?

- a) Hotels
- b) Textiles
- c) Banking
- d) Information technology*

Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Trade & Industry'. He is the Chairman of Hyderabad-based IT company Cyient and is also a former Chairman of NASSCOM.

239) 2017 Padma Shri awardee Vikas Gowda has won gold medal for India at which of the following events?

- a) Asian Games
- b) Olympic Games
- c) Paralympic Games
- d) Commonwealth Games*

240) 2017 Padma Shri awardee Deepa Malik has won medal for India at which of the following events?

- a) Asian Games
- b) Olympic Games
- c) Paralympic Games*
- d) South Asian Games

8 sportspersons are among 2017 Padma Shri awardees: Virat Kohli, Shekar Naik (blind cricketer), Vikas Gowda, Deepa Malik, Mariyappan Thangavelu, Dipa Karmakar, P R Sreejesh and Sakshi Malik. Deepa Malik on September 12, 2016 created history by becoming the first-ever woman from the country to win a medal at the Paralympics when she bagged a

silver in the shotput F-53 event. Vikas Gowda won gold for India in Men's Discus throw event at the 2014 Commonwealth Games at Glasgow. In Asian Games, he has won silver in 2014 at Incheon and bronze at 2010 in Guangzhou.

241) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Social Work' has been honoured for saving many lives during fires?

- a) Bipin Ganatra*
- b) Karimul Hak
- c) Girish Bhardwaj
- d) Daripalli Ramaiah

2017 Padma Shri awardee Bipin Ganatra was 12 year old in 1982, when he lost his elder brother after he succumbed to burn injuries he received in a fire. Since then Ganatra has been on a mission: save as many lives as possible from fire. As West Bengal's unofficial firefighter, Ganatra will receive a India's fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri, from the President for his services. Ganatra lives in a small house on 27, Devendra Mullick Street, Kolkata. He sleeps on the floor and tracks the news on the TV.

242) Chintakandi Mallesham was awarded 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering' for her achievements in which field?

- a) Hotels
- b) Textiles*
- c) Medicine
- d) Construction

Chintakandi Mallesham, a handloom weaver from Bhuvanagiri Yadadri district in Telangana, won the 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science and Engineering' category. Mallesham invented Lakshmi Asu machine for the benefit of weavers to weave sarees easily.

243) Chandrakant Pithawa has won 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering' for his work at:

- a) Defence Research and Development Organization
- b) Bhabha Atomic Research Centre*
- c) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- d) Indian Space Research Organisation

Dr Chandrakant Pithawa has won 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering'. Pithawa is a retired Distinguished Scientist and former Director of Electronics and Instrumentation group, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. Pithawa is from Madhya Pradesh and is settled in Hyderabad.

244) 2017 Padma Shri awardee for 'Civil Service' T.K. Viswanathan is serving as:

- a) Rajya Sabha Secretary General
- b) Lok Sabha Secretary General*
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Foreign Secretary

Former Union Law Secretary T.K. Viswanathan is the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha. The 2017 Padma Shri awardee was appointed to this position in 2010.

245) Jitendra Nath Goswami has won 2017 Padma Shri in 'Science & Engineering' for his work in the field of:

- a) Space*
- b) Agriculture
- c) Pharmaceuticals
- d) Atomic energy

2017 Padma Shri awardee Jitendra Nath Goswami is an eminent scientist who was associated with the 'Mangalyaan' mission to Mars where he was the principal scientist, and played a major role in the success of the country's first Mars mission.

246) Who among the following Celebrity chefs is among the 2017 Padma Shri awardees?

- a) Tarla Dalal
- b) Sanjeev Kapoor*
- c) Atul Kochhar
- d) Madhur Jaffrey

247) Who among the following is the woman Kalaripayattu exponent in news for winning 2017 Padma Shri in 'Other-Martial Arts'?

- a) Lalithambika Amma
- b) Meenakshi Amma*
- c) Balamani Amma
- d) Sathyavathi Amma

Meenakshi Amma, a 75 year old exponent of Kalaripayattu from Kerala, was awarded 2017 Padma Shri for 'Others-Martial Art'.

248) Who among the following performed kidney transplant surgery on Union Minister Sushma Swaraj recently? He is among 2017 Padma Shri awardees.

- a) Dr. Will John
- b) Dr. Mohammed Abdul Waheed
- c) Dr. Madan Madhav Godbole
- d) Dr Mukut Minz*

Dr Mukut Minz, who led the kidney transplant surgery on Union Minister Sushma Swaraj recently, is among the 2017 Padma Shri awardees for 'Medicine'.

249) 2017 Padma Shri awardee for 'Civil Service' Kanwal Sibal has served in which of the following positions?

- a) Rajya Sabha Secretary General
- b) Lok Sabha Secretary General
- c) Cabinet Secretary
- d) Foreign Secretary*

2017 Padma Shri awardee for 'Civil Service' Kanwal Sibal entered the Indian Foreign Service in 1966 and retired as Foreign Secretary in 2003.

250) Who among the following is among the two Kirti Chakra winners at the Independence Day Gallantry Awards announced on January 25, 2017?

- a) Captain Jaidev
- b) Subedar Ajay Vardhan (posthumous)
- c) Naib Subedar Rajesh Kumar (posthumous)
- d) Lance Havildar Prem Bahadur Resmi Magar (posthumous)*

The President has approved award of 398 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of the 68th Republic Day Celebrations. According to a press note issued by the Ministry of Defence this includes two Kirti Chakras, 12 Shaurya Chakras, three Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 91 Sena Medal (Gallantry), two Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), four Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry), 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, five Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 49 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 14 Yudh Seva Medal, four Bar to Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 36 Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 14 Vayu Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), four Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 119 Vishisht Seva Medal. Kirti Chakra awardees: 5047749K LANCE HAVILDAR PREM BAHADUR RESMI MAGAR, THIRD BATTALION OF THE FIRST GORKHA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS): ARMY; IC-63798F MAJOR ROHIT SURI, 4TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES): ARMY

251) Who among the following was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra, the highest peacetime gallantry award of the country, on January 26, 2017?

- a) Major Gaurav Thakur
- b) Havildar Hangpan Dada*
- c) Rifleman Ran Bahadur Gurung
- d) Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami

President Pranab Mukherjee on January 26, 2017 posthumously conferred the Ashok Chakra on Havildar Hangpan Dada of the Rashtriya Rifles, who laid down his life after single-handedly killing three terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir in 2016. The highest peacetime gallantry award for valour and courageous action was accepted by Dada's widow Chasen Lowang. The award had been announced in August 2016.

252) Which of the following did not have a single awardee in honours for police and paramilitary personnel on January 25, 2017?

- a) Police Medals for Gallantry
- b) Police Medal for Meritorious Service
- c) Presidents Police Medals for Gallantry*
- d) President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service

"777 personnel have been awarded police medals on the occasion of the Republic Day this year. **Police Medals for Gallantry** (PMG) have been awarded to 100 personnel, **President's Police Medals for Distinguished Service** to 80 personnel and **Police Medal for Meritorious Service** to 597 personnel," an official release stated on January 25, 2017. There have been no **Presidents Police Medals for Gallantry** (PPMG) awarded this year. The gallantry tally is led by Jammu and Kashmir Police with 32 Police Medals for Gallantry (PMG) followed by the country's largest paramilitary CRPF with 16 medals, Andhra Pradesh 12, the Border Security Force five medals, Chhattisgarh seven and one to Sashastra Seema Bal.

253) Who among the following won the Shram Ratna Award at the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for 2015 announced in January 2017?

- a) Subrata Kumar
- b) Abhijit Das Gupta
- c) Bijay Kishore Mishra
- d) None of the above*

254) Prime Minister's Shram Awards for 2015 were announced in January 2017. Highest number of awards were given in which category?

- a) Shram Ratna
- b) Shram Shree/Shram Devi*
- c) Shram Bhushan
- d) Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana

The Government on January 24, 2017 announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2015 to be awarded to 56 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performances, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.

This year, no nomination was found suitable for the prestigious **Shram Ratna** Award. Four nominations for the **Shram Bhushan** Award, twenty four nominations for **Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana** and twenty eight nominations for **Shram Shree/Shram Devi** Awards have been selected. Even though, the total number of Shram Awards is 33, the number of workers receiving the Awards is 56 (Including 3 women), as some of the Awards have been shared by workers or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker. These include 40 workers from the public sector and 16 workers from the private sector.

Shram Bhushan carries a cash award of Rs. 1,00,000/- and a 'Sanad'. **Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana** Award carries a cash award of Rs. 60,000/- and a 'Sanad'. Shram Shree/Shram Devi Award carries a cash award of Rs. 40,000/- and a 'Sanad'.

255) Who among the following among the five winners of the Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak announced in January 2017?

- a) Nand Ram
- b) Bibhuti Roy
- c) Balram Kumar
- d) Vadmitra Choudhary*

The President of India on January 25, 2017 approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2016 on 36 persons which includes Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 05, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 08 and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 23 persons; 07 awards are posthumous. Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak recipients: Roluahpuii (Posthumous), Mizoram; Shishir Kumar Yadavannavr (Posthumous), Karnataka; Vadmitra Choudhary (Posthumous), Uttar Pradesh; Rakesh Kumar CN (Posthumous), Karnataka; Suresh NB (Posthumous), Kerala

256) Who among the following was declared the winner of the Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Award for Poetry 2017 at the Jaipur Literature Festival in January 2017?

- a) Mrigesh Barua
- b) Jayanta Mahapatra*
- c) Ratheeshan Nambolan
- d) Dharmendra Kumar Yadav

Jayanta Mahapatra, a physicist and poet, was declared the winner of the Kanhaiya Lal Sethia Award for Poetry 2017 at the Jaipur Literature Festival in Jaipur on January 21, 2017.

257) The Chief Ministers' Committee on Digital Payments submitted its interim report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 24, 2017. Who among the following is the Chairperson of this committee?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) Akhilesh Yadav
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu*

Give tax incentive and subsidies to boost digital transactions, but levy a banking cash transaction tax on cash transactions of Rs 50,000 and above, a chief ministers' committee on digital payment said in its interim report to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 24, 2017. The Committee, headed Andhra Pradesh chief minister Chandrababu

Naidu, also recommended abolition of merchant discount rate (MDR) to make digital payments cheaper than cash. The panel also suggested that there should be no retrospective taxation on merchants doing digital transactions.

258) According to RBI's guidelines, contactless cards don't require entering of PIN numbers for transactions of _____ or less.

- a) Rs. 500
- b) Rs. 1000
- c) Rs. 1500
- d) Rs. 2000*

259) Which of the following is the technology used in processing of contactless card transactions?

- a) Note Field Contact
- b) Near Field Communication*
- c) Network Field Contact
- d) National Field Communication

Punjab National Bank (PNB) launched a Contactless Credit Card on January 21, 2017. This new credit card, which has been named PNB Wave N Pay: Contactless Card, was launched by Usha Ananthasubramanian, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer, PNB in the capital. This card could be used by just waving it across the terminal and the transaction will be through. There is no need to enter any PIN for transactions up to Rs 2,000. The cardholder has full charge back rights on the misuse, a PNB statement said. This contactless credit card has been launched on Visa Platinum platform.

Contactless cards work on Near Field Communication (NFC) technology, which employs radio transmission to ascertain contact when the cards are tapped or waved near a terminal. These enable customers to make payments by waving or tapping the cards instead of swiping them. After this, one needs to enter one's PIN to complete the transaction. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s guidelines allow banks to process contactless transactions below Rs 2,000 without a PIN.

RBI rules specify that customers can use contactless cards in the traditional way — by swiping or dipping — if they so desire. Contactless cards increase the ease and convenience of transactions. Moreover, the speed at which the transaction can be carried out is almost double that of traditional cards. Banks claim these cards are very secure because unlike the cards in use now, these do not have to be handed over to the merchant and so is always in one's sight.

260) Consider the following statements on BSE which was in news for its initial public offering (IPO) in January 2017.

- I. Its shares will list on NSE
 - II. IPO was oversubscribed by more than 50 times
 - III. BSE's IPO is the first one by a stock exchange in India
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III*

Stock exchange major BSE's initial public offering (IPO) was oversubscribed by 51.22 times on January 25, 2017, the third and final day of the Rs 1,243.43 crore offering. It is the first stock exchange in India to launch an IPO. Established on July 9, 1875, BSE is the country's biggest bourse in terms of listed companies (5,868 firms) on its platform. But the exchange's own shares will trade on the rival National Stock Exchange (NSE).

261) The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee submitted its report to the Finance Minister on January 23, 2017. Who among the following is the Chairman?

- a) Y. V. Reddy
- b) N. K. Singh*
- c) D. Subbarao
- d) Sumit Bose

The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee headed by N.K. Singh, former Revenue and Expenditure Secretary and former Member of Parliament presented its Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on January 23, 2017.

262) The government has decided to implement General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) from April 1, 2017. GAAR was introduced for the first time in which year's union budget?

- a) 2011-12
- b) 2012-13*
- c) 2013-14

d) 2014-15

Addressing investors' concerns ahead of GAAR implementation from April 1, the Central Board of Direct Taxes on January 27, 2017 said it will not interplay with their right to choose a method of transaction and won't apply if routing of funds through a jurisdiction is "based on non-tax commercial considerations". General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) was part of the 2012-13 Budget speech of the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to check tax evasion and avoidance. However, its implementation was repeatedly postponed because of the apprehensions expressed by foreign investors.

263) What is India's rank out of 176 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released in January 2017?

- a) 69th
- b) 79th*
- c) 89th
- d) 99th

264) Which are the most corrupt and least corrupt countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) released in January 2017?

- a) Denmark, Somalia*
- b) Germany, Myanmar
- c) Sweden, Nigeria
- d) Finland, Mongolia

265) Anti-corruption watchdog Transparency International is based in:

- a) Berlin*
- b) Bucharest
- c) Budapest
- d) Bujumbura

India has been ranked 79th among 176 countries in the Corruption Perception Index 2016 released by the Berlin-based Transparency International organisation. Its score marginally improved from 38 in 2015 to 40 in 2016. India had a score of 36 in 2012.

The organisation has used the World Bank data, the world economic forum and other institutions to rank countries by perceived levels of corruption in public sector. The score runs from zero to 100, from highly corrupt to 100. Belarus, Brazil, & China shared the same ranks as India.

The list was topped by New Zealand and Denmark with a score of 90 each. Higher-ranked countries tend to have higher degrees of press freedom, access to information about public expenditure, stronger standards of integrity for public officials, and independent judicial systems.

Somalia was ranked the most corrupt country with a score of 10. Other countries with lower rankings were South Sudan, North Korea, Syria, and Yemen. The lower-ranked countries in the index were plagued by untrustworthy and badly functioning public institutions like the police and judiciary. (January 27, 2017)

266) The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, observed on January 27, 2016, refers to events in which of the following wars?

- a) Crimean War
- b) Yom Kippur War
- c) First World War
- d) Second World War*

The International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust was observed on January 27, 2017. During the Second World War, six million Jews were systematically rounded up and exterminated.

267) 51st birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai was celebrated on January 28, 2017. Which bank was founded by him?

- a) Punjab & Sind Bank
- b) Indian Bank
- c) Allahabad Bank
- d) Punjab National Bank*

151st birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai was celebrated on January 28, 2017. A stalwart of the freedom struggle, Lala Lajpat Rai ranks among India's most outstanding leaders. He was popularly known as 'Punjab Kesari' or 'The Lion of Punjab'. Born on 28th January 1865 at a small village of Dhudike in district Ferozepur, Punjab, he was at the forefront of

the protest against Simon Commission and was injured in a lathi-charge by British police, resulting in his death on November 17, 1928. He also founded the Punjab National Bank.

268) What is the rate of return guaranteed under the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2017?

- a) 7%
- b) 7.5%
- c) 8%*
- d) 8.5%

269) The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 is open to citizens of age _____ and above.

- a) 55 years
- b) 60 years*
- c) 65 years
- d) 70 years

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 24, 2017 gave its post-facto approval for launching of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 (VPBY 2017). It is a part of Government's commitment for financial inclusion and social security. The scheme will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) during the current financial year to provide social security during old age and protect elderly persons aged 60 years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions. The scheme will provide an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8% per annum for ten years, with an option to opt for pension on a monthly/quarterly/half-yearly and annual basis. The differential return, i.e., the difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8% per annum would be borne Government as subsidy on an annual basis. VPBY-2017 is proposed to be open for subscription for a period of one year from the date of launch.

270) Who among the following is the Chairman of the one-member Committee for formulating National MSME Policy? It submitted its report in January 2017.

- a) Amitabh Kundu
- b) Vikas Malhotra
- c) Prabhat Kumar*
- d) Rajiv Ranjan

Dr. Prabhat Kumar, former Cabinet Secretary and Chairman of the one-member Committee for formulating National MSME Policy presented its report to Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, in New Delhi on January 27, 2017. The Committee had been constituted by the Ministry of MSME in December 2015 to help in formulating National MSME Policy. The country does not have an MSME policy till date.

271) Yogesh Aggarwal was arrested by CBI in connection with 2015 loan default case involving Kingfisher Airlines. He had approved the loan as Chairman of which bank?

- a) Canara Bank
- b) Indian Bank
- c) Allahabad Bank
- d) IDBI Bank*

Kingfisher Airlines allegedly diverted Rs 263 crore from Rs 900 crore IDBI loan for "personal use" against norms and regulations, CBI said in its charge sheet filed before a special court in Mumbai on January 24, 2017. The agency has named former liquor baron Vijay Mallya, Kingfisher Airlines and nine others, including the then IDBI Chairman Yogesh Aggarwal, who were arrested on January 23 in connection with the 2015 loan default case, in the charge sheet.

272) Who among the following Chief Ministers announced free coaching for wards of defence personnel for all competitive exams on January 26, 2017?

- a) Raman Singh
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar*
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on January 26, 2017 announced to provide free coaching facilities for the wards of defence personnel and paramilitary forces to prepare for all competitive exams.

273) . Which of the following did not have its Statehood Day on January 21, 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh*
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur
- d) Tripura

45th Statehood Day of Manipur, Tripura and Meghalaya was celebrated on January 21, 2017.

274) V. Shanmuganathan resigned as the Governor of Meghalaya and _____ in January 2017.

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

President accepted the resignation of V. Shanmuganathan as Governor of Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh on January 27, 2017.

275) Dawki is the first Integrated Check Post (ICP) in which state? Foundation stone for it was laid near the Indo-Bangladesh border on January 24, 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya*
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

Union Minister Kiren Rijju on January 24, 2017 laid the foundation stone of Meghalaya's first Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Dawki in West Jaintia Hills district near the Indo-Bangladesh border. Developed by the Land Ports Authority of India, the ICP would be built at an estimated cost of Rs 92.34 crore.

276) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched the 'Suchita Yojana' under which automated sanitary napkin vending machines are being installed in government schools in January 2017?

- a) Raman Singh*
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh on January 24, 2017 launched 'Suchita Yojana' in Raipur under which automated sanitary napkin vending machines are being installed in government schools in the state to encourage personal and menstrual hygiene among girls. Eco-friendly incinerators will also be installed in schools for safe and environment friendly disposal of used napkins. Initially, 7200 napkins will be made available free of cost. Later, it will be provided at the nominal cost of Rs 2 per napkin. These machines will be set up inside girls' washroom in the schools..

277) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched the 'Gramin Vikas ke liye Tarun (GRAVIT) – Shikshit se Saksham ki Ore' programme for youth participation in Panchayati Raj institutions in January 2017?

- a) Raman Singh
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar*
- d) Vasundhara Raje

The Haryana government has decided to prepare a team of about 60,000 youth under GRAVIT Yojana to ensure benefits of schemes reach every person in villages. The state government has ensured election of only educated persons as representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to ensure development and empowerment of villages, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said at the 'Gramin Vikas ke liye Tarun (GRAVIT)- Shikshit se Saksham ki Ore' programme in Rohtak on January 23, 2017. He also launched training programmes for GRAVIT volunteers, three-month certificate course for PRI representatives and released the course curriculum.

278) Which district of Gujarat saw the creation of a new Guinness World Record of most number of people singing national anthem at an event in January 2017?

- a) Surat
- b) Anand
- c) Rajkot*
- d) Vadodara

Over 3.5 lakh people on January 21, 2017 set a new world record by singing the national anthem at an event at Kagvad in Rajkot district of Gujarat. The occasion was installation of idol of goddess Khodiyar at a newly-built Khodal Dham temple in the town. "Over 3.5 lakh people sang the anthem together at the idol installation ritual in the presence of observers from Guinness World Records," said Hansraj Gajera, a member of Khodal Dham temple trust. Earlier, 2,54,537

people had sung the national anthem in Bangladesh in 2014 and set a record. That record was broken at Rajkot, according to Gajera. "We received certificate of record from Guinness World Records officials," he added.

279) Hema Sardesai on January 25, 2017 resigned as the special icon for 2017 State Legislative Assembly election in which of the following?

- a) Goa*
- b) Manipur
- c) Uttar Pradesh
- d) Punjab

Popular pop singer from Goa, Hema Sardesai on January 25, 2017 resigned as the special icon for 2017 State Legislative Assembly election. Social activist Aires Rodrigues in his complaint before Chief Electoral Officer had accused the singer of campaigning for Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in the past (previous elections).

280) Which of the following launched 'Dulari Kanya' scheme in January 2017 to check infant mortality?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh*
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Nagaland
- d) Manipur

Arunachal Pradesh launched 'Dulari Kanya', a special scheme to check infant mortality in the state on January 26, 2017 in Itanagar. Under the scheme, the government will deposit Rs 20,000 in the bank account of a girl child, born in any government hospital. It would be paid along with the accrued interest after she attains 18 years of her age. The objective is not only arrest infant mortality but also keep a track of all pregnant mothers so that they avail of pre-natal and ante-natal care in the government health centres and go for institutional deliveries.

281) Who among the following was appointed Chairperson of the Target Olympic Podium Committee, which selects Olympic medal prospect Indian athletes for availing government funds for training, in January 2017?

- a) Milkha Singh
- b) Pallela Gopichand
- c) MC Mary Kom
- d) Abhinav Bindra*

Beijing Olympics gold-medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra was on January 27, 2017 appointed chairman of the re-constituted Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Committee, which also has yesteryear sprint star PT Usha and badminton great Prakash Padukone among others. Bindra was part of the previous Committee but quit to focus on his preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics. The two other sportspersons in the 10-member panel are shooter Anjali Bhagwat and woman weightlifter Karnam Malleswari, the 2000 Sydney Olympics bronze-medallist.

282) Rest of India defeated Gujarat to win Irani Cup cricket at which of the following stadiums in January 2017?

- a) Holkar Stadium, Indore
- b) Barabati Stadium, Cuttack
- c) Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai*
- d) HPCA Stadium, Dharamsala

Wicketkeeper-batsman Wriddhiman Saha smashed his maiden double century while Cheteshwar Pujara notched his 37th first-class century as Rest of India defeated Gujarat by six wickets to retain Irani Trophy at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai on January 24, 2017. Brief scores: Gujarat 1st innings: 358 (Chirag Gandhi-169; Siddharth Kaul 5/86, Pankaj Singh 4/104); Rest of India 1st innings: 226 (Cheteshwar Pujara-86; Chintan Gaja 4/60, Hardik Patel 3/79); Gujarat 2nd innings: 246 (Priyank Panchal 73, Chirag Gandhi 70; Shahbaz Nadeem 4/64, Siddharth Kaul 3/70); Rest of India 2nd innings: 379/4 (Cheteshwar Pujara 116*, Wriddhiman Saha 203*; Hardik Patel 2/104)

283) . Launched in New Delhi in January 2017, 'Khelegi toh Khilegi' is a programme for girls between the age of 10 to 15 years in which sport?

- a) Cricket
- b) Hockey
- c) Football*
- d) Volleyball

On the occasion of the National Girl Child Day, Nurturing Excellence in Sports Trust (NEST) along with National Yuva Cooperative Society (NYCS) on January 24, 2017 launched 'Khelegi toh Khilegi', a pan-India football based programme for girls between the age of 10 to 15 years. The first event was held amid much fanfare at Thyagaraj Stadium in New

Delhi where over 700 girls took part from across Delhi NCR. The programme was flagged off by Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and MP Meenakshi Lekhi.

284) Cooch Behar Trophy was given to the winner of National Junior Championship in which sport in January 2012?

- a) Cricket*
- b) Hockey
- c) Football
- d) Volleyball

Bengal Under-19 side defeated Delhi in the Cooch Behar Trophy final in New Delhi on January 22, 2017. Bengal emerged winner by virtue of a 79-run first-innings lead.

285) Which gold medal won by Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt at the Beijing 2008 was withdrawn by the International Olympic Committee in January 2017?

- a) 100 m
- b) 200 m
- c) 4x100 m*
- d) All the above

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt was on January 25, 2017 stripped off one of the nine Olympic gold medals won at the 2008 Beijing Games after his team-mate Nesta Carter tested positive for a banned substance. Carter was part of the Jamaican quartet that won the 4x100m in the Beijing Olympics. The decision taken by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which follows the retesting of hundreds of samples from the Beijing event, means that Bolt, as Carter's teammate can no longer claim to have done the "triple-treble" - gold in the 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay in 2008, 2012 and 2016.

286) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in January 2017?

- a) Chen Long
- b) Parupalli Kashyap
- c) Kento Momota
- d) Ng Ka Long*

287) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in January 2017?

- a) P. V. Sindhu
- b) Saina Nehwal*
- c) Jia Yifan
- d) Li Xuerei

:
India's Saina Nehwal came out with a spectacular performance on January 22, 2017 as she trounced Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong in straight games to clinch the Women's Singles title at the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in Sarawak. Other winners were: **Men's Singles:** Ng Ka Long of Hong Kong, Indonesia's Berry Angriawan/Hardianto in **Men's Doubles**, Thailand's Jongkolphan Kititharakul/Rawinda Prajongjai in **Women's Doubles** and Malaysia's Tan Kian Meng/Lai Pei Jing in **Mixed Doubles**.

288) Who among the following won the Women's Doubles title at the Australian Open Tennis in January 2017?

- a) Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis
- b) Maria Kirilenko and Nadia Petrova
- c) Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova*
- d) Andrea Hlavackova & Lucie Hradecka

Second seeds Bethanie Mattek-Sands of USA and Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic won the Australian Open Women's Doubles title in Melbourne on January 27, 2017. They beat American-Czech pair of Andrea Hlavackova, also from the Czech Republic, and China's Peng Shuai 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-3

289) Which African country is hosting a Festival of India from January 26 to February 28, 2017?

- a) Nigeria
- b) Namibia
- c) South Africa

d) Senegal*

A Festival of India is being organized in Senegal from 26 January – 28 February, 2017. The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music and Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi. The events will be held in the capital Dakar.

290) India has signed MoU on January 31, 2017 with which European country for receiving technical assistance to enhance the level of Indian railway passengers' safety?

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

India and Italy have entered into an agreement whereby the European country will provide technical assistance to enhance the level of Indian railway passengers' safety. The Ministry of Railways entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on January 31, 2017 with the Ferrovie Dello Stato Italiane (FS Italian Railways).

291) India and which of the following European nations has founded a Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to accelerate life-saving research and development for epidemics?

- a) Germany
- b) Italy
- c) France
- d) Norway*

India and Norway have founded a Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to accelerate life-saving research and development for epidemics, government said on February 3, 2017. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Health Faggan Singh Kulaste said the WHO had published a document 'An R&D blueprint for action to prevent epidemics- funding and coordination models for preparedness and response' and asked member countries, including India, to develop a research and development blueprint during epidemics.

292) ASEAN and India celebrated 25 years of Sectoral Dialogue Partnership on January 28, 2017. ASEAN Chair for 2017 is held by:

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines*
- d) Singapore

293) Consider the following statements regarding ASEAN.

- I. It is headquartered in Jakarta
 - II. It has 10 countries as Members
 - III. Le Luong Minh is its Secretary General
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III*

The year 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership. It was on January 28, 1992 at the Fourth ASEAN Summit in Singapore that a decision to establish a Sectoral Dialogue Partnership between ASEAN and India was made. To mark this historic occasion, congratulatory messages were exchanged on January 28, 2017 between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Philippines and ASEAN Chair for 2017. Congratulatory messages were also exchanged between Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs and Le Luong Minh, ASEAN Secretary-General. Headquartered in Jakarta, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a political and economic organisation of 10 Southeast Asian countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

294) Which of the following is the missile tested by Iran on January 29, 2017?

- a) Fars
- b) Shiraz
- c) Bushehr
- d) Khorramshahr*

The U.S. imposed sanctions on more than two dozen Iranian entities on February 3, 2017. Earlier Tehran dismissed President Donald Trump's warnings over its latest missile test as baseless and provocative. The UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which calls on Tehran to not test missiles capable of delivering a nuclear weapon. The ballistic missile launch was the first by Iran since Trump became president. Iran's missile test occurred on January 29, 2017 at a well-known site outside Semnan, about 225 km east of Tehran. The Khorramshahr medium-range ballistic missile flew 600 miles before exploding.

295) An Indian Naval Air Enclave was inaugurated in which of the following coastal cities on February 1, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai*
- c) Chennai
- d) Kochi

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command inaugurated the Indian Naval Air Enclave in suburban Santacruz in Mumbai on February 1, 2017.

296) An Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) was inaugurated in which of the following coastal cities on February 3, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai*
- c) Chennai
- d) Kochi

An Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (IUHDSS) was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, in Mumbai on February 3, 2017.

297) What is the portal for online Consular Services Management System of the Ministry of External Affairs for Indian students studying abroad called?

- a) Rahat
- b) Madad*
- c) Sampark
- d) Hamdard

The Ministry of External Affairs has initiated a process for registration of Indian students studying abroad in various countries to compile data so that the government is able to advise them in the hour of need. The Students Registration Module on the Indian students studying in various countries has been placed within the ministry's MADAD portal (the Consular Services Management System), a state government release said in Guwahati on February 2, 2017.

298) Who among the following is the Director of National School of Drama?

- a) Vijaya Mehta
- b) Girish Karnad
- c) Ratan Thiyam
- d) Waman Kendre*

299) Which of the following events was organised by the National School of Drama in New Delhi from February 1 to 21, 2017?

- a) Bharat Kala Mahotsav
- b) Bharat Rang Mahotsav*
- c) Bharat Natya Mahotsav
- d) Bharat Sangeet Mahotsav

Offering a potpourri of plays from India as well as other countries, the 19th edition of National School of Drama's Bharat Rang Mahotsav began in New Delhi on February 1, 2017. The annual theatre extravaganza, slated to run through February 1-21, will see 14 foreign productions and participation of 12 countries, National School of Drama (NSD) Director Waman Kendre said.

300) Death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 2017 was observed as which of the following in India?

- a) Anti-Polio Day
- b) Anti-Leprosy Day*
- c) Anti-Hunger Day
- d) Anti-Blindness Day

January 30, 2017 was observed as the Anti-Leprosy Day in India. The day is observed every year in the memory of Mahatma Gandhi who died on this day in 1948, to remember his selfless efforts and care for the people affected with Leprosy. On the occasion, the 'Spash' Leprosy awareness campaign was organised in Gramsabhas across the country. In a message on the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for collective efforts to eliminate leprosy from the country. He recalled that the National Leprosy Eradication Programme was launched way back in 1955.

301) National _____ Day was observed on January 29, 2017.

- a) Digital
- b) Literacy
- c) Immunization*
- d) Integration

President Pranab Mukherjee launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2017 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old, at the Rahstrapati Bhawan, in the presence of the Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare J P Nadda and Ministers of State (Health) Faggan Singh Kulaste and Anupriya Patel, on January 28, 2017. National Immunization Day was observed on January 29.

302) A film condition assessment project was launched at National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune by the government on January 28, 2017. This has been done under which of the following?

- a) National Film History Mission
- b) National Film Heritage Mission*
- c) National Film Awareness Mission
- d) National Film Digitisation Mission

The information and broadcasting (I&B) ministry on January 28, 2017 launched a film condition assessment project under which almost 1.32 lakh film reels at National Film Archive of India (NFAI) in Pune will be assessed and preserved for future use, as per global standards. The project marks the beginning of National Film Heritage Mission—an initiative by the government of India for the preservation, conservation, digitization and restoration of rich cinematic heritage of the country. NFAI is the nodal agency for the implementation of this project.

303) A resource book on Child Rights and Child Protection was issues released by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in January 2017. This has been done in partnership with which of the following?

- a) FAO
- b) UNDP
- c) UNICEF*
- d) UNESCO

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) in a unique initiative has partnered with UNICEF India to publish a Resource Book that will serve as a ready reference for all the Stakeholders dealing with child rights and child protection issues. The book which was released recently by Supreme Court Judge, Justice Madan B. Lokur clearly defines the roles of the Commissions with their responsibilities for catalysing systematic changes for advancement of child rights. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Women and Child Development on January 31, 2017.

304) Who among the following is the author of 'Adiyogi: The Source of Yoga' released in February 2017?

- a) Dalai Lama
- b) Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev*
- c) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar
- d) Baba Ramdev

305) Who among the following is the author of the forthcoming book 'The Perils of Being Moderately Famous'?

- a) Priyanka Chopra
- b) Radhika Apte
- c) Vidya Balan
- d) Soha Ali Khan*

306) Who among the following is the author of the forthcoming book 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness'?

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy*

d) Jhumpa Lahiri

307) Joginder Singh, who died aged 77 years in New Delhi on February 3, 2017, was the former head of which of the following?

- a) Central Bureau of Investigation*
- b) National Investigation Agency
- c) Research & Analysis Wing
- d) Enforcement Directorate

Former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Joginder Singh died aged 77 years in New Delhi on February 3, 2017. The 1961 batch IPS officer of Karnataka cadre was chosen to head CBI in 1996 when H D Deve Gowda was the Prime Minister.

308) Former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away in New Delhi at the age of 78 on February 1, 2017. He belonged to which party?

- a) Congress
- b) Communist Party of India
- c) Indian Union Muslim League*
- d) Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen

309) Former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away in New Delhi at the age of 78 on February 1, 2017. He represented which of the following constituencies in Lok Sabha?

- a) Alathur
- b) Palakkad
- c) Wayanad
- d) Malappuram*

Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) national president and former Minister of State for External Affairs E. Ahamed passed away in New Delhi at the age of 78 on February 1, 2017. Ahamed was a sitting Lok Sabha MP from Malappuram in Kerala. Ahamed was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1967, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1987. He was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009. During May 2004 – May 2009, he served as the Minister of State for External Affairs. He assumed charge again as Minister of State of External Affairs in January 2011.

310) Who among the following took charge as the 25th Director General of the Border Roads (DGBR) in February 2017?

- a) Lt Gen PC Bhardwaj
- b) Lt Gen Ketan Parnaik
- c) Gen Sunil Kumar Singh
- d) Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava*

Lt. Gen. Sanjeev Kumar Shrivastava took over as the 25th Director General of the Border Roads (DGBR) in New Delhi on February 1, 2017.

311) Who among the following was appointed as the new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir (Bihar) in January 2017?

- a) Ram Bahadur Rai
- b) Yogesh Kumar Chawla
- c) Vijay Pandurang Bhatkar*
- d) Hargovind Laxmishanker Trivedi

Vijay Pandurang Bhatkar, a technocrat who is considered the father of the Indian Supercomputer, has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir, in Bihar. President Pranab Mukherjee, in his capacity as Visitor to Nalanda University, named Bhatkar for the post with effect from January 25, 2017.

312) Who among the following 2017 Padma Shri awardees declined to accept it in February 2017?

- a) Imrat Khan*
- b) Mohan Reddy
- c) Anant Agarwal
- d) Mohammed Abdul Waheed

US-based 82-year old Sitar and Surbahar player Ustad Imrat Khan has turned down the Padma Shri award as he believes it comes “too late” and is not “parallel” to his “worldwide reputation and contributions”. Imrat, 82, said he has mixed feelings about getting a Padma Shri when his “juniors” have already received the Padma Bhushan.

313) A report titled 'Development Advocate Pakistan' has held Pakistan responsible for its negligence in conducting a sound analysis of water issues with India. Which of the following launched the report in February 2017?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) UNDP*
- c) UNICEF
- d) UNESCO

A report by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has held Pakistan responsible for its negligence in conducting a sound analysis of water issues with India. The report released on February 1, 2017 is titled 'Development Advocate Pakistan'. It also says that a delay on the part of Islamabad in presenting the case to the Indus Water Commission or the World Bank caused issues to linger on.

314) Which Middle Eastern nation is observing 2017 with "A Growing Partnership" as the motto to mark 25 years of its diplomatic relations with New Delhi?

- a) Lebanon
- b) Syria
- c) Lebanon
- d) Israel*

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi's anticipated visit to Israel this year, the Middle Eastern nation said that to mark 25 years of its diplomatic relations with New Delhi, it is going to observe 2017 with "A Growing Partnership" as the motto. This was stated by Israeli Ambassador to India Daniel Carmon in New Delhi on January 29, 2017. It was on January 29, 1992, that India established diplomatic relations with Israel -- 44 years after David Ben-Gurion, the head of the Jewish Agency, proclaimed the establishment of the State of Israel.

315) What was the theme of the World Wetlands Day observed on February 2, 2017?

- a) Wetlands For Our Future
- b) Wetlands Take Care of Water
- c) Wetlands for Disaster Risk Reduction*
- d) Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth

316) The World Wetlands Day is observed on February 2 year to mark the adoption of Ramsar Convention in 1971. Ramsar is a city in:

- a) Iraq
- b) Iran*
- c) Jordan
- d) Indonesia

World Wetlands Day was celebrated on February 2, 2017 with 'Wetlands for disaster risk reduction' as its theme for 2017. This theme has been selected to raise awareness on the vital roles of healthy wetlands in reducing the impacts of extreme events on communities and in helping to build resilience. The Day is celebrated on February 2 each year to mark the Day the Convention on Wetlands was adopted in the Iranian City of Ramsar in 1971.

317) Which of the following claims the Sahrawi Arab Republic as its own territory?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco*
- d) Tunisia

318) Which of the following became a member of the African Union after a gap of 33 years in January 2017?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco*
- d) Tunisia

The Addis Ababa-based African Union decided on January 31, 2017 to allow Morocco back in the fold after a 33-year absence, despite stiff resistance from some member states over the status of Western Sahara. After a tense debate, member states decided by consensus to leave the question of the disputed territory of Western Sahara for another day, and resolve it with Morocco "back in the family." "From the moment that Morocco did not impose conditions ... We take their word for it and accept that Morocco be admitted to the African Union," said Mohamed Salem Ould Salek, foreign minister of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR), which claims sovereignty over the entire territory of Western Sahara. Morocco quit the then Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1984 after the bloc admitted the former Western Sahara as a separate member.

319) Which of the following began on January 29, 2017 according to the Chinese lunar calendar?

- a) Year of the Ox
- b) Year of the Dragon
- c) Year of the Rooster*
- d) Year of the Rabbit

Thousands gathered at Beijing's major temples on January 29, 2017, the first day of the Lunar New Year. This year will be the Year of the Rooster.

320) Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced that will step down after 37 years in power in February 2017. He is the President of:

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola*
- c) Morocco
- d) Tunisia

Veteran Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos announced in capital Luanda on February 3, 2017 that he will not run in August elections, signalling the end to 37 years in power and naming his defence minister as the candidate to succeed him. The autocratic 74-year-old has been the oil-rich country's president since September 1979. Angola gained independence from Portugal in 1975. Kwanza is its currency.

321) Who among the following was crowned Miss Universe in Manila in January 2017?

- a) Olivia Jordan
- b) Iris Mittenaere*
- c) Ariadna Gutiérrez
- d) Monika Radulovic

322) Who among the following represented India at the Miss Universe pageant in Manila in February 2017?

- a) Srinidhi Shetty
- b) Pranati Rai Prakash
- c) Aprajita Sharma
- d) Roshmitha Harimurthy*

Iris Mittenaere from France was crowned the new Miss Universe at the 65th of the pageant in Manila on January 30, 2017. India's Roshmitha Harimurthy failed to advance to the top 13 of the contest.

323) Who among the following was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa on January 30, 2017?

- a) Mba Mokuy
- b) Amina Mohamed
- c) Abdoulaye Bathily
- d) Moussa Faki Mahamat*

Chad's Foreign Affairs Minister Moussa Faki Mahamat was elected as the new Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in a vote held at the bloc's headquarters in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, on January 30, 2017. The 56-year-old Mahamat succeeds South Africa's Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, the first woman to lead the bloc of 54 states, who did not seek a second term in office after completing a four-year term.

324) Emmanuelle Riva died at the age of 89 in Paris on January 28, 2017. She was a well-known for winning which of the following?

- a) Pulitzer Prize
- b) Sakharov Prize
- c) Olympic gold medal
- d) BAFTA Award*

French actress Emmanuelle Riva died in Paris on January 28, 2017 at the age of 89. She won the BAFTA Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role in 2013 for her performance in 'Amour'.

325) John Hurt died at 77 in UK on January 25, 2017. He was a well-known for winning which of the following?

- a) Booker Prize
- b) Nobel Physics Prize
- c) Golden Globe Award*

d) Abel Mathematics Prize

Legendary British actor John Hurt died at 77 on January 25, 2017 in UK. Hurt's portrayal of imprisoned heroin addict Max in 1978's "Midnight Express" netted won him Golden Globe for Best Supporting Best Actor.

326) Which of the following was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent among the Services in the Republic Day Parade in January 2017?

- a) Gorkha Rifles
- b) Bihar Regiment
- c) Dogra Regiment
- d) Madras Engineer Group*

327) Which of the following was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent in the category of paramilitary forces in the Republic Day Parade in January 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF*
- d) ITBP

328) .Which of the following won the Best Tableaux honour in the Republic Day Parade in January 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) Arunachal Pradesh*

The results of different competitive presentations in the Republic Day Parade – 2017 in New Delhi were announced by the Ministry of Defence on December 28, 2017. Among the Services category, Madras Engineer Group has been adjudged the Best Marching Contingent. In the category of Para-Military Forces and other auxiliary marching contingents, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) contingent has been adjudged the Best Marching Contingent. In the category of tableaux representing states, first position went to Arunachal Pradesh tableau. In the category of tableaux representing Union Ministries/Departments, the first prize has been awarded to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

329) The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started operations with the launch of pilot branches in two cities on January 30, 2017. Which of the following is among the two?

- a) Patna
- b) Ranchi*
- c) Varanasi
- d) Jamshedpur

330) The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started operations with the launch of pilot branches in two cities on January 30, 2017. Which are there accounts offered by it?

- a) Saral, Sahaj, Sulabh
- b) Saral, Safal, Sugam*
- c) Swayam, Safal, Saral
- d) Sulabh, Safal, Swayam

331) Consider the following statements on India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) which started operations on January 30, 2017.

- I. Charge on cash withdrawal
- II. No minimum balance requirement
- III. Can't offer loans

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) II and III only*

332) Which of the following is helping the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) in setting up pilot branches?

- a) Bank of India
- b) Indian Bank

- c) Allahabad Bank
- d) Punjab National Bank*

333) The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) started operations with the launch of pilot branches in two cities on January 30, 2017. What is the minimum age for opening account?

- a) 8 years
- b) 10 years*
- c) 12 years
- d) 14 years

- The government on January 30, 2017 launched the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a basic financial services facility, as a pilot in Raipur and Ranchi. Payments banks accept limited deposits and offer payment services but do not offer loans, unlike commercial banks.

- As mandated by RBI, Payment Banks can provide basic financial services, including payments of all sorts, including social security and utility bill payments, remittance services, current and saving accounts with a balance of up to Rs. 1 lakh; distribution of insurance, mutual funds and pension products, and acting as business correspondent to other banks for credit products.

- IPPB will offer three distinct accounts to its customers: Safal, the regular account; Sugam, a basic savings bank deposit account (BSBDA); and Saral, BSBDA-Small. While the Safal account is packed with features, Saral is aimed at people with limited banking experience. All three bank account options will request its customers to make a Rs100 initial minimum deposit, with no minimum balance requirements. Both Safal and Sugam need KYC (know your customer) details for verification and minimum age of 10 years, but Saral can be opened by anyone above the age of 10 years without KYC.

- Interest rates have been fixed as 4.5% if the quarterly average balance is up to Rs25,000, 5% if it is between Rs25,000 and Rs50,000, and 5.5% if above Rs50,000.

- There are no charges on cash withdrawals.

Public sector Punjab National Bank (PNB) on February 3, 2017 said it will help India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) set up pilot branches. India Post Payments Bank and PNB have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to achieve strategic depth in financial inclusion (FI), PNB said in a statement.

334) The Reserve Bank on February 2, 2017 reduced the minimum required credit rating relaxed for commercial paper (CP) issuances to A3. Consider the following statements regarding CP.

- I. CP is an unsecured money market
- II. CP is issued in the form of a promissory note
- III. Minimum maturity of CP is 15 days

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II only
- d) II and III only

335) Consider the following statements regarding Commercial Paper (CP).

- I. Maximum maturity of CP is one year
- II. CP can be issued at a discount to face value
- III. Minimum denomination of CP is Rs. 5 lakh

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III*

In its bid to widen the bond market, the Reserve Bank on February 2, 2017 relaxed commercial paper (CP) issuances by lowering the minimum required credit rating to A3 from A2 as well as the ticket size from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 6 lakh. CP shall be issued in minimum denomination of Rs 5 lakh and multiples of Rs 1 lakh.

Facts about Commercial Papers:

- Commercial Paper (CP) is an unsecured money market instrument issued in the form of a promissory note.
- CP is a source of short-term funding requirement for Corporates, Primary Dealers (PDs) and All-India Financial Institutions.
- CP may be issued to and held by individuals, banking companies, other corporate bodies (registered or incorporated in India) and unincorporated bodies, Non-Resident Indians and Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs).
- CP can be issued for maturities between a minimum of 7 days and a maximum of up to one year from the date of issue.
- CP can be issued at a discount to face value.
- Issuers of CPs are allowed to buyback these instruments before maturity but they cannot be bought back before a minimum period of seven days from the date of issue.
- CP can be issued in denominations of Rs. 5 lakh or multiples thereof. Amount invested by a single investor should not be less than Rs.5 lakh (face value).

336) ETCD refers to:

- a) Exchange Traded Currency Debt
- b) Exchange Traded Corporate Debt
- c) Exchange Traded Country Derivatives
- d) Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives*

RBI on February 2, 2017 decided to allow Non Resident Indians (NRIs) access to Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD) market to hedge currency risk arising out of their investments in India.

337) Who among the following was appointed as whole-time Member in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in February 2017 along with Mukulita Vijaywargiya and Navrang Saini?

- a) Ravindra H. Dholakia
- b) T.S.R. Subramanian
- c) Suman Saxena*
- d) G.N. Bajpai

Former Deputy CAG Suman Saxena and two others have been appointed as whole-time members in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Besides Saxena, Mukulita Vijaywargiya and Navrang Saini have also been appointed as the new members. Vijaywargiya, an officer of Indian Legal Service, is working as Additional Secretary in Ministry of Law and Justice. Saini, who belongs to Indian Corporate Law Service, is Director General in Ministry of Corporate Affairs. They have been appointed to the board for five years or till completion of 65 years of age, an order issued by the Personnel Ministry said on February 3, 2017.

338) Consider the following statements regarding BSE which was listed on NSE following an IPO.

- I. Ashishkumar Chauhan is BSE CEO
- II. BSE is world's largest exchange by market capitalisation
- III. BSE is world's largest exchange by number of listed companies

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only*

Following the initial public offer (IPO) of Asia's oldest stock exchange BSE, its stock opened for trading on rival NSE with a gap-up of 34 per cent at Rs. 1,085 a share on February 3, 2017. Speaking at the listing ceremony at National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Mumbai, BSE CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan promised that the exchange would stay focussed on a high level of compliance even after listing. BSE is the world's largest exchange by number of listed companies. Shares of nearly 3,000 companies trade on BSE, which was earlier known as the Bombay Stock Exchange. It is the world's 10th largest exchange by market capitalisation.

339) Union Budget 2017-18 has reduced the tax rate on Rs. 2-5 lakh income slab for those below sixty years of age to which of the following?

- a) 2%
- b) 3%
- c) 4%
- d) 5%*

340) Union Budget 2017-18 has introduced a surcharge of _____ on income between 50 lakh to 1 crore for individuals.

- a) 2.5%
- b) 5%
- c) 7.5%
- d) 10%*

• Union Budget 2017-18: For General Public (Below 60 years of age): Income upto Rs. 2.5 lakhs is exempted from tax. Tax on income between Rs. 2.5-5 lakhs has been reduced from 10% to 5%. Tax on Rs. 5-10 lakh income remains 20%. Similarly tax on income above Rs. 10 lakh remains at 30%. For

• Senior Citizens (60 to 80 years of age): Income upto Rs. 3 lakhs is exempted from tax. Tax on income between Rs. 3-5 lakhs is 5%. Tax on Rs. 5-10 lakh income is 20%. Tax on income above Rs. 10 lakh is 30%.

• For Very Senior Citizens (More than 80 years of age): Income upto Rs. 5 lakhs is exempted from tax. Tax on Rs. 5-10 lakh income is 20%. Tax on income above Rs. 10 lakh is 30%. 10%

• Surcharge has been introduced on all individuals with income between 50 lakh to 1 Crore. Surcharge for incomes > Rs 1 crore will remain at 15% to continue.

341) . What is the allocation for recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks (PSB) in 2017-18 in Union Budget?

- a) Rs. 10000 crore*
- b) Rs. 15000 crore
- c) Rs. 20000 crore
- d) Rs. 25000 crore

In line with the 'Indradhanush' roadmap, Union Budget 2017-18 has provided an amount of Rs. 10,000 crore for recapitalisation of Banks in 2017-18 and additional allocation will be provided, as may be required.

342) Union Budget 2017-18 has banned cash transactions above what amount? Violations will invite 100% penalty.

- a) Rs 1 lakh
- b) Rs 2 lakh
- c) Rs 3 lakh*
- d) Rs 4 lakh

Union Budget 2017-18 has banned cash transactions above Rs 3 lakh. 100% penalty will be levied on any such transactions detected by the tax department.

343) Long-term capital gains tax on immovable property will apply after how many years as per Union Budget 2017-18? It has been reduced from 3 years in 2016-17.

- a) 2 years 6 months
- b) 2 years 3 months
- c) 2 years*
- d) 1 year 6 months

According to Union Budget 2017-18, long-term capital gains tax on immovable property will apply after 2 years, instead of 3 years now. Also the Base year indexation for long-term capital gains tax has been shifted from April 1, 1981 to April 1, 2001.

344) Union Budget 2017-18 has banned political parties from accepting cash donations above what amount?

- a) Rs. 2000*
- b) Rs. 3000
- c) Rs. 4000

d) Rs. 5000

According to Union Budget 2017-18, political parties have been barred from accepting cash donation beyond Rs 2,000 per individual. They can receive donations above Rs. 2,000 via cheques, electronic mode; electoral bonds to be issued by RBI.

345) What is the reduced tax rate for companies with an annual turnover up to Rs. 50 crore as per Union Budget 2017-18?

- a) 5%
- b) 10%
- c) 15%
- d) 25%*

According to Union Budget 2017-18, tax rate for companies with an annual turnover up to Rs. 50 crore has been reduced to 25%.

346) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of which of the following to provide telemedicine, education and skills through digital technology?

- a) Digi Gram
- b) Digi Gaon*
- c) Digi Rajya
- d) Digi Parishad

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of a Digi Gaon' initiative to provide telemedicine, education and skills through digital technology.

347) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of which of the following at a cost of Rs. 4,000 crore to provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth?

- a) SHAKTI
- b) SAARTHI
- c) SANKALP*
- d) SWAYAM

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the launch of programme SANKALP (Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion Programme) at a cost of Rs. 4,000 crore to provide market relevant training to 3.5 crore youth.

348) Union Budget 2017-18 has set a target of limiting fiscal deficit in 2017-18 to _____ of GDP.

- a) 2.4%
- b) 2.6%
- c) 2.8%
- d) 3.2%*

Union Budget 2017-18: Revenue Deficit target at 1.9% of GDP in 2017-18, Fiscal deficit pegged at 3.2% of GDP in 2017-18, 3% in 2018-19

349) . According to the Union Budget 2017-18 which of the following will be abolished?

- a) Enforcement Directorate
- b) Competition Commission of India
- c) Securities Appellate Tribunal
- d) Foreign Investment Promotion Board*

As per Union Budget 2017-18, the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) will be abolished and a new framework will be created. The FIPB offered a single window clearance for applications on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India that are under the approval route. The sectors under automatic route did not require any prior approval from the FIPB and are subject to only sectoral laws.

350) According to Union Budget 2017-18 contributions to which of the following relief funds will be exempt from tax?

- I. Prime Minister's Relief Fund
- II. Chief Minister's Relief Fund
- III. Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only

- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I, II & III*

The government on February 1, 2017 announced extension of tax exemption on contributions to Chief Minister's Relief Fund and Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund. At present, there is tax exemption on funds given to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). In the Union Budget 2017-18, Jaitley said Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) and Lieutenant Governor's Relief Fund (LGRF) are of the same nature as the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund at the level of state or the union territory. This amendment to I-T Act will take effect retrospectively from April 1, 1998 and will apply from assessment year 1998-88 and subsequent years.

351) The Union Budget 2015-16 has raised the target for agricultural credit for banks in 2015-16 to _____.

- a) Rs. 9.25 lakh crore
- b) Rs. 9.5 lakh crore
- c) Rs. 9.75 lakh crore
- d) Rs. 10 lakh crore*

The target for agricultural credit in 2017-18 has been fixed at a record level of 10 lakh crores in Union Budget 2017-18.

352) . Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of a Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund with a corpus of Rs 8,000 crores over 3 years. This fund will be managed by which of the following?

- a) ICAR
- b) NAFED
- c) SIDBI
- d) NABARD*

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of a Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund in NABARD with a corpus of Rs 8,000 crores over 3 years. He said that issuance of Soil Health Cards has gathered momentum, even as the Government has decided to set-up new mini labs in Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and ensure 100% coverage of all 648 KVKs in the country.

353) The two new sites for the setting up of Strategic Crude Oil Reserves have been proposed in Union Budget 2017-18. These are in Rajasthan and:

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Odisha*
- d) Haryana

For strengthening the country's energy sector, the Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of Strategic Crude Oil Reserves. In the first phase, 3 such Reserve facilities have been set up and in the second phase, it is proposed to set up caverns at 2 more locations, namely, Chandikhole in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan. This will take the country's strategic reserve capacity to 15.33 MMT.

354) Union Budget 2017-18 has made the scheme for profit-linked income tax exemption for promoters of affordable housing scheme more attractive. Housing units with carpet area upto _____ in non-metro cities will come under this scheme.

- a) 60 square metres*
- b) 75 square metres
- c) 90 square metres
- d) 105 square metres

Union Budget has made the scheme for profit-linked income tax exemption for promoters of affordable housing scheme announced in 2016-17 more attractive, a number of changes have been proposed for 2017-18. Instead of counting the built-up area of 30 and 60 square metres, it will be the carpet area of 30 and 60 square metres of the houses that will be counted under the scheme. The 30 square metres limit will apply only in case of municipal limits of 4 metropolitan cities while for the rest of the country including in the peripheral areas of metros, limit of 60 square metres will apply. The completion period of the building of the houses after commencement under the Scheme is being extended from the present 3 years to 5 years.

355) Union Budget 2017-18 reduced the time period for revising a tax return to how many months?

- a) 4 months
- b) 6 months
- c) 8 months
- d) 12 months*

Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to reduce the time period for revising a tax return to 12 months from completion of financial year. The Minister also proposed to reduce the time for completion of scrutiny assessments from 21 months to 18 months for Assessment Year 2018-19 and further to 12 months for Assessment Year 2019-20 and thereafter.

356) What is the new presumptive income tax rate for small businesspersons in respect of turnover which is received by non-cash means? This will be applicable to businessmen whose annual turnover is upto Rs. 2 crore.

- a) 3%
- b) 4%
- c) 5%
- d) 6%*

According to Union Budget 2017-18, presumptive income tax for small and medium businesses whose turnover is up to Rs 2 crore will be reduced from the present 8% of their turnover which is counted as presumptive income to 6% in respect of turnover which is received by non-cash means. This benefit will be applicable for transactions undertaken in 2016-17 also.

357) Union Budget 2017-18 has reduced the limit of cash donation that can be received by a Charitable Trust to:

- a) Rs. 2000*
- b) Rs. 3000
- c) Rs. 4000
- d) Rs. 5000

According to Union Budget 2017-18, cash expenditure allowable as deduction, both for revenue as well as capital expenditure, will be limited to Rs 10,000. Similarly, the limit of cash donation which can be received by a Charitable Trust is being reduced from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2000.

358) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to leverage information technology to launch SWAYAM Platform with at least 350 online courses. SWAYAM stands for Study Webs of ____ Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

- a) Active*
- b) Applied
- c) Adapted
- d) Augmented

According to Union Budget 2017-18, information technology will be leveraged to launch SWAYAM Platform with at least 350 online courses. This will enable students to virtually attend the courses taught by the best faculty; access high quality reading resources, participate in discussion forums; take tests and earn academic grades. Access to SWAYAM would be widened by linkage with DTH channels, dedicated to education. SWAYAM is Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds.

359) According to Union Budget 2017-18, the government has prepared an action plan to eliminate several diseases. Which of the following will be last one to be eliminated by 2017?

- a) Leprosy
- b) Measles
- c) Filariasis
- d) Tuberculosis*

According to Union Budget 2017-18, the government has prepared an action plan to eliminate Kala-Azar and Filariasis by 2017, Leprosy by 2018 and Measles by 2020. Elimination of tuberculosis by 2025 is also targeted. Similarly, action plan has been prepared to reduce IMR from 39 in 2014 to 28 by 2019 and MMR from 167 in 2011-13 to 100 by 2018-2020. 1.5 lakh Health Sub Centres will be transformed into Health and Wellness Centres.

360) The Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the States of Gujarat and:

- a) Odisha
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Jharkhand*

d) Karnataka

The Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the setting up of two new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in the States of Jharkhand and Gujarat.

361) Which of the following will be set up at village level in the Anganwadi Centres to provide rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition? Union Budget 2017-18 has allocated Rs. 5000 crore.

- a) Mahila Shakti Kendras*
- b) Mahila Saathi Kendras
- c) Mahila Sankalp Kendras
- d) Mahila Swayam Kendras

According to Union Budget 2017-18, Rs 500 crore will be provided for setting up Mahila Shakti Kendras at village level in the Anganwadi Centres. This will provide one stop convergent support services for empowering rural women with opportunities for skill development, employment, digital literacy, health and nutrition.

362) 24. Union Budget 2017-18 has provided Rs.2200 crore for the next phase of STRIVE programme. STRIVE refers to Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value _____.

- a) Education
- b) Enterprise
- c) Engineering
- d) Enhancement*

The Government will launch the next phase of Skill Strengthening for Industrial Value Enhancement (STRIVE) in 2017-18 at a cost of Rs.2200 crore. STRIVE will focus on improving the quality and market relevance of vocational training provided in it is and strengthen the apprenticeship programmes through industry cluster approach

363) According to Union Budget 2017-18, business entities opting for presumptive income scheme will be exempted from audit if their annual turnover is _____ or less.

- a) Rs. 1 crore
- b) Rs. 2 crore*
- c) Rs. 3 crore
- d) Rs. 4 crore

The threshold limit for audit of business entities opting for presumptive income scheme is being increased from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 2 crore. Threshold maintenance of books for individuals and HUF is being increased from turnover of Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakhs or income from Rs. 1.2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh.

364) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to cut basic customs duty on which of the following from 5% to 2.5%?

- a) LNG*
- b) CNG
- c) LPG
- d) Crude oil

Considering the wide range of use of LNG as fuel as well as feed stock for petro-chemicals sector, Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to reduce the basic customs duty on LNG from 5% to 2.5%.

365) Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the creation of which of the following for railway passengers' safety with a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crore over a period of 5 years?

- a) Rashtriya Rail Sarathi Kosh
- b) Rashtriya Rail Sanchay Kosh
- c) Rashtriya Rail Suraksha Kosh
- d) Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh*

For passenger safety, Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed the creation of a 'Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh' with a corpus of Rs.1 lakh crores over a period of 5 years, to be funded by seed capital from the Government, Railways' own revenues and other sources. The Government will lay down clear cut guidelines and timeline for implementing various safety works to be funded from this 'Kosh'. Unmanned level crossings on Broad Gauge lines will be eliminated by 2020.

366) Which of the following has been allocated Rs. 10,000 crore in Union Budget 2017-18 for providing high speed broadband connectivity to 1.5 lakh gram panchayats by the end of 2017-18?

- a) Sanchar Net

- b) Bharat Net*
- c) Swaraj Net
- d) Desh Net

Union Budget 2017-18 has increased the allocation for Bharat Net Project to Rs.10,000 crores in 2017-18. By the end of 2017-18, high speed broadband connectivity on optical fiber will be available in more than 1,50,000 gram panchayats, with wifi hot spots and access to digital services at low tariffs.

367) NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and which industry body launched the “India Innovation Index” that will rank states on Innovations on February 2, 2017?

- a) FICCI
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII*
- d) PHDCCI

To make India an innovation-driven economy, NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on February 2, 2017 launched the “India Innovation Index” that will rank states on Innovations through country’s first online innovation index portal that will capture data on innovation from all Indian states on innovation and regularly update it in real time.

368) 30. Which of the following was launched by Income Tax department on January 31, 2017 to seek explanations from account holders whose accounts saw huge cash deposits during demonetisation period (Nov 9-Dec 30)?

- a) Operation My Money
- b) Operation Fair Money
- c) Operation Clean Money*
- d) Operation Verify Money

Launching the ‘Swachh Dhan Abhiyan’ or ‘Operation Clean Money’ on January 31, 2017, the government said it had identified 18 lakh persons who deposited amounts of Rs.5 lakh or more between November 9 and December 30 but whose income profiles did not match the amounts deposited. Following up on their efforts to unearth unaccounted money, the income tax (I-T) authorities are scrutinising these accounts and have asked taxpayers to revert to their queries in 10 days. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Sushil Chandra said that the account-holders whose deposits did not match their incomes, as per data with the department, would be alerted on their e-filing portals. “We will be seeking answers about the source of income,” Chandra said.

369) Which of the following is the tagline of National Capital Region Transport Corporation announced in February 2017?

- a) Gati Se Vikas
- b) Gati Se Tarakki
- c) Gati Se Unnati
- d) Gati Se Pragati*

National Capital Region Transport Corporation, mandated with the responsibility of executing the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in National Capital Region, has got a Logo and Tagline highlighting the vision of ‘Gati Se Pragati’ (Progress with Speed). The Logo and Tagline, selected through a contest on MyGov.com were released by the Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on February 2, 2017.

370) Regarding taxation of foreign firms operating in India, POEM refers to:

- a) Place of Effective Management*
- b) Platform of Effective Management
- c) Planning of Effective Management
- d) Presence of Effective Management

Rules for anti-tax avoidance and place of effective management will be implemented from April 1, the government said on February 2, 2017. While Place of Effective Management (POEM) requires foreign firms to pay taxes in India if the effective control of business lies within the country, General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR) seeks to prevent companies from routing transactions through other countries to avoid taxes.

371) What is the new gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for 2015-16 as per revised data disclosed by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) in February 2017?

- a) 7.3 per cent
- b) 7.5 per cent
- c) 7.7 per cent
- d) 7.9 per cent*

Government has marginally revised upwards gross domestic product (GDP) growth for 2015-16 to 7.9 per cent from the earlier estimate of 7.6 per cent after factoring in latest data on agriculture and industrial production. "Real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for 2015-16 and 2014-15 stands at Rs 113.58 lakh crore and Rs 105.23 lakh crore, respectively, showing growth of 7.9 per cent during 2015-16 and 7.2 per cent during 2014-15," stated the Central Statistics Office (CSO) while releasing the revised data on January 31, 2017.

372) What was India's holding of US government securities on November end 2016?

- a) \$88.7 billion
- b) \$98.7 billion
- c) \$108.7 billion
- d) \$118.7 billion*

India sharply trimmed exposure to US government securities, lowering the holding to \$118.7 billion in November 2016. Asian economic majors Japan and China continued to be the two top holders of US government securities. While Japan's holding touched \$1.11 trillion, China was tad lower at \$1.05 trillion. This was disclosed in the latest data compiled by the US Treasury Department on January 27, 2017.

373) Who among the following was appointed as the Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance in February 2017?

- a) Anil Virmani
- b) Sanjeev Sanyal*
- c) Shankar Acharya
- d) Rakesh Mohan

The government on February 3, 2017 appointed noted economist Sanjeev Sanyal as the Principal Economic Adviser in the Ministry of Finance. Sanyal has authored several books, including Land of the Seven Rivers: A Brief History of India's Geography, The Indian Renaissance: India's Rise After a Thousand Year's of Decline and The Incredible History of India's Geography.

374) Which of the following banks launched the 'Cash Ki Aadat Badlo' campaign to encourage digital transactions in February 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) State Bank of India*

SBI aims to help India create a cashless society across the nation. Hence the concept of #CashKiAadatBadlo was launched in February 2017 to promote the ease of cashless transactions via various facilities of SBI and thus to make cashless transactions a habit for every SBI account holder. The campaign #CashKiAadatBadlo is being led by three TVCs. The three 20-seconder films showcase SBI's various digital/ cashless products namely State Bank Buddy- a mobile wallet, State Bank Debit Card, and SBI Pay.

375) Who among the following was selected as its new MD & CEO by the board of NSE in February 2017?

- a) Ravi Narain
- b) Vikram Limaye*
- c) Abhay Havaladar
- d) Dinesh Kanabar

The board of directors of NSE selected Vikram Limaye as its MD & CEO on February 3, 2017. Currently, Vikram Limaye is the MD & CEO of IDFC. Former CEO Chitra Ramkrishna had resigned in November 2016.

376) S.C. Bajpai took charge as the new Chairman of which of the following in January 2017?

- a) Antrix Corporation
- d) Nuclear Corporation of India Ltd
- c) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre
- d) Ordnance Factory Board*

S.C. Bajpai was appointed as the new Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF) and Chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in Kolkata on January 31, 2017. Bajpai was Additional DGOF and Member at OFB.

377) Which of the following was world's top-selling automaker in 2016 with sales of 10.3 million?

- a) Volkswagen*
- b) Toyota
- c) Ford
- d) General Motors

Toyota lost its crown as the world's top-selling automaker in 2016, company figures showed on January 30, 2017, with the Japanese giant overtaken by Volkswagen. The German automaker had sales of 10.3 million. VW group also includes the brands Audi, Porsche and Skoda. Toyota sold 10.175 million vehicles worldwide in 2016.

378) Collision between MT Dawn Kanchipuram and which of the following caused huge oil spill off Chennai coast on January 28, 2017?

- a) MT BW Tulip
- b) MT BW Maple*
- c) MT BW Orchid
- d) MT BW Jasmine

Indian Coast Guard said on February 3, 2017 that over 80 percent of the clean-up operation of the Chennai oil spill had been completed. The spill occurred when ship MT BW Maple (UK flag), an LPG tanker, rammed the petroleum tanker MT Dawn Kanchipuram (Indian flag) just two nautical miles off the Kamarajar Port at Ennore near Chennai at 4 AM on January 28, 2017.

379) . Which temple in Telangana is India's nomination for UNESCO World Heritage Site status in 2017?

- a) Ramappa Temple*
- b) Bhadrakali Temple
- c) Keesaragutta Temple
- d) Yadagirigutta Temple

Ramappa temple in Telangana is country's nomination for the world heritage site which has been sent to UNESCO by Centre, the state government said in Hyderabad on February 3, 2017. Every country sends one historical site as its nomination to UNESCO every year. The UNESCO will process the nomination and send a team of experts to Ramappa temple to examine the site and will take a decision on the matter subsequently.

380) Who among the following was appointed as the new Commissioner of Delhi Police in January 2017?

- a) S. C. Mathur
- b) Deepak Mishra
- c) Amulya Patnaik
- d) Amulya Kumar Patnaik*

The Government on January 30, 2017 appointed Amulya Kumar Patnaik as Commissioner of Delhi Police, a post that fell vacant after Alok Kumar Verma was made CBI Chief. Patnaik is currently Special Commissioner (Administration) and is a recipient of the President's Police medal for distinguished service and the Police medal for meritorious service.

381) Which state launched 'Har Gaon Pedon Ki Chhaon' scheme in February 2017 to create at least one environmentally significant grove in each village?

- a) Haryana*
- b) Bihar
- c) Himachal Pradesh
- d) Madhya Pradesh

To create at least one environmentally significant grove in each village during its 'Golden Jubilee' year, the Haryana government plans to implement the 'Har Gaon Pedon Ki Chhaon' scheme, under which plantation of 100 indigenous plants would be undertaken across the state. The scheme would be implemented from February-March, a spokesman of the Forests Department said in Chandigarh on January 30, 2017. Haryana is celebrating its Golden Jubilee year from

November 1, 2016 to October 31, 2017. The state was carved out as a separate entity 50 years ago on November 1, 1966.

382) Viren Rasquinha is among the three sportspersons in the eight-member Task Force set up by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry January 30, 2017 to draw up an action plan for the next three Olympic Games. He was former captain of India's team in which sport?

- a) Hockey*
- b) Football
- c) Basketball
- d) Kabaddi

2008 Beijing Olympics Shooting gold medal winner Abhinav Bindra, national badminton coach Pullela Gopichand and former Indian hockey captain Viren Rasquinha are the three sportspersons in the eight-member Task Force set up by the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry January 30, 2017 to draw up an action plan for the next three Olympic Games. The other five members of the task force are School Sports Promotion Board head Om Pathak, hockey coach S Baldev Singh, who runs an academy in Shahabad, G L Khanna (Professor and Dean of Exercise and Physiology at Manav Rachna International University at Faridabad), journalist Rajesh Kalra and Sports Authority of Gujarat Director General Sandeep Pradhan.

383) Who among the following authors is in the four-member committee of administrators set up by the Supreme Court to manage the affairs of the BCCI on January 30, 2017?

- a) Mahesh Rangarajan
- b) Ramachandra Guha*
- c) Ranjit Hoskote
- d) Rajat Kanta Ray

The Supreme Court on January 30, 2017 appointed a four-member committee of administrators headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General of India Vinod Rai to run the affairs of the BCCI and implement court-approved recommendations of the Justice R M Lodha panel on reforms in the cash-rich cricket body. Other three members of the Committee of Administrators (CoA) are famous cricket historian Ramachandra Guha, Vikram Limaye, Managing Director of Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and former Indian women cricket captain Diana Edulji, who would interact with Rahul Johri, CEO of BCCI, for supervision and functioning of the BCCI.

384) . Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Andy Murray
- b) Rafael Nadal
- c) Roger Federer*
- d) Andy Roddick

385) . Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Serena Williams*
- b) Victoria Azarenka
- c) Angelique Kerber
- d) Elena Vesnina

386) . Who among the following won the Men's Doubles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares
- b) Henri Kontinen and John Peers*
- c) Michael Llodra and Nicolas Mahut
- d) Robin Haase and Igor Sijsling

387) . Who among the following won the Mixed Doubles title at the Australian Open tennis in January 2017?

- a) Jean-Julien Rojer and Anna-Lena Groenefeld
- b) Daniel Nestor and Kristina Mladenovic
- c) Frantisek Cermak and Lucie Hradecka
- d) Abigail Speers and Juan Sebastian Cabal*

Roger Federer and Serena Williams won the Men's and Women's Singles titles respectively at the Australian Open tennis tournament organised at Melbourne from January 16 to 29, 2017. American tennis legend Serena Williams defeated her

elder sister Venus in the final to win Women's Singles title. Federer defeated Spain's Rafael Nadal. Mixed Doubles title was won by Abigail Speers of the US and Juan Sebastian Cabal of Colombia who defeated India's Sania Mirza and Ivan Dodig of Croatia in the final. Men's Doubles title was won by Henri Kontinen of Finland and John Peers of Australia. Women's Doubles title was won by Bethanie Mattek-Sands (USA) and Lucie Šafářová (Czech Republic).

388) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Lucknow in January 2017?

- a) Parupalli Kashyap
- b) Sameer Verma*
- c) Kento Momota
- d) Kidambi Srikanth

389) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Lucknow in January 2017?

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Gregoria Mariska
- c) Yihan Wang
- d) P. V. Sindhu*

P.V. Sindhu and Sameer Verma won the Men's and Singles titles at the \$120,000 Syed Modi International Grand Prix Gold badminton championship in Lucknow on January 29, 2017. The results (all finals): Men's Singles: Sameer Verma beat B. Sai Praneeth 21-19, 21-16. Women's Singles: P.V. Sindhu beat Gregoria Mariska (Indonesia) 21-13, 21-13. Men's Doubles: Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (Denmark) beat Lu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han (Chinese Taipei) 21-14, 21-15. Women's Doubles: Kamilla Rytter Juhl and Christinna Pedersen (Denmark) beat Ashwini Ponnappa and N. Sikki Reddy 21-16, 21-18. Mixed Doubles: Pranav Chopra and N. Sikki Reddy beat B. Sumeeth Reddy and Ashwini Ponnappa 22-20, 21-10.

390) Who among the following won the Tata Steel Chess title at Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands in January 2017?

- a) Vassily Ivanchuk
- b) Wesley So*
- c) Levon Aronian
- d) Hikaru Nakamura

United States' Wesley So won the 79th edition of the Tata Steel Chess tournament in Wijk aan Zee, the Netherlands, on January 29, 2017. Five-time champion Magnus Carlsen from Norway, who won the tournament in 2008, 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2016, ended with 8 points in the second place.

391) Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand was in news in February 2017 for achieving World No. 1 junior ranking in which sport?

- a) Squash
- b) Tennis
- c) Table Tennis
- d) Badminton*

Young shuttler Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand on February 2, 2017 achieved the World No. 1 ranking in the latest BWF World junior ranking. The 15-year-old prodigy, who hails from Almora district in Uttarakhand, has been training under the watchful eyes of 1980 All England champion Prakash Padukone at his Badminton Academy in Bangalore since he was 10.

392) Consider the following.

- I. All India Radio
- II. FM Radio stations
- III. Community Radio stations

Which of the above are allowed to broadcast news and current affairs bulletins?

- a) I only*
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

Giving news broadcast rights to private FM radio operators and community radio stations run by NGOs will be an open invitation for anti-national and radical elements located “within the country” to propagate their vested interests and agenda to the masses, the government told the Supreme Court in February 2017. An affidavit filed by the Centre in the Supreme Court favoured news on radio to continue to be the “exclusive preserve” of the national broadcaster Prasar Bharati’s All India Radio (AIR). The government was responding to the Supreme Court on the prohibition on FM radio stations and community radios from airing their own news and current affairs bulletins.

393) What was the voter turnout in Goa Assembly elections held on February 4, 2017?

- a) 43%
- b) 53%
- c) 63%
- d) 83%*

Punjab and Goa on February 4, 2017 voted heavily with an estimated 70% and a record-breaking 83% turnout as the first round of assembly elections in five states concluded by and large peacefully, Election Commission said on February 6, 2017. In the 2012 assembly elections, Goa had recorded 81.8% voting while in Punjab nearly 79 per cent electors had cast their votes.

394) The Air Wing of which paramilitary force was in news for the induction of its own pilots and crew for the first time on February 9, 2017?

- a) BSF*
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

The Air Wing of Border Security Force (BSF) added a new chapter with the induction of its own pilots and crew on February 9, 2017. Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijju became the first dignitary to be flown by “all BSF” aircrew, aboard the MI-17 V5 helicopter from Guwahati. Since its establishment in 1969, the Aviation Wing of MHA under BSF is touching new milestones with each passing day. Based at Safdarjung Airport in New Delhi, its span has now expanded to Ranchi & Guwahati.

395) ‘The Golden House’ is the forthcoming novel of who among the following authors?

- a) Arundhati Roy
- b) Ruskin Bond
- c) Aravind Adiga
- d) Salman Rushdie*

Salman Rushdie’s new novel “The Golden House” will be released in September. This was announced by the publishers on February 7, 2017.

396) Minister of State Jitendra Singh delivered the 47th Memorial Lecture dedicated to who among the following former Prime Ministers in New Delhi on February 9, 2017?

- a) Morarji Desai
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Lal Bahadur Shastri*
- d) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Minister of State Jitendra Singh delivered the 47th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture in New Delhi on February 9, 2017.

397) An International Seminar on “Counter- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strategy” was organised by the National Security Guard (NSG) at which of the following on February 8-9, 2017?

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida
- c) Gurugram
- d) Manesar*

398) Who among the following was named as the next Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG) in September 2016?

- a) Rajinder Khanna
- b) Dineshwar Sharma
- c) Surender Singh
- d) Sudhir Pratap Singh*

399) Which of the following is the motto of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- a) Swift and Secure
- b) Strike far, strike sure
- c) No Return Without Conquest
- d) Omnipresent Omnipotent Defense*

400) Which of the following is the annual magazine of the National Security Guard (NSG)?

- a) Bombshell*
- b) Explosion
- c) Tectonic
- d) Tremor

401) . The National Security Guard (NSG) was established in which year?

- a) 1974
- b) 1984*
- c) 1994
- d) 2004

- A two-day 17th International Seminar on “Counter- Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strategy” was organized by the National Security Guard (NSG) in Manesar (Haryana) on February 8-9, 2017.

- On February 8, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, unveiled the NSG annual magazine ‘The Bombshell’, which contains details of various IED explosions that occurred in various parts of the world in 2016.

- The National Security Guard (NSG) was set up in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

- NSG is a task-oriented Force and has two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG) comprising Army personnel and the Special Ranger Groups (SRG), comprising personnel drawn from the Central Para Military Forces/State Police Force.

- ‘Sarvatra Sarvottam Surakhsha’ (Omnipresent Omnipotent Defense) is the motto of NSG.

- The Appointments Committee of Cabinet on September 26, 2016 named Sudhir Pratap Singh as the next Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG).

402) Which of the following hosted National Maritime Foundation’s annual Maritime Power Conference on February 9-10, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi*
- d) Kochi

The National Maritime Foundation (NMF) conducted its Annual Maritime Power Conference-2017 at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) Auditorium, Development Enclave, New Delhi, on February 9-10, 2017, with the theme ‘The Blue Economy: Concept, Constituents and Development’. The NMF was established in 2005 to provide a common platform for discourse between maritime-related institutions, organisations and disciplines, within the country and abroad. The Foundation conducts independent academic research and provides policy-relevant recommendations to advance nation’s maritime goals.

50 days extra work under MNREGA for drought-hit AP, TN

403) The Rural Development Ministry has decided to provide how many days of additional work to rural job card holders under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) in drought-hit Tamil Nadu?

- a) 10 days
- b) 25 days
- c) 40 days

d) 50 days*

The Rural Development Ministry on February 8, 2017 said it has allowed additional employment of 50 days over and above 100 days given under MNREGA in notified drought-affected districts of Andhra Pradesh and entire Tamil Nadu. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA), a flagship programme is a demand-driven employment scheme. Not less than 100 days of employment are provided to registered workers upon receipt of their demand. It provides supplementary means of livelihood to people in rural areas, primarily during lean periods.

404) The 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) approved by the Cabinet in February 2017 has set a target of making 6 crore rural households digitally literate by:

- a) March 2017
- b) March 2018
- c) March 2019*
- d) March 2020

The Cabinet on February 8, 2017 approved 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA) with an outlay of Rs 2,351.38 crore to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019.

405) National Deworming initiative was launched by Health and Family Welfare Ministry in February 2017. Which tablet was given to school children under this initiative?

- a) Fluconazole
- b) Metronidazole
- c) Imidazole
- d) *Albendazole

406) The National Deworming Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) February 8
- b) February 9
- c) February 10*
- d) February 11

In one of the country's largest single-day public health initiatives, an estimated 34 crore children were administered deworming tablets on February 10, 2017 to reduce worm infestation that can stifle physical and intellectual growth. On National Deworming Day, the Health Ministry for the first time also covered private schools. It also set up 210 monitoring centres across the country to tackle adverse reactions of the tablet like stomach ache and vomiting. India has the highest burden of worm infections in the world, with the World Health Organization estimating in 2014 that over 22 crore Indian children aged between 1 and 14 years are at risk. The Government has clarified that the safety of Albendazole tablet administered for deworming has been certified by technical experts including WHO.

407) Braille Atlas was launched by NATMO in February 2017. NATMO is National Atlas and ____ Mapping Organisation.

- a) Topical
- b) Thematic*
- c) Territorial
- d) Topographic

The Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the Special Edition of "Atlas for Visually Impaired (India)" in English Braille in New Delhi on February 10, 2017. This Braille Atlas has been prepared by National Atlas and Thematic Mapping Organisation (NATMO) under Department of Science & Technology.

408) The 'Fairy Queen', the oldest surviving functional steam engine in the world, was in news for resuming operation in February 2017. Its journey was from Delhi to which of the following?

- a) Bhiwani
- b) Rewari*
- c) Mewat
- d) Alwar

The 'Fairy Queen', the oldest surviving functional steam engine in the world is once again ready in this season to haul a heritage train from National Capital Delhi to Rewari, Haryana after a gap of 5 years. This train will run between Delhi Cantt Station and Rewari on February 11 for a single day trip. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Railways on February 10, 2017. The locomotive was constructed in England in 1855 and reached Calcutta, in the same year.

409) The ___ biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 was organised in Bengaluru in February 2017.

- a) 10th
- b) 11th*
- c) 12th
- d) 13th

The 11th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 will be held at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru from 14th to 18th February 2017. Aero India which began in 1996, has carved a niche for itself as a premium aerospace and aviation exhibition in the international arena and has become one of the most sought after exhibitions in the Asian region in terms of participation from across the globe. The event is being organized and conducted by the Defence Exhibition Organisation (DEO).

410) 20. Meeting of GICNT was organised in February 2017. GICNT is Global Initiative to _____ Nuclear Terrorism.

- a) Curb
- b) Check
- c) Contest
- d) Combat*

The 2017 edition of the Implementation and Assessment Group (IAG) Meeting of the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT) concluded in New Delhi on February 10, 2017. 152 delegates from 41 GICNT Partner countries participated in the three-day event.

411) Government's investment clearance committee approved Rs.18,000 Ken-Betwa river linking project on February 10, 2017. The project covers districts in Madhya Pradesh and which neighbouring state?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

412) . Which of the following will be affected by the Ken-Betwa river interlinking project?

- a) Kanha Tiger Reserve
- b) Panna Tiger Reserve*
- c) Satpura Tiger Reserve
- d) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

The investment clearance committee, comprising officials from NITI Aayog and Union Water Resources Ministry, for Ken-Betwa river linking on February 10, 2017 gave the nod for the Rs 18,000-crore national project envisaged to address drinking water and irrigation requirements of the parched Bundelkhand region. The first-of-its-kind project covers parts of Madhya Pradesh and poll-bound Uttar Pradesh. A total of 10 villages consisting of 1,585 families are likely to be affected by this project. About 9,000 hectares area would be submerged, out of which 4,141 hectares is forestland in Panna Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh.

413) Nationwide vaccination campaign for Measles and which of the following was launched by the government from Bengaluru on February 5, 2017?

- a) Ebola
- b) Rubella*
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Tuberculosis

414) Which of the following has supplied vaccines for the nationwide vaccination campaign for Measles launched by the government from Bengaluru on February 5, 2017?

- a) Cipla
- b) Biocon

- c) Shantha Biotech
- d) Serum Institute of India*

To protect children from major childhood diseases measles and rubella, the government on February 5, 2017 launched a nationwide vaccination campaign from Bangalore. Under the campaign, children aged between nine months and 15 will be administered the measles-rubella vaccine (MR-VAC). The vaccine is being made by the Serum Institute of India. Measles and Rubella are only preventable through vaccination. There is no specific treatment for the diseases.

415) Who among the following former RBI Governors is the author of the forthcoming book 'Advice and Dissent: My Life in Policy Making'?

- a) Bimal Jalan
- b) Y. V. Reddy*
- c) D. Subbarao
- d) C. Rangarajan

416) Who among the following is the author of 'Murder in Mahim' released recently?

- a) Jeet Thayil
- b) Anees Salim
- c) Pankaj Mishra
- d) Jerry Pinto*

417) UNODC selected Satinder Sartaaj for 'Blue Heart Campaign' in February 2017. UNODC is United Nations Office on _____

- a) Drugs and Crime*
- b) Desert and Climate
- c) Data and Communication
- d) Defence and Counter-terrorism

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has chosen Indian Folk singer Satinder Sartaaj for 'Blue Heart Campaign', awareness project against human trafficking. (February 2017)

418) 28. Enforcement Directorate functions under which of the following central ministries?

- a) Ministry of Finance*
- b) Ministry of Home Affairs
- c) Ministry of External Affairs
- d) Ministry of Culture and Tourism

419) Karnal Singh was appointed as Director of the Enforcement Directorate in February 2017. He is the first from which of the following services to have been selected for this post?

- a) Indian Police Service*
- b) Indian Forest Service
- c) Indian Foreign Service
- d) Indian Engineering Service

The government on February 8, 2017 appointed IPS Officer Karnal Singh as Director of the Enforcement Directorate. Singh is an Indian Police Service officer of the 1984 batch belonging to the AGMUT cadre. He will hold the post for two years from the date of assumption of charge. Singh is the first IPS officer to head the Directorate, which functions under the Union Finance Ministry. The agency has the mandate to investigate cases of money laundering and foreign exchange rule violations.

420) . Nirmal Shekar, who died in Chennai on February 1 at 60, was well known as:

- a) Surgeon
- b) Playwright
- c) Sports journalist*
- d) Photojournalist

Nirmal Shekar, former Sports Editor of The Hindu and former editor of Sportstar, passed away in Chennai on February 1, 2017. He was 60. After his retirement, he remained a columnist with The Hindu. His last published piece was on January 28.

421) T.N.A. Perumal, who died in Bengaluru on February 8 at 84, was well known as:

- a) Surgeon
- b) Playwright
- c) Sports journalist
- d) Wildlife Photographer*

T.N.A. Perumal, award-winning wildlife photographer, passed away in Bengaluru on February 8, 2018 at the age of 84.

422) . Rabin Sengupta, who died in Agartala on February 7 at 87, was well known as:

- a) Surgeon
- b) Playwright
- c) Sports journalist
- d) Photojournalist*

Photojournalist Rabin Sengupta, one of the few Indian journalists who extensively covered the 1971 Bangladesh war, died in Agartala on February 7, 2017. He was 87 and was honoured with the Liberation War Award in 2012.

423) . Which of the following is/are correct expansions of Japanese agencies involved in boosting economic cooperation with India?

- I. METI – Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry
- II. JETRO – Japan Engineering Trade Organization
- III. JICA - Japan Investment Credit Agency

- a) I only*
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only

In a bid to attract global talent, from India and other nations, Japan has said it will soon introduce a new Green Card programme —billed as the fastest such system in the world — and expedite the granting of permanent residency to highly skilled foreign professionals. This was stated by Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), at a press conference co-organised with industry body CII in New Delhi, on February 7, 2017. Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) are also working in this direction.

424) Chinese prisoner of war Wang Qi, who visited his native country after five decades in February 2017, had settled in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

- a) Balaghat*
- b) Mandla
- c) Seoni
- d) Satna

Wang Qi, a Chinese prisoner of war who settled in Madhya Pradesh's Balaghat district after his release from jail and raised a family after marrying an Indian, visited his native country after five decades in February 2017. Wang, now 77, was caught for entering the Indian territory shortly after the Sino-India War of 1962. He was later released from jail.

425) Which of the following is the five-day multi-nation naval exercise organised by Pakistan in February 2017?

- a) Rahat-17
- b) Aman-17*
- c) Fatah-17
- d) Waqt-17

Pakistan hosted warships from 36 countries, including Russia, China and the US, in the Arabian Sea for a five-day naval exercise beginning on February 10, 2017. Codenamed Aman-17, the exercise was held in the north Arabian Sea. The exercise is themed 'Together for peace'.

426) Which of the following celebrated 38th anniversary of 1979 revolution on February 11, 2017?

- a) UAE
- b) Iran*
- c) Jordan
- d) Pakistan

Iranians began a nationwide celebration to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the 1979 revolution with massive rallies across the country on February 10, 2017. The rallies commemorate 11th February 1979, when followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ousted the US-backed Shah Reza Pahlavi.

427) What is the theme of the BRICS Summit scheduled to be hosted by China in September 2017?

- a) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Secure Future
- b) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Closer Future
- c) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Shared Future
- d) BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future*

428) Which of the following will host the BRICS Summit in 2017?

- a) Harbin
- b) Xiamen*
- c) Chengdu
- d) Shanghai

China on February 10, 2017 released the theme of the 2017 BRICS Summit which is scheduled to begin in September. The summit will be held under the theme "BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future". The 2016 summit was hosted by India at Goa. The 2017 summit will take place in Xiamen which is located in east China's Fujian Province.

429) Which of the following capitals hosted the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in February 2017?

- a) Lima
- b) Bogota*
- c) Caracas
- d) Havana

430) The "Peace Summit Award" was presented to Richard Branson at the 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in February 2017. Branson is the founder of which airline?

- a) Lufthansa
- b) Delta Air Lines
- c) British Airways
- d) Virgin Atlantic Airways*

The 16th World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates was organised in the Colombian capital of Bogota from February 2-5, 2017, with a call to fight the ills afflicting humanity. The "Peace Summit Award" was presented to Virgin Atlantic airline's founder Richard Branson. His "Virgin Unite" organisation seeks to create non-profit initiatives to help the world "eliminate wars and conflicts through practical solutions". It is the first time the summit was held in Latin America. Earlier venues have been Barcelona (2015), Rome (2014), Warsaw (2013), Chicago (2012), Hiroshima (2010), Berlin (2009), Paris (2008) and Rome (1999 to 2007).

431) Which state hosted a National Women's Parliament (NWP) in February 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh*

A National Women's Parliament (NWP) was organised at Pavitra Sangamam on the outskirts of Vijayawada in Amaravati (AP) capital region from February 10 to 12, 2017. The main theme was 'Empowering Women-Strengthening Democracy'. Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly organised the event with support of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and Inter-Parliamentary Union, among others.

432) Which state's Finance Minister announced a new legislation in February 2017 to deduct the salary of government employees who failed to take care of their elderly parents?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam*

The BJP-led government in Assam placed its first full Budget in the Assembly in February 8, 2017. Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma also announced a new legislation to deduct the salary of government employees who failed to take care of their elderly parents. "Employees working in the government, state PSUs and companies will be expected to take care of their elderly parents in a desirable manner. In case of non-compliance, the proposed legislation would mandate that a certain portion of the salary of such employees would be deducted to be given to their respective parents," Sarma said.

433) Which of the following became the first state to turn its public grain distribution (PDS) system entirely cashless in February 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat*
- d) Karnataka

Gujarat has turned its public grain distribution (PDS) system entirely cashless across the state, becoming the first in the country to do so. With this, over 37.5 million people will now be able to pay cashless using their Aadhaar cards. In mid-January, the department of consumer affairs, food and public distribution of India had organised a meeting with state food ministers, to install cashless system in PDS by end of March. However, Gujarat became the first state in India to do so by installing cashless systems in all its 17,250 centres, much ahead of the March deadline. (February 8, 2017).

434) Which state launched a programme to distribute fortified meals in all schools in tie up with Tata Trusts in February 2017?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Tripura*

The Tripura govt. in collaboration with TATA Trust has launched a programme to distribute fortified meals in all schools. Under the programme, the government will try to provide fortified meals to students in order to counter disorders like stunting, overweight and anaemia - the major causes of maternal and child deaths said Tripura Education Minister Tapan Chakraborty after launching the programme in Agartala on February 10, 2017.

435) Which state has launched Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana in February 2017 to double farm income in the next five years?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam*

Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal on February 5, 2017 launched the Chief Minister's Samagra Gramya Unnayan Yojana, a flagship scheme that is aimed at strengthening rural economy and to double farm income in the next five years, in Guwahati.

436) Which state is setting up Kamal Clubs in every Gram Panchayat to unearth sporting talents and promote arts and culture?

- a) Jharkhand*
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Odisha
- d) Assam

Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das said on February 5, 2017 that the state would give two per cent reservation to sports persons in government jobs and nutritious food to them. Das said efforts were also being taken to give nutritious

food to the sports persons, an official release said in Ranchi. He said to promote football, Kamal Clubs are being set up, and for this the government would give kits to players and competitions would be held at block, district and state levels. In May 2016, the state government had approved a approval for setting up Kamal Clubs in every Gram Panchayat to unearth sporting talents and promote arts and culture.

437) Union Sports Minister launched Mission 11 million to promote which sport in schools in February 2017?

- a) Hockey
- b) Football*
- c) Swimming
- d) Wrestling

The Mission 11 million, a football initiative aimed towards taking the game to 12,000 schools in 37 cities across the country was set rolling by the Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel and the president of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) Praful Patel at the Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on February 10, 2017.

438) Kheleo was unveiled as the official mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup in February 2017. It is a:

- a) Lion
- b) Tiger
- c) Panther
- d) Leopard*

The official mascot of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017, 'Kheleo', was unveiled in New Delhi on February 10, 2017 by Sports Minister Vijay Goel and AIFF President Praful Patel. The clouded leopard is an endangered wild cat whose habitat extends from the Himalayan foothills to mainland Southeast Asia. The tournament will be played from October 6 to 28, 2017.

439) Which of the following will host the Himalayan Region Games in April 2017 as per an announcement made by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)?

- a) Itanagar
- b) Guwahati*
- c) Agartala
- d) Gangtok

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on February 9, 2017 announced that the Himalayan Region Games will be held in Guwahati from April 21 to April 30, 2017.

440) Which country topped the medals tally at the 37th Asian Track Cycling Championships organised in New Delhi in February 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Vietnam
- d) South Korea*

The 37th Asian Track Cycling Championships concluded in New Delhi on February 10, 2017. India won two bronze medals to finish 11th in the medals tally that was topped by South Korea with 9 gold, 13 silver and 8 bronze medals.

441) Which of the following was celebrated by Britain's monarch Queen Elizabeth II in February 2017?

- a) Golden Jubilee
- b) Sapphire Jubilee*
- c) Diamond Jubilee
- d) Platinum Jubilee

90-year-old Queen Elizabeth II, the world's longest reigning sovereign, on February 6, 2017 became the first British monarch to reach her Sapphire Jubilee, with 65 years on the throne.

442) Who among the following was elected as the President of Somalia in February 2017?

- a) Mansour al-Issawi

- b) Hassan Sheikh Mohamoud
- c) Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke
- d) Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo*

443) What is the currency of Somalia?

- a) Somali shilling*
- b) Somali dollar
- c) Somali pound
- d) Somali rand

Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo was elected the new president of Somalia in capital Mogadishu on February 9, 2017.

444) Who among the following was sworn in as the new President of Haiti in February 2017?

- a) Jovenel Moise*
- b) Garry Conille
- c) Robert Harting
- d) Bernard Gousse

445) Which of the following is the capital of Haiti?

- a) Port Louis
- b) Port Moresby
- c) Port of Spain
- d) Port-au-Prince*

446) What is the currency of Haiti?

- a) Gourde*
- b) Quetzal
- c) Nuevo sol
- d) Lempira

Jovenel Moise was sworn in as Haiti's new president in the capital, Port-au-Prince on February 7, 2017.

447) Peter Mansfield, who won the Nobel Prize for _____ in 2003, died at the age of 82 on February 8, 2017.

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Physiology or Medicine*

Peter Mansfield, who died on February 8, 2017 at 83, was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with Paul Lauterbur for discoveries concerning Magnetic Resonance Imaging. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1993.

448) India-born Anish Kapoor received the \$1 million Genesis Prize in Jerusalem on February 6, 2017. He is a well known:

- a) Astronomer
- b) Diplomat
- c) Novelist
- d) Sculptor*

Renowned Indian-origin British sculptor Anish Kapoor, who has emerged as a champion of Syrian refugees' rights, won Israel's prestigious USD one million Genesis Prize for his commitment to Jewish values in Jerusalem on February 6, 2017.

449) Which of the following won the annual Visitor's Award for the 'Best University' by the President in February 2017?

- a) Delhi University
- b) University of Pune
- c) Jadavpur University

d) Jawaharlal Nehru University*

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) was announced as the winner of the third "Visitor's Award", presented annually by the President to the "best" central university. (February 7, 2017)

450) Who among the following Indian journalists was declared as winner of the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award 2016 for Excellence in Journalism in February 2017?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Harish Khare
- c) Prannoy Roy
- d) Karan Thapar*

Senior journalist and television commentator Karan Thapar will be conferred the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award 2016 for excellence in journalism. The award carries a cash prize of Rs. 5 lakh, a gold medal and a special trophy. Thapar is the president of ITV, a production house that makes programmes for the BBC, Doordarshan and Channel News Asia. He is currently associated with India Today. (February 10, 2017).

451) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review on February 8, 2017.

- I. Repo rate: 6.25%
- II. Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%
- III. Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III*

452) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review on February 8, 2017.

- I. Bank Rate: 6.75%
- II. Cash Reserve Ratio: 4%
- III. Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 20.25%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II and III only
- d) I and III only

453) What is the new growth forecast for 2016-17 made by the RBI in its bi-monthly monetary policy review on February 8, 2017?

- a) 6.9%*
- b) 7.1%
- c) 7.3%
- d) 7.5%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.25% in its monetary policy review on February 8, 2017. **Key figures** – Repo rate: 6.25%, Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%, Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%, Bank Rate: 6.75%, Cash Reserve Ratio: 4% and Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 21.25%. For 2016-17, GDP growth target has been lowered to 6.9% from earlier target of 7.1%. Cash withdrawal limits are to be eased in two stages. In first stage, weekly cash withdrawal limits on savings account will be raised from Rs. 24,000 to Rs 50,000 from Feb 20, 2017. In the second stage, cash withdrawal limits to be removed from March 13, 2017.

454) The Reserve Bank on February 8, 2017 announced the setting up of which of the following in next fiscal to deal with non-compliance of various regulations of the central bank?

- a) Compliance Department
- b) Regulatory Department
- c) Observance Department
- d) Enforcement Department*

The Reserve Bank on February 8, 2017 said it will set up a separate Enforcement Department beginning next fiscal to deal with non-compliance of various regulations of the central bank. "With a view to developing a sound framework and process for enforcement action, it has been decided to establish a separate Enforcement Department," RBI said in a statement. Necessary steps have been initiated in this regard and the new department will start functioning from April 1, it said.

455) The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill was passed by Parliament in February 2017. It makes holding of more than ____ scrapped notes of Rs 500/1000 denomination punishable with a fine.

- a) 5
- b) 10*
- c) 15
- d) 20

The Lok Sabha on February 7, 2017 passed a bill which makes holding of more than 10 old notes of Rs 500/1000 denomination punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 10,000. The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Bill will extinguish the government's liability towards scrapped notes and also eliminate the possibility of their being used as parallel currency. The Bill also provides for a minimum fine Rs 50,000 for false declaration by persons who were abroad during the demonetisation period (November 9-December 30, 2016) and given time to deposit the scrapped notes with RBI till March 31.

456) Parliament passed The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017 in February 2017. Which of the following statements is correct?

- a) Government will provide incentive to workers who agree to receive salaries by cheque/direct transfer
- b) Employers will decide whether to pay salaries through cheque/direct transfer or cash*
- c) Workers can demand advance salary once a year from their employers
- d) Workers will have a say in deciding the mode of receiving salaries

Parliament on February 8, 2017 passed a bill seeking to enable the Centre and state governments to specify industrial units which will have to pay wages only either through cheques or by transferring into bank accounts. The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2017, which was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha, also enables the employers to pay wages to workers through cheque or by transferring into their bank account without their written authorisation. They can also continue to pay it in cash if they want. Lok Sabha had passed the bill on January 31. Workers earning up to Rs. 18,000 a month will be covered under the Bill.

457) . 'Shell Company' refers to which of the following?

- a) A company that exports its entire production
- b) A company that is not listed on stock exchanges
- c) A company owned by Non-Resident Indians but managed by Indians
- d) A company which does not have business operations or significant assets*

A task force comprising members of various regulatory Ministries and enforcement agencies has been set up on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions for a major crackdown on shell companies, which are used for large-scale money laundering and tax evasion. About 560 beneficiaries, who laundered Rs. 3,900 crore, and 54 chartered accountants, who were involved in the racket, have already been identified. This was stated in a press note by Finance Ministry on February 10, 2017. The agencies will invoke the stringent Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act against the shell companies, freeze their accounts and strike off the names of dormant companies. Disciplinary action will be initiated against professionals abetting the companies and entry operators, who are used to launder unaccounted-for incomes into the banking system for projecting them as white money.

458) Which of the following prices of foodgrains supplied under the National Food Security Act is/are correct?

- I. Wheat: Rs. 3/kg
 - II. Rice: 2/kg
 - III. Coarse grains: Rs. 1/kg
- a) I only
 - b) I & II only
 - c) II & III only
 - d) I, II & III*

459) What is the maximum quantity of foodgrains a BPL household not coming under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana can buy under the National Food Security Act in month?

- a) 15 kg
- b) 20 kg
- c) 25 kg*
- d) 30 kg

460) What is the maximum quantity of foodgrains a BPL household coming under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana can buy under the National Food Security Act in month?

- a) 15 kg
- b) 20 kg
- c) 25 kg
- d) 35 kg*

- After cooking gas LPG, the government on February 9, 2017 made Aadhaar mandatory for availing subsidised foodgrains from the ration shops under the food security law. The government has given time to those not having the biometric-based unique identification number to apply for Aadhaar by June 30.

- Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), which has been completely rolled out across the country in November 2016, each eligible person from Below Poverty Line (BPL) category is entitled to 5 kg of foodgrains. A maximum of five members (25 kg) of a household is given.

- Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) households receive 35 kg of foodgrains per family a month.

- Rice, wheat and coarse grains are priced at Rs 3, Rs 2 and Rs. 1 per kg respectively. The price of foodgrains is the same for AAY and Non-Antyodaya Anna Yojana households

461) Station Redevelopment Programme was launched by the Railways in February 2017. The developer who rebuilds railway station will have to maintain it for how many years?

- a) 5 years
- b) 15 years*
- c) 25 years
- d) 35 years

462) Station Redevelopment Programme was launched by the Railways in February 2017. The developer who rebuilds railway station will get leasing rights for commercial properties developed at these stations for how many years?

- a) 5 years
- b) 15 years
- c) 25 years
- d) 45 years*

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on February 8, 2017 unveiled the first phase of the Station Redevelopment Programme as part of which tenders are being floated for 23 of a total of 400 stations set to get a facelift.

- The financial model for redevelopment work across stations has been devised in a way that the government doesn't incur any expenditure as the developer would be rebuilding the railway stations and maintaining it for 15 years.

- In return, the developer would be granted 45 years' leasing rights for the commercial properties developed at these stations. These properties could be malls, hotels, hospitals, among others.

- The stations are being awarded to private developers under the so-called Swiss challenge method, which involves inviting a proposal online and allowing rival bidders to beat that proposal.

463) The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is allowed to invest up to what share of its incremental corpus in equity and related instruments?

- a) 5%
- b) 10%
- c) 15%*
- d) 20%

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) will increase its equity investments to 15% of its incremental corpus in the next fiscal year, from 10% at present, Union Labour and Employment Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said in New Delhi on February 9, 2017. Although the EPFO is permitted to invest up to 15% of its incremental corpus in equity and related instruments, it began by investing 5% in ETFs in August 2015 and increased it further to 10% in 2016.

464) India was ranked _____ out of 45 global economies on the International Intellectual Property Index in February 2017 by the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC).

- a) 3rd
- b) 13th
- c) 23rd
- d) 43rd*

India continues to languish near the bottom in an international intellectual property index, ranking 43rd out of 45 global economies, according to 'The Roots of Innovation' report by the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC). (February 2017)

465) February 12 to 18, 2017 was observed as _____ in India.

- a) National Productivity Week*
- b) National Innovation Week
- c) National Nutrition Week
- d) Oil Conservation Week

National Productivity Council, an autonomous body under Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, was established on 12th February, 1958. 12th-18th February is celebrated as the 'National Productivity Week' every year. The theme chosen for this year's observance is "From Waste to Profits-through Reduce, Recycle and Reuse".

466) 'R' in TAMRA portal launched by the Ministry of Mines in February 2017 stands for which of the following?

- a) Revenue
- b) Resource*
- c) Regulation
- d) Renewable

With an objective to enhance transparency and accountability as a part of the Ease of Doing Business in the Mining sector, Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal will launch TAMRA (Transparency, Auction Monitoring and Resource Augmentation) portal and Mobile Application in New Delhi on February 10. Ministers of Mining and senior officers from 12 mineral rich States would also be connected through videoconferencing. This was stated in a press note issued by the Ministry of Mines of February 8, 2017.

467) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in February 2017?

- a) Ajay Tyagi*
- b) Ravi Narain
- c) Akshay Sinha
- d) Dinesh Prabhu

Senior Finance Ministry official Ajay Tyagi was on February 10, 2017 appointed as chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). He will succeed Upendra Kumar Sinha, whose extended tenure ends on March 1.

468) Karnataka High Court ordered winding up of United Breweries (Holding) Ltd in February 2017. Who among the following is its promoter?

- a) Vijay Mallya*
- b) Subrata Roy
- c) Nitin Kasliwal
- d) Naveen Jindal

Beginning a formal process, India on February 9, 2017 sought extradition of absconding tycoon Vijay Mallya from the United Kingdom. On February 7, the Karnataka High Court ordered winding up of United Breweries (Holding) Ltd, the 102-year-old parent company of the UB Group. The order followed UBL's failure to pay back banks and individual creditors as per guarantees extended to the now defunct Kingfisher Airlines Ltd. (KFA).

469) Which of the following contributed Rs. 1 crore to the CRPF Welfare Fund in February 2017 under its #KarSalaam initiative dedicated to Indian soldiers?

- a) Facebook
- b) Google
- c) Apple
- d) LG*

LG Electronics India Managing Director, Kim Ki Wan, handed over a cheque for Rs. 1 crore to Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh on February 9, 2017 as contribution for the CRPF Welfare Fund. The contribution is part of the #KarSalaam initiative, dedicated to Indian soldiers, launched by the LG prior to the Republic Day in January 2017.

470) Which of the following launched the Aprilia scooter priced Rs 70,288 in February 2017?

- a) TVS Motors
- b) Honda
- c) Mahindra2Wheelers
- d) Piaggio*

Italy's Piaggio Group on February 9, 2017 launched its second crossover sport-scooter in India under the Aprilia brand, the SR150 RACE priced at Rs 70,288 (ex-showroom Mumbai).

471) Which Indian steel company is selling its Specialty Steel business in UK to Liberty House Group for 100 million pound?

- a) SAIL
- b) Ispat Steel
- c) Jindal Steel
- d) Tata Steel*

Global giant Tata Steel on February 9, 2017 said it has inked a pact to sell its Specialty Steel business that employs 1,700 people to Liberty House Group for 100 million pound (about Rs 840 crore).

472) Who among the following was appointed as Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India in February 2017?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Ravi Narain
- c) Akshay Sinha
- d) Hemant Bhargava*

Hemant Bhargava was on February 10, 2017 appointed as Managing Director of state-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. His term will end on July 31, 2019. The top LIC management consists of the chairman and three managing directors.

473) Which of the following acquired Ambassador brand from Hindustan Motors in February 2017?

- a) Ford
- b) Peugeot*
- c) Hyundai
- d) Nissan Renault

CK Birla controlled Hindustan Motors Ltd — maker of the iconic Ambassador car — has sold the 'Ambassador' brand to French carmaker Peugeot, according to a notification to the bourses on February 10, 2017

474) Which of the following launched the 'Digital Apnao Vyapar Badhao' campaign with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to promote adoption of digital payments by traders in February 2017?

- a) Paytm
- b) Visa
- c) MasterCard*
- d) CCAvenue

Traders' body Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) and MasterCard on February 6, 2017 launched a campaign to create awareness among traders on adoption of digital payments to grow business. As part of the 'Digital Apnao Vyapar Badhao' campaign, 500 camps across 30 cities will be held over 90 days to merchants and traders to get on-board digital platform.

475) Consider the following statements regarding Small Finance Banks.

- I. They are subject to all prudential norms and regulations of RBI as applicable to existing commercial banks
- II. They cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities
- III. They cannot become Business Correspondent (BC) of another bank

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) II only
- b) I and III only
- c) I and II only
- d) I, II and III*

476) Small Finance Banks have to follow the requirement of opening at least _____ of branches in unbanked rural centres (population up to 9,999 as per the latest census).

- a) 10 per cent
- b) 15 per cent
- c) 20 per cent
- d) 25 per cent*

477) At least _____ of the loan portfolio a Small Finance Bank should constitute loans and advances of upto Rs.25 lakh.

- a) 40 per cent
- b) 50 per cent*
- c) 60 per cent
- d) 70 per cent

478) A Small Finance Bank is required to extend _____ of its Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by RBI.

- a) 45 per cent
- b) 55 per cent
- c) 65 per cent
- d) 75 per cent*

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank on February 6, 2017 officially started its services with five pilot branches from Bengaluru. "With a customer base of 35 lakh people, we are now focusing on the under-served. We want to grow as a major player in retail banking in next five years," said Samit Ghosh, MD and CEO, Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, at the launch. Ujjivan Financial Services, a non-banking financial company, is the holding company of the small finance bank. RBI guidelines for Small Finance Banks are as follows:

- The small finance bank shall primarily undertake basic banking activities of acceptance of deposits and lending to unserved and underserved sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries and unorganised sector entities
- The small finance bank will be required to use the words "Small Finance Bank" in its name in order to differentiate it from other banks.
- The small finance banks will be given scheduled bank status once they commence their operations, and found suitable under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.
- The small finance bank cannot set up subsidiaries to undertake non-banking financial services activities.
- The annual branch expansion plans of the small finance banks for the initial five years would need prior approval of RBI. The annual branch expansion plans should be in compliance with the requirement of opening at least 25 per cent of its branches in unbanked rural centres (population upto 9,999 as per the latest census).
- The small finance bank will be subject to all prudential norms and regulations of RBI as applicable to existing commercial banks including requirement of maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR). No forbearance would be provided for complying with the statutory provisions.
- The minimum paid-up equity capital for small finance banks shall be Rs. 100 crore.
- The small finance bank will be required to extend 75 per cent of its Adjusted Net Bank Credit (ANBC) to the sectors eligible for classification as priority sector lending (PSL) by RBI.
- The maximum loan size and investment limit exposure to single and group obligators cannot be more than 10 per cent and 15 per cent of its capital funds, respectively. Further, in order to ensure that the bank extends loans primarily to small borrowers, at least 50 per cent of its loan portfolio should constitute loans and advances of upto Rs.25 lakh.
- The small finance bank cannot be a Business Correspondent (BC) for another bank. However, it can have its own BC network.

479) Which of the following has launched co-branded debit card with IFFCO in February 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Union Bank of India
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) Bank of Baroda*

Bank of Baroda (BoB) and IFFCO have joined hands to promote digital drive of the government by way of providing co-branded debit card with in-built overdraft facilities to farmers. BoB is promoting cashless transactions and as such, intends to have arrangement with IFFCO for issuance of co-branded cards to the farmers, a joint statement said on February 7, 2017.

480) Which of the following would host the proposed Marine Police Training Institute announced by the Home Ministry in February 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat*
- d) Karnataka

The Government will set up a National Marine Police Training Institute (MPTI) at Pindara Village, District Devbhoomi Dwarka in Gujarat, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijju informed Lok Sabha in a written reply on February 8, 2017. The task for establishment of MPTI has been entrusted with Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D).

481) Who among the following won two matches for India in the Asian Oceania Group 1 Davis Cup tie against New Zealand in February 2017?

- a) Sumit Nagal
- b) Vishnu Vardhan
- c) Leander Paes
- d) Ramkumar Ramanathan*

India defeated New Zealand 4-1 in Asian Oceania Group 1 Davis Cup tie in Pune on February 5, 2017. **February 3:** Yuki Bhambri beat Finn Tearney 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the first singles while Ramkumar Ramanathan won 6-3, 6-4, 6-3 over Jose Statham in the second singles match to give India 2-0 lead on the first day. **February 4:** New Zealand reduced India's lead to 2-1 when Leander Paes and Vishnu Vardhan lost the third rubber to Artem Sitak and Michael Venus 3-6, 6-3, 7-6, (8-6), 6-3. **February 5:** Ramkumar Ramanathan and Yuki Bhambri won their respective reverse singles matches to hand India 4-1 win in best of five tie. Ramanathan outplayed Finn Tearney 7-5, 6-1, 6-0 while Bhambri edged past Jose Statham 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

482) Which of the following will host the country's first Center of Excellence for Para Sports? Foundation was laid in February 2017.

- a) Gandhinagar*
- b) Jaipur
- c) Mumbai
- d) Hyderabad

Sports Minister Vijay Goel laid the foundation stone of the Center of Excellence for Para Sports in Gandhinagar on February 5, 2017 at an estimated budget of over Rs 50 crores. It will be the first training facility in the country dedicated to para athletes.

483) Who is the commander of the Indian Navy's INSV Tarini inducted in Goa on February 18, 2017?

- a) Vijaya Devi
- b) Payal Gupta
- c) Vartika Joshi*
- d) Pratibha Jamwal

484) Indian Navy's INSV Tarini was inducted in Goa on February 18, 2017. Designed in the Netherlands, it has been built at:

- a) Bharti Shipyard
- b) Adani Shipyard
- c) Cochin Shipyard
- d) Aquarius Shipyard*

The Indian Navy's second ocean-going sailboat INSV Tarini was inducted in Goa on February 18, 2017. INSV Tarini is slated to be the platform for the first Indian circumnavigation by an all-women crew of the Indian Navy. Lieutenant Commander Vartika Joshi will command the six-member crew that will attempt the circumnavigation. The other crew members are Lieutenant Commander Pratibha Jamwal, Lieutenant Aishwarya Boddapati, Lieutenant Patarapalli Swathi, Lieutenant Vijaya Devi and Lieutenant Payal Gupta. Designed in the Netherlands, INSV Tarini is a sloop built by Aquarius Shipyard Pvt Ltd at Divar, Goa. The boat draws her origin from the famous Tara-Tarini temple of Orissa's Ganjam district. The word Tarini means boat and is also a Sanskrit word for saviour.

485) The foundation stone of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was laid at ____ on February 17, 2017.

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) New Delhi*
- d) Kochi

The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju laid the foundation stone of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in New Delhi on February 17, 2017.

486) Which of the following hosted the 2-day South Asian Speakers' Summit on 'Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' in February 2017?

- a) Delhi
- b) Rajkot
- c) Indore*
- d) Nagpur

Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the two-day South Asian Speakers' Summit on 'Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)' in Indore on February 18, 2017. Pakistan did not take part in the summit.

487) Five new Supreme Court judges were sworn in on February 17, 2017. What is the sanctioned strength of judges in Supreme Court including the CJI?

- a) 29
- b) 30
- c) 31*
- d) 32

Five new Supreme Court judges were on February 17, 2017 sworn in, taking the apex court's strength to 28, including the Chief Justice of India. Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Navin Sinha, Mohan M Shantanagoudar, Deepak Gupta and S Abdul Nazeer were administered the oath of office by CJI J S Khehar in New Delhi. The sanctioned strength of judges in the apex court is 31, including the CJI.

488) CDSCO is Central ____ Standards Control Organisation.

- a) Debt
- b) Drugs*
- c) Digital
- d) Defence

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on February 17, 2017 said the National Regulatory Authority of India (NRA) and affiliated institutions meet the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool requirements for a functional vaccine regulatory system. Some of the affiliated institutions include the Central Drugs Standards Control Organisation (CDSCO) and the Central Drugs Laboratory. The decision was arrived at after a WHO-led team of international experts conducted a comprehensive review -- performed every couple of years -- from February 13 to 17.

489) The Supreme Court on February 16, 2017 ordered Google, Microsoft and Yahoo to delete online pre-natal sex determination advertisements. This has been done under the the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act of ____.

- a) 1990
- b) 1994*
- c) 1998
- d) 2002

The Supreme Court on February 16, 2017 ordered Google, Microsoft and Yahoo to immediately set up their own in-house expert bodies to keep tabs on and delete online pre-natal sex determination advertisements. The court said the intent of the order was to make these search engines "responsive to Indian law." Section 22 of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act of 1994 prohibits advertisements relating to pre-natal determination of sex and imposes punishment.

490) . V. K. Saxena is the Chairman of:

- a) National Textile Corporation
- b) Apparel Exports Promotion Council
- c) India Trade Promotion Organisation
- d) Khadi and Village Industries Commission*

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) on February 15, 2017 announced to set up five 'Khadi Villages' each in all the states to make the rural population self reliant in order to stop their migration into cities. KVIC Chairman Vinay Kumar Saxena made this announcement in Ahmedabad. Under this project, interested villagers will be given charkhas (spinning wheels), looms and other equipments required to set up small scale industries, such as candles, incense sticks, honeybee cultivation, bakery, etc.

491) The International Day of Women and Girls in _____ was observed on February 11, 2017.

- a) Defence
- b) Science*
- c) Industry
- d) Engineering

The second International Day of Women and Girls in Science was observed on February 11. "On this International Day, I urge commitment to end bias, greater investments in science, technology, engineering and math education for all women

and girls as well as opportunities for their careers and longer-term professional advancement so that all can benefit from their ground-breaking future contributions,” said UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, in his message.

492) International Day of Zero Tolerance for female genital mutilation (FGM) was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) January 30
- b) February 2
- c) February 4
- d) February 6*

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation was observed on February, 2017. 2017 Theme: “Building a solid and interactive bridge between Africa and the world to accelerate ending FGM by 2030.” “Sustainable development demands full human rights for all women and girls. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promises an end to this practice by 2030,” said UN Secretary-General in his message.

493) Pandit Dharmasheel Chaturvedi passed away in Varanasi on February 11, 2017. He was well-known as:

- a) Scientist
- b) Journalist*
- c) Painter
- d) Dancer

Pandit Dharmasheel Chaturvedi, an eminent thinker, writer & journalist passed away in Varanasi on February 11, 2017.

494) India and _____ are the two Asian countries in the nine-country ‘Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health’ announced by the WHO in February 2017.

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

India is among nine countries that will be part of a global health network focused on improving the quality of care for new mothers and babies and strengthen national efforts to end preventable deaths of pregnant women and newborns by 2030. The nine countries are India, Bangladesh, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda. Through the new ‘Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health’, supported by World Health Organisation (WHO), UN International Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and other partners, the countries will work to improve the quality of care mothers and babies receive in their health facilities, a statement from WHO said on February 15, 2017.

495) DRDO Chairman S. Christopher announced plans to increase the range of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile to 450 km in February 2017. What is its current range?

- a) 260 km
- b) 290 km*
- c) 320 km
- d) 350 km

496) Who among the following is CEO and MD of BrahMos Aerospace?

- a) Devendra Jha
- b) Sudhir Mishra*
- c) Damodar Gupta
- d) A Sivathanu Pillai

497) For missiles capable of carrying payload above 500 kg, the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) bans transfer of technology to non-member countries if the range exceeds:

- a) 100 km
- b) 200 km
- c) 300 km*
- d) 400 km

India will increase the range of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile to 450 km from the present 290 km, and a test is likely around March 10, DRDO Chairman S. Christopher said in Bengaluru on February 15, 2017. This comes after India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016. The MTCR is an informal and voluntary partnership of countries to prevent the proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying above 500 kg payload for more than 300 km. This prohibits member countries to give such technology to countries outside the club. BrahMos is a joint venture between DRDO of India and NPOM of Russia.

498) Which country witnessed the maximum bombings in the world in 2016, according to a report by the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC) released in February 2017?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India*
- c) Iraq
- d) Syria

India witnessed the maximum bombings in the world in 2016, even more than war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan, according to a report by the National Bomb Data Centre (NBDC) released in February 2017. NBDC functions as the nodal post-blasts investigation department under the National Security Guard (NSG). The report did sound a word of caution on the global data, saying the centre obtained these figures from "open source". "This does not reflect the exact number and details of the incident," the NSG's NBDC said in its annual compilation of such incidents called 'Bombshell'.

499) An indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) christened _____ was handed over to the IAF on February 14, 2017.

- a) Drishti
- b) Nayan
- c) Kiran
- d) Netra*

500) The indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) handed over to the IAF on February 14, 2017 is mounted on an aircraft manufactured by:

- a) Dassault
- b) Boeing
- c) Embraer*
- d) Bombardier

501) Which of the following is the Airborne Early Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) procured for the Indian Air Force from Israel?

- a) Sprint
- b) Goliath
- c) Phalcon*
- d) Albatross

An indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&C) christened 'Netra' was handed over to the IAF on February 14, 2017 at the 'Aero India 2017' in Bengaluru, ushering India into an elite club of nations that have developed such technology on their own. The United States, Russia and Israel are the other countries which have developed the technology for the system. The handover of the system -- mounted on a Brazilian Embraer-145 jet -- by the DRDO to the Indian Air Force (IAF) was done in the presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, DRDO chief S. Christopher and Defence Minister's Scientific Adviser G. Satheesh Reddy. The IAF is already using the Israeli Phalcon AWACS on the Russian IL-76 heavy-lift aircraft to detect aerial threats from jets or missiles even from a distance of 400 km away.

502) Which of the following is Indian Navy's survey vessel that has gone green by installing a solar power system on board?

- a) INS Nirdeshak
- b) INS Anveshak
- c) INS Nireekshak
- d) INS Sarvekshak*

Indian Navy's survey vessel INS Sarvekshak has gone green by installing a solar power system on board. According to the Navy, the system equipped on the ship is 100 per cent reliable for power source. It can be used for communication equipment, battery charging and general lightings onboard round the clock with battery outputs during night. (Feb 12, 2017)

503) Which paramilitary force organised its first band display and retreat ceremony at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi on February 11, 2017?

- a) Border Security Force*
- b) National Security Guard
- c) Indo-Tibetan Police Force
- d) Central Reserve Police Force

The Border Security Force (BSF) on February 11, 2017 organised its first band display and retreat ceremony, marking the beginning of a series of ceremonies at the National Police Memorial in New Delhi. Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju was the Chief Guest at the ceremony. It has been decided to organise a band display as well as retreat ceremony on Saturday at National Police Memorial site. It is a monthly event for all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs).

504) 'Science Express Climate Action Special' was flagged off from New Delhi on February 17, 2017. Its seven-month journey will conclude at which of the following stations on September 8?

- a) Gandhinagar*
- b) Jaipur
- c) Mumbai
- d) Hyderabad

505) 'Science Express Climate Action Special' was flagged off from New Delhi on February 17, 2017. It will cover how many stations across the country?

- a) 108
- b) 88
- c) 68*
- d) 48

A 'Science Express' train was flagged off from New Delhi on February 17, 2017 on a seven-month journey that will cover 68 stations across the country to spread awareness about climate change. Named 'Science Express Climate Action Special (SECAS)', with the collaborative efforts of ministries of Railways, Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Science & Technology, the 16-coach train will travel to Tripura and to the north bank of the Brahmaputra for the first time. Exhibits of eight coaches of the train are devoted to information, caste studies and materials related to various aspects of climate change. The train will stop at each station for students and others to visit the exhibitions in coaches. The train will end its journey at Gandhinagar station on September 8. This unique mobile exhibition was first launched in October 2007 by DST. Since then it has travelled across India eight times.

506) Who among the following is the brand ambassador of 'Compost Banao, Compost Apnao' campaign of 'Swachh Bharat Mission'?

- a) Ajay Devgn
- b) Amitabh Bachchan*
- c) Anupam Kher
- d) Boman Irani

Union Ministry of Urban Development has launched its new publicity campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission aimed at encouraging people to convert kitchen waste into compost for scientific processing of municipal solid. Named as 'Compost Banao, Compost Apnao', the campaign has Amitabh Bachchan as its brand ambassador. Stating this in Chandigarh on February 17, 2017, Joint Secretary of Urban Development Ministry Praveen Prakash said that the Centre has been stepping up efforts to encourage conversion of biodegradable waste into compost, for use as fertilizer, and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill sites. The campaign is produced by the ministry with the help of NFDC

507) India's only active volcano is in which state/UT? It erupted for about four hours in January 2017, say scientists attached to the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO).

- a) Andaman and Nicobar*
- b) Odisha
- c) Daman and Diu
- d) Lakshadweep

India's only active volcano, the Barren Islands volcano, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, erupted for about four hours in January 2017, say scientists attached to the Goa-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO). This was stated in a statement issued by the Press Information Bureau on February 17, 2017, quoting an account of the NIO research team which was in the vicinity of the volcano on January 23, 2017.

508) Which paramilitary force announced the setting up of Patanjali Ayurved stores on its campuses across the country? The first such 'shop' was inaugurated at its camp in New Delhi on February 15, 2017.

- a) Border Security Force*
- b) National Security Guard
- c) Indo-Tibetan Police Force
- d) Central Reserve Police Force

After yoga skills, BSF troops will use products prepared by Baba Ramdev-promoted 'Patanjali' FMCG brand as the border guarding force is set to open over a dozen such stores on its campuses across the country. The first such 'shop' was inaugurated at the BSF camp in New Delhi on February 15, 2017. The BSF Wives Welfare Association (BWWA) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with "Patanjali Ayurved Limited, Haridwar, for sale of items of Patanjali through BWWA Patanjali shops spread across various BSF locations all over India." A BSF statement said the MoU had a provision for discounts on sale to the country's largest border guarding force personnel and their families.

509) The Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS) launched in February 2017 revealed that only 5% Indian women have sole control over choosing their husband. The survey is an initiative of the University of Maryland and which Indian institution?

- a) CMIE

- b) NCAER*
- c) NCW
- d) TISS

The Indian Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted by the University of Maryland and the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in 2004-2005 and 2011-2012, was released in February 2017. The survey revealed that 4.99 per cent of women in India had sole control over choosing their husbands, while 79.8 per cent of women needed permission to visit a health centre, according to the 2012 survey, showing little change since a survey in 2005, when 5 per cent reported having sole control over choosing their husband, and 74.2 per cent reported needing permission to visit a health centre.

510) 'The Clothing of Books' is a recently released book authored by:

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Jhumpa Lahiri*

511) Who among the following was appointed as Chairman of National Commission for Schedule Tribes in February 2017?

- a) Nand Kumar Sai*
- b) Ramvihar Netam
- c) Satyanarayan Jatiya
- d) Bhushan Lal Jangde

BJP veteran and tribal leader from Chhattisgarh, Nand Kumar Sai, has been appointed as Chairman of National Commission for Schedule Tribes. Sai will take oath on February 28 at New Delhi.

512) T. V. Parasuram died on February 14, 2017 at the age of 93. He was well-known as:

- a) Scientist
- b) Playwright
- c) Politician
- d) Journalist*

Veteran journalist T V Parasuram, a former correspondent of the Press Trust of India (PTI), died in Washington on February 14, 2017. He was 93. Parasuram has authored two books, 'A Medal for Kashmir', and 'Jewish Heritage in India'.

513) Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Vikas Swarup, was appointed as India's next High Commissioner to which of the following in February 2017?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada*
- c) New Zealand
- d) Pakistan

514) Which of the following books has been authored by Indian diplomat Vikas Swarup?

- a) White Tiger
- b) Narcopolis
- c) The Museum of Innocence
- d) Six Suspects*

Official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Vikas Swarup, was on February 16, 2017 appointed as India's next High Commissioner to Canada. Swarup has been serving as the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs since April 2015. An officer of the 1986 batch of the Indian Foreign Service (IFS), Swarup has previously served in Turkey, the United States, Ethiopia, the United Kingdom, South Africa and Japan. Swarup has authored three well-received books – 'Q & A', 'Six Suspects' and 'The Accidental Apprentice'. "Q & A" was made into "Slumdog Millionaire", which won eight Academy Awards in 2009, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Adapted Screenplay.

515) The shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar was in news in February 2017. It is in which province of Pakistan?

- a) Sindh*
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

More than 40 people were killed after a blast took place in the premises of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar's shrine in Sehwan town of Sindh province of Pakistan on February 16, 2017. The explosion took place within the premises of the shrine at the spot where the dhamaal (Sufi ritual) was being performed. The shrine is dedicated to Syed Muhammad Usman Marwandia, a 12th century Sufi who was born in Marwand, present day Afghanistan.

516) 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco observed in February 2017. The treaty prohibits nuclear weapons in:

- a) Africa
- b) Europe
- c) Australia
- d) South America*

Nuclear disarmament can be achieved by “a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory”, said Pankaj Sharma, Joint Secretary (D&ISA) at the 50th anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in Mexico City on February 14, 2017. The Treaty of Tlatelolco is the conventional name given to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

517) Which of the following is the multi-nation military exercise organised in Thailand in February 2017?

- a) Viper Games
- b) Cobra Games*
- c) Iguana Games
- d) Python Games

The US Pacific Command on February 14, 2017 inaugurated the Cobra Gold military exercises in Thailand. This year's edition of the Cobra Gold will have 29 countries including India attending as both participants and observers for the 11-day exercises.

518) UNSECO sponsored World Radio Day was observed on February 13, 2017. Who among the following is the Director-General of UNESCO?

- a) Helen Clarke
- b) Taleb Rifai
- c) Mary Robinson
- d) Irina Bokova*

519) Which of the following is the theme of World Radio Day observed on February 13, 2017?

- a) Radio is All!
- b) Radio is Us!
- c) Radio is We!
- d) Radio is You!*

The sixth World Radio Day was celebrated February 13, 2017. The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations Assembly in 2011. The theme for its 2017 edition is “Radio is You!” In 2011, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 13 February as World Radio Day, the day UN Radio was established in 1946. “On World Radio Day, UNESCO calls on everyone to nurture the power of radio to foster the conversations and the listening we need for cooperation to tackle the challenges all humanity faces”, said Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, on the occasion.

520) . Which city in Greece was in news in February 2017 for detection of a 250-kilogramme unexploded World War II bomb that was defused by soldiers?

- a) Corfu
- b) Patras
- c) Athens
- d) Thessaloniki*

Greek soldiers on February 12, 2017 successfully defused a nearly 250-kilogramme unexploded World War II bomb in Thessaloniki, the country's second largest city, after evacuating tens of thousands of people from the area.

521) Who among the following in President Donald Trump's administration resigned in February 2017?

- a) Commerce Secretary
- b) National Security Adviser*
- c) Director of the Central Intelligence Agency
- d) Secretary of State

President Donald Trump's embattled national security advisor Michael Flynn resigned on February 14, 2017 amid allegations that he secretly discussed US sanctions against Russia with its envoy before Trump's inauguration and then tried to cover up the conversations.

522) Which country's Vice President was declared as a major drug trafficker by the United States government in February 2017?

- a) Venezuela*
- b) Peru
- c) Bolivia

d) Cuba

The United States has officially labelled Venezuela's hardline Vice President Tareck El Aissami a major drug trafficker, naming the veteran politician to its narcotics "kingpin" sanctions list. This was announced by the country's Treasury in Washington on February 13, 2017.

523) Who among the following was re-elected as President of Kyrgyzstan for a new seven-year term in February 2017?

- a) Kurmanbek Bakiyev
- b) Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow*
- c) Omurbek Tekebayev
- d) Muhammetnazar Gapurow

Turkmenistan's reigning strongman Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov bagged a new seven-year term with nearly 98 per cent of a weakly contested vote, electoral officials said in capital Ashgabat on February 13, 2017.

524) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Germany in February 2017?

- a) Horst Kohler
- b) Roman Herzog
- c) Johannes Rau
- d) Frank-Walter Steinmeier*

Ex-foreign minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier was elected as the new President of Germany on February 12, 2017. The 61-year-old Steinmeier of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) received 931 of 1,239 valid votes. He will replace Joachim Gauck, 77.

525) Dick Bruna, who died aged 89 in the Dutch city of Utrecht on February 16, 2017, was well-known as:

- a) Chef
- b) Singer
- c) Illustrator*
- d) Film Producer

Dutch artist and illustrator Dick Bruna, creator of beloved children's character Miffy the white rabbit, died aged 89 in the central Dutch city of Utrecht on February 16, 2017.

526) Al Jarreau, who died aged 76 in Los Angeles on February 13, 2017, was well-known as:

- a) Chef
- b) Singer*
- c) Illustrator
- d) Film Producer

Grammy-winning jazz singer Al Jarreau died in Los Angeles at the age of 76 on February 13, 2017.

527) Which of the following was launched by PSLV-C37 along with 103 other satellites on February 15, 2017?

- a) Astrosat-2
- b) Cartosat-2*
- c) Oceansat-2
- d) Meteosat-2

528) INS-1 and INS-2 were launched by PSLV-C37 along with 102 other satellites on February 15, 2017. 'N' in INS is:

- a) New
- b) Nano*
- c) National
- d) Numerical

529) PSLV-C37 launched 104 satellites on February 15, 2017. Which country owned the most number of satellites?

- a) UAE
- b) France
- c) India
- d) Unites States*

PSLV-C37, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, launched the 714 kg Cartosat-2 Series Satellite along with 103 co-passenger satellites on February 15, 2017 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. The total weight of all the 104 satellites carried on-board PSLV-C37 was 1378 kg. After separation, the 2 solar arrays of Cartosat-2 series satellite were deployed automatically and ISRO's Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bangalore took over the control of the satellite. Of the 103 co-passenger satellites carried by PSLV-C37, two – ISRO Nano Satellite-1 (INS-1) weighing 8.4 kg and INS-2 weighing 9.7 kg – are technology demonstration satellites from India. The remaining

101 co-passenger satellites were international customer satellites from USA (96), The Netherlands (1), Switzerland (1), Israel (1), Kazakhstan (1) and UAE (1).

530) Which of the following announced plans in February 2017 to build the first city on Mars by 2117?

- a) UAE*
- b) France
- c) India
- d) Israel

531) Which of the following hosted the World Government Summit from February 12 to 14, 2017?

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Dubai*

The UAE has unveiled plans to build the first city on Mars by 2117 as the energy-rich country looks to transport people to the Red Planet over the next few decades. The announcement was made by the country's leadership on the sidelines of the World Government Summit organised in Dubai from February 12 to 14, 2017. A virtual presentation depicting a preliminary concept for the city on Mars was made during the announcement.

532) Who won the first prize in 'Central Government Hospitals' category at the Kayakalp awards of the Health Ministry in February 2017.

- a) AIIMS, Delhi*
- b) PGIMER, Chandigarh
- c) JIPMER, Puducherry
- d) NIMHANS, Bangalore

A national felicitation ceremony of Kayakalp awardees (2016-17) was held in New Delhi on February 15, 2017 for their work in maintaining high standards of sanitation and hygiene in public health facilities. J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, gave away the awards to the winners under various categories. Under the Central Government Hospitals category, the first prize of Rs 5 Crore was given to the All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi. North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (NEIGRIHMS), Shillong got the second prize of Rs 3 Crores and Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh received the third prize of Rs 1 Crore. He also felicitated the District Hospitals, PHCs and CHCs for winning the awards in their respective states and union territory.

533) Who among the following won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award in February 2017?

- a) Usain Bolt*
- b) Rafael Nadal
- c) Valentino Rossi
- d) Novak Djokovic

534) Who among the following won the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year award in February 2017?

- a) Kelly Slater
- b) Jessica Ennis
- c) Simone Biles*
- d) Vivian Cheruiyot

Jamaica's Usain Bolt won the 'Sportsman of the Year' trophy for the record-equalling fourth time while gymnast Simone Biles clinched the top honour in the women's category at the Laureus World Awards in Monaco on February 15, 2017. Bolt had earlier won the award in 2009, 2010 and 2013. Olympic gymnastics champion Biles notched up the 'Sportswoman of the Year' trophy, courtesy her brilliant show at the Rio Games, where she finished with four golds and a bronze. Michael Phelps bagged the 'Comeback of the Year' award after returning to the swimming pool and scooping five more gold medals in Rio Olympics. Formula One champion Nico Rosberg claimed the Breakthrough of the year award. He ended runner-up in 2014 and 2015 but finally won the title in 2016.

535) Who among the following won the World Press Photo Award in February 2017 for his photo 'hatred of our times'?

- a) Mads Nissen
- b) Burhan Ozbilici*
- c) Markus Schreiber
- d) Goran Tomasevic

Image of 'hatred of our times' has won the 2017 World Press Photo award. The shocking image of a Turkish policeman assassinating the Russian envoy to Turkey won the prestigious World Press Photo Award on February 13, 2017. Judges praised the courage and bravery of Burhan Ozbilici, a photographer for Associated Press, who stood his ground as 22-year-old policeman Mevlut Mert Altintas pumped nine bullets into ambassador Andrei Karlov at the opening of an Ankara

exhibition. The judges from World Press Photo Foundation in Amsterdam acknowledged they had had a tough job to choose the 2017 winner from more than 80,400 images submitted by 5,034 photographers from 125 countries.

536) Dev Patel won best supporting actor award at the 70th British Academy Film Awards in London in February 2017 for which movie?

- a) Lion*
- b) I, Daniel Blake
- c) Arrival and Nocturnal Animals
- d) Manchester by the Sea

Director Damien Chazelle's musical "La La Land" continued its award dominance by taking five trophies, including the best film and best actress for Emma Stone, at the 70th British Academy Film Awards in London on February 12, 2017. British-Indian actor Dev Patel won best supporting actor award for "Lion". Casey Affleck was named best actor for "Manchester by the Sea" while its director Kenneth Lonergan won the award for best original screenplay. Viola Davis won the best supporting actress prize for "Fences". 'Spider Man' star Tom Holland won the EE Rising Star award, the only trophy that is voted by public.

537) Who among the following won Album of the Year, Record of the Year and Song of the Year at the 2017 Grammys in Los Angeles in February 2017?

- a) Adele*
- b) Norah Jones
- c) Beyonce
- d) Lady Gaga

538) India's Sandeep Das is among the winners of Grammy in the World Music category in February 2017. He is well-known for which instrument?

- a) Sitar
- b) Tabla*
- c) Sarangi
- d) Violin

British singer Adele won Album of the Year, Record of the Year and Song of the Year at the 2017 Grammys in Los Angeles on February 12, 2017. Adele won in all the five categories that she was nominated for including Best Pop Solo Performance and Best Pop Vocal Album. Beyonce won Best Urban Contemporary Album and Best Music Video awards. Indian tabla player Sandeep Das was part of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble "Sing Me Home" which won the Grammy in the World Music category that also included sitarist Anoushka Shankar's "Land of Gold".

539) Which of the following won the IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality award in February 2017 for its mid-day meal programme?

- a) ISKCON*
- b) Akshay Patra Foundation
- c) Bachpan Bachao Andolan
- d) Child Rights and You

International Society for Krishna Consciousness's (ISKCON) food relief foundation 'Annamrita' has bagged the IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality award. 'Annamrita', which provides food to over 12 lakh students daily through its mid-day meal programme across India, has bagged the award in the NGO category for second time in a row.

540) The Reserve Bank on February 17, 2017 increased the quantum of loan against gold that could be granted by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to _____, provided the repayment period does not exceed 12 months.

- a) Rs 1.5 lakh
- b) Rs 2 lakh*
- c) Rs 2.5 lakh
- d) Rs 3 lakh

The Reserve Bank on February 17, 2017 doubled the quantum of loan against gold that could be granted by Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) to Rs 2 lakh, provided the repayment period does not exceed 12 months. Earlier, the RRBs were permitted to grant gold loans up to Rs 1 lakh with bullet repayment option. Interest will be charged to the account at monthly rests but will become due for payment along with principal only at the end of 12 months from the date of sanction. Further, RRBs will have to maintain a Loan to Value (LTV) ratio of 75 per cent on the outstanding amount of loan including the interest on an ongoing basis, failing which the loan will be treated as a Non Performing Asset (NPA).

541) Which of the following unit of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) is not correctly matched with its location?

- a) Bank Note Press: Dewas
- b) India Security Press: Mysore*
- c) Currency Note Press: Nashik

d) Security Printing Press: Hyderabad

Union Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley gave away awards for excellence at the 11th Foundation Day celebrations of Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Ltd. (SPMCIL) at the National Media Centre, New Delhi on February 17, 2017. The CMD Cup was awarded to the India Security Press, Nashik. **SPMCIL Units:** India Government Mint (Mumbai), India Government Mint (Kolkata), India Government Mint (Hyderabad), India Government Mint (Noida), Currency Note Press (Nashik), Bank Note Press (Dewas), India Security Press (Nashik), Security Printing Press (Hyderabad) and Security Paper Mill (Hoshangabad).

542) Which of the following was merged with the State Bank of India in 2008?

- a) State Bank of Saurashtra*
- b) State Bank of Indore
- c) State Bank of Patiala
- d) All the above

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15, 2017 approved the acquisition by the State Bank of India of its subsidiary banks namely State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore.

- The Cabinet also approved the introduction of a Bill in Parliament to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956. The acquisition under Section 35 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955 will result in the creation of a stronger merged entity.

- State Bank of India first merged State Bank of Saurashtra with itself in 2008. In 2010, State Bank of Indore was merged with it.

- With the merger of all the five associates, SBI is expected to become a lender of global proportions with an asset base of Rs 37 lakh crore, 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs. It will have over 50 crore customers.

- Out of the five subsidiary banks, three are listed: State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur and State Bank of Travancore.

543) Which of the following statements about Masala bonds is not correct?

- a) The exchange rate fluctuation risk is borne by the issuer*
- b) They are issued by Indian entities only
- c) Overseas investors invest in them
- d) They raise funds in Indian currency

Reserve Bank on February 16, 2017 permitted multilateral financial institutions to invest in rupee denominated bonds popularly known as 'masala bonds' issued by Indian entities. "In order to provide more choices of investors to Indian entities issuing rupee denominated bonds abroad, it has been decided to also permit multilateral and regional financial institutions where India is a member country, to invest in these rupee denominated bonds," said a RBI notification.

Masala bonds are debt instruments issued by Indian corporates for raising money from overseas investors. Before masala bonds, corporates have had to rely on avenues such as external commercial borrowings or ECBs. The challenge with ECBs is the entity raising money is faced with a currency risk - they have to be raised and repaid in dollar terms. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers. So risk of currency fluctuation is borne by the buyer not the seller (issuer).

544) What is the foodgrain production in 2016-17 according to the second Advance Estimates of production of major crops released on February 15, 2017?

- a) 241.98 million tonnes
- b) 251.98 million tonnes
- c) 261.98 million tonnes
- d) 271.98 million tonnes*

545) The second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 was released on February 15, 2017. Which of the following foodgrains' output has improved over 2015-16?

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Pulses
- d) All the above*

546) The second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 was released on February 15, 2017. Which of the following crop's output has improved over 2015-16?

- a) Cotton*
- b) Sugarcane
- c) Jute & Mesta

d) All the above

Production of foodgrains in 2016-17 has been estimated at a record 271.98 million tonnes in the second Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 released by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on February 15, 2017. The estimate of 271.98 million tonnes for 2016-17 is higher by 20.41 million tonnes than the foodgrain production in 2015-16.

Estimated production of major crops during 2016-17 is:

FOODGRAINS: 271.98 million tonnes (record)

- **Rice:** 108.86 million tonnes (record)
- **Wheat:** 96.64 million tonnes (record)
- **Coarse Cereals:** 44.34 million tonnes (record), Maize: 26.15 million tonnes (record)
- **Pulses:** 22.14 million tonnes (record) Gram: 9.12 million tonnes, Tur: 4.23 million tonnes (record), Urad: 2.89 million tonnes (record)
- **Oilseeds:** 33.60 million tonnes (record): Soyabean: 14.13 million tonnes Groundnut: 8.47 million tonnes Castorseed: 1.74 million tonnes

Production of Sugarcane is estimated at 309.98 million tonnes which is lower by 38.46 million tonnes than the last year's production of 348.45 million tonnes.

Despite lower area coverage during 2016-17, higher productivity of Cotton has resulted into higher production of 32.51 million bales (of 170 kg each) as compared to 30.01 million bales during 2015-16.

Production of Jute & Mesta estimated at 10.06 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower than their production of 10.52 million bales during 2015-16.

547) First Advance Estimates of production of horticulture crops in 2016-17 was released on February 17, 2017. Which of the following's output is lower than 2015-16?

- a) Onion*
- b) Potato
- c) Tomato
- d) All the above

548) What was the production of fruits in 2016-17 according to the first Advance Estimates released on February 17, 2017?

- a) 52 million tonnes
- b) 72 million tonnes
- c) 92 million tonnes*
- d) 112 million tonnes

549) What was the production of vegetables in 2016-17 according to the first Advance Estimates released on February 17, 2017?

- a) 88.6 million tonnes
- b) 108.6 million tonnes
- c) 128.6 million tonnes
- d) 168.6 million tonnes*

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has released the Final Estimates: 2015-16 and First Advance Estimates of 2016-17, of area and production of horticulture crops on February 17, 2017.

Highlights: 2016-17 (First Advance Estimates)

- The horticulture production of the country during 2016-17 is estimated to be around 287 million tonnes which is marginally higher as compared to 2015-16.
- Production of fruits is estimated to be 92 million tonnes which is about 2% higher than the previous year.
- Production of vegetables is estimated to be around 168.6 million tonnes which is marginally lower by 0.3% than the previous year.
- Production of spices is estimated to be around 7 million tonnes which is almost same as previous year.
- Production of onion is estimated to be around 197 lakh tonnes which is 6% lower than the previous year.
- Production of potato is estimated to be around 439 lakh tonnes which is 1% higher than the previous year.
- Production of tomato is estimated to be around 189 lakh tonnes which is about 1 % higher than the previous year.

550) What was the teledensity in India at the end of December 2016 data released by TRAI in February 2017?

- a) 69.9
- b) 79.9
- c) 89.9*
- d) 99.9

The number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,123.96 million at the end of November 2016 to 1,151.78 million at the end of December 2016, data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) said in New Delhi on February 17, 2017. The overall teledensity (number of telephone connections for every hundred individuals) increased to 89.90 at the end of December 2016.

551) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in January 2017?

- a) 1.25%
- b) 2.25%
- c) 3.25%
- d) 5.25%*

552) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for January 2017?

- a) 2.17%
- b) 3.17%*
- c) 4.17%
- d) 5.17%

• Soaring petrol and diesel prices fuelled Wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation to a 30-month high of 5.25 per cent in January 2017. It was -1.07% in January 2016. In December and November, it stood at 3.39 per cent and 3.38 per cent, respectively. As per Commerce Ministry data on February 14, 2017, prices of petrol, diesel, minerals and manufactured items like sugar and fibre witnessed a spurt.

• Impacted by note ban, Retail inflation, measured in terms of Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to 3.17 per cent in January 2017. It was 3.41 per cent in December and 5.69 per cent in January 2016.

553) Which of the following hosted the Indian Seed Congress organised by the National Seed Association of India (NSAI) in February 2017?

- a) Kolkata*
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chandigarh
- d) Bhopal

National Seed Association of India, (NSAI), the apex organization representing the Indian Seed Industry, organised the Indian Seed Congress – 2017 in Kolkata from February 12 to 14, 2017. The theme of Seed Congress was “Seed of Joy”. The event was inaugurated by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh on February 12.

554) What is the new amount of immediate assistance to rescued bonded labourers? This was announced by Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya in February 2017.

- a) Rs. 20,000*
- b) Rs. 40,000
- c) Rs. 60,000
- d) Rs. 80,000

Government has increased the amount of immediate assistance to rescued bonded labourers to Rs 20,000 from the existing Rs 5,000 under the District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund, Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said on February 14, 2017. “The scheme provides for immediate assistance to rescued person out of the District Bonded Labour Rehabilitation Fund at the disposal of the District Magistrate. The amount of immediate assistance has been enhanced from Rs 5,000 to 20,000 with effect from January 17, 2017,” Dattatreya said. Besides, the financial assistance has been increased from Rs 20,000 to 1 lakh per adult male beneficiary, Rs 2 lakh for special category beneficiaries.

555) Which of the following has topped Fortune’s annual list of the “World’s Most Admired Companies” released in February 2016?

- a) Starbucks
- b) Apple*
- c) Southwest Airlines
- d) General Electric

556) Alphabet is the parent company of which of the following?

- a) Amazon
- b) Twitter
- c) Google*
- d) Facebook

Fortune has announced its annual ‘World’s Most Admired Companies’ list, and Apple has topped for the tenth year in a row. Google’s parent company Alphabet is sixth in the latest list released in February 2017 while Facebook and Microsoft are jointly in ninth position. **Top 10:** 1. Apple (Computers) 2. Amazon.com (Internet Services & Retailing) 3. Starbucks (Food Services) 4. Berkshire Hathaway (Insurance: Property and Casualty) 5. Disney (Entertainment) 6. Alphabet

(Internet Services & Retailing) 7. General Electric (Industrial Machinery) 8. Southwest Airlines (Airlines) 9. Facebook (Internet Services & Retailing) 9. Microsoft (Computer Software)

557) 26. What was India's position in the Index of Economic Freedom unveiled by the Heritage Foundation in February 2017?

- a) 103rd
- b) 113th
- c) 123rd
- d) 143^{rd*}

558) Which of the following was ranked first in the Index of Economic Freedom unveiled by the Heritage Foundation in February 2017?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Hong Kong*
- c) Switzerland
- d) Singapore

559) India has been classified under which category in the Index of Economic Freedom of the Heritage Foundation unveiled in February 2017?

- a) free
- b) mostly free
- c) moderately free
- d) mostly unfree*

India ranked a dismal 143rd on the Index of Economic Freedom by American think-tank Heritage Foundation in its annual report released in February 2017. **Top 10:** 1. Hong Kong 2. Singapore 3. New Zealand 4. Switzerland 5. Australia 6. Estonia 7. Canada 8. United Arab Emirates 9. Ireland 10. Chile. **Countries have been put in five categories:** Free, Mostly Free, Moderately Free, Mostly Unfree and Repressed. Putting India in the category of "mostly unfree" economies, the think-tank said progress on market-oriented reforms has been "uneven". It said the state "maintains an extensive presence" in many areas through public-sector enterprises. "A restrictive and burdensome regulatory environment discourages the entrepreneurship that could provide broader private-sector growth." Also, India's overall score of 52.6 points is 3.6 points less than that of last year, when India ranked 123rd.

560) Which of the following became India's tenth scheduled airline to start functioning with Delhi-Kolkata-Durgapur flight from February 15?

- a) Fly Air
- b) Zoom Air*
- c) Planet Air
- d) Bharat Air

India's latest private airline, Zoom Air, will start daily scheduled operations on the Delhi-Kolkata-Durgapur-Delhi sector from February 15. The airline becomes India's 10th scheduled carrier for domestic skies presently, with others being Air India, Air India Express, Jet Airways, Jetlite, Indigo, Spicejet, GoAir, Vistara and Air Asia India. Koustav M Dhar, CEO and Director of Zoom Air, said that his airline shall fill the gap of sectors that are less catered to, by other scheduled airlines.

561) Which digital payments firm has decided to merge with e-commerce company Infibeam?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) CCAvenue*

E-commerce provider Infibeam will soon offer digital payment gateway services as the company has entered into an agreement with 15-year-old digital payment player CCAvenue for a merger into the former. Vishal Mehta is the founder and CEO of Infibeam. CCAvenue has over 1 lakh merchants with annual transactions exceeding Rs. 15,000 crore. (February 15, 2017)

562) Which bank organised its second Digital Innovation Summit in February 2017 and selected five ideas from startups in the areas of artificial intelligence, marketing, quality assurance and payments?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank*
- d) IndusInd Bank

HDFC Bank on February 16, 2017 announced winners of second edition of its digital innovation summit by announcing winners are from artificial intelligence, augmented reality, Internet of things, secure payment solutions, and rural fintech domains. Five fintech start-ups from Israel, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi were selected in this round. While two winners are from Bengaluru, other three are based in Delhi, Mumbai, and in the Israeli city of Tel Aviv, respectively. These start-ups

get a chance to deploy their innovations in the bank, after further evaluation on technical, business, security, and compliance parameters.

563) Which of the following has foreign companies announced partnership with India's Dynamatic Technologies Ltd. for serving the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) market in India in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot
- d) Israel Aerospace Industries*

564) Which of the following has foreign companies announced partnership with India's Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for transfer of technology of its STARStreak missiles in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales*
- c) Micropilot
- d) Dassault Aviation

565) Which of the following foreign companies announced partnership with India's Deepti Electronics & Electro Optics Pvt. Ltd. (DELOPT) to enter the drone (UAV) business in India in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot*
- d) Dassault Aviation

566) Which of the following foreign companies announced partnership with India's Reliance Aerostructure Limited for Rafale fighter jets in February 2017?

- a) Saab
- b) Thales
- c) Micropilot
- d) Dassault Aviation*

The 11th biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition – Aero India 2017 was organised at the Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru from February 14 to 18, 2017. Highlights are as follows:

- Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) and Dynamatic Technologies Ltd (DTL) announced their cooperation to jointly address the needs of the Indian Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) market.
- Thales and defence PSU Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) signed an agreement to assess opportunities for transfer of technology of the flagship STARStreak missile capability to India.
- Saab subsidiary Saab Grintek Defence (SGD) and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd's (HAL) Avionics Division have signed a contract to deliver transfer of technology (ToT) between South Africa and India. The contract will see the transfer of technology for in-country maintenance of Saab's Integrated Defensive Aids Suite (IDAS) system in India.
- Public sector defence electronics major, Bharat Electronics Limited (BHEL) launched remote controlled weapon station (RCWS) for the Indian Army's Arjun tanks. The RCWS is an improvised version of the manually operated air defence gun. It enables the soldier to aim and fire at aerial targets from the safe interiors of the battle tank.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's full scale mock-up of Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) was unveiled.
- The \$4-billion JK Organisation's defence arm, Deepti Electronics & Electro Optics Pvt. Ltd. (DELOPT), inked a pact with a Canadian drone maker Micropilot, marking a deeper entry into the drone (UAV) business in India.
- Reliance Aerostructure Limited has incorporated a joint venture (51:49) with Dassault Aviation to capture a major share of the offset business arising from the €7.87 billion deal for Rafale fighter jets.

567) Indian Navy announced partnership with which corporate group for procurement of Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) in February 2017?

- a) Tata*
- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T

A contract between Nova Integrated Systems Ltd and Indian Navy for procurement of Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) was concluded on February 17, 2017. This is the first contract concluded under the Buy and Make (Indian) Category, in line with the Government's 'Make in India' initiative. Nova Integrated Systems Ltd is a fully-owned subsidiary of Tata Group's Tata Advanced System Ltd.

568) Which Indian corporate group has signed a major contract with the U.S. Navy in February 2017 to provide repair and alteration services for ships of the Seventh Fleet?

- a) Tata

- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance*
- d) L&T

Anil Ambani group's Reliance Defence and Engineering has inked a major contract with the U.S. Navy to provide repair and alteration services for ships of the Seventh Fleet. This would be the first instance of an Indian company, either public or private, providing logistical support to the U.S. military within Indian territory. On February 13, 2017, the Anil Ambani group firm announced that Reliance Infrastructure (RInfra)-led Reliance Defence and Engineering (RDEL) had signed a Master Ship Repair Agreement (MSRA) with the U.S. Navy to maintain the vessels of its Seventh Fleet involving 100 vessels operating in the Indian Ocean. Currently, these vessels visit Singapore or Japan for such works.

569) Which Indian corporate group has signed a contract with Raytheon of USA for co-production of components of Stinger air defense missile in February 2017?

- a) Tata*
- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T

US-based Raytheon Company on February 17, 2017 said it has signed an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) to engage in co-production of Stinger air defense missile components. Raytheon Company is a technology and innovation firm specialising in defense, civil government and cyber security solutions headquartered in Waltham, Massachusetts.

570) Which Indian corporate group has signed a contract with MBDA of Europe for co-production of anti-tank guided missiles in February 2017?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) Reliance
- d) L&T*

Larsen & Toubro has tied up with MBDA to develop missile systems through a joint venture company termed – L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd. MBDA is a European developer and manufacturer of missiles. It is held jointly by Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo, and has over 90 armed forces in its customer base. L&T MBDA, in which L&T will have a 51 per cent stake, is expected to be incorporated in the first half of 2017. The company will look to develop and supply fifth generation anti-tank guided missiles for coastal batteries and high-speed target drones. (February 13, 2017)

571) . Which of the following launched Jeep Wrangler Unlimited in India in February 2017?

- a) Volkswagen
- b) Toyota
- c) Ford
- d) Fiat Chrysler*

Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) on February 13, 2017 launched the petrol version of its popular SUV Jeep Wrangler Unlimited priced at Rs 56 lakh.

572) . Which of the following was launched by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in February 2017?

- a) Fly India Business Magazine
- b) Travel India Business Magazine
- c) Airlines India Business Magazine
- d) Airports India Business Magazine*

Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju lauded the Airports Authority of India (AAI) for the launch of Airports India Business Magazine (AIBM) in New Delhi on February 16, 2017. The magazine will have diverse and updated content, including in-depth reports, analyses as well as interviews with key players in the various segments of the civil aviation business. The 84-page quarterly magazine will be published by Paris-based Media India Group in association with the AAI.

573) Which of the following launched life insurance plan for low income families in February 2017?

- a) SBI Life
- b) HDFC Life*
- c) Kotak Life
- d) Bajaj Allianz Life

HDFC life on February 15, 2017 launched Pragati, a traditional life insurance plan that has been specifically designed to empower low income families. Pragati makes life insurance easily accessible to every person who wishes to financially secure his family, the private life insurer said in a release.

574) Sandeep Jajodia was appointed as the new President which of the following industry chambers in February 2017?

- a) CII
- b) ICC
- c) FICCI
- d) ASSOCHAM*

Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd. CMD Sandeep Jajodia has been appointed the new President of industry chamber Assocham. Balkrishan Goenka, Chairman, Welspun Group and Kiran Kumar Grandhi, vice-chairman of GMR Infrastructure Ltd, have taken over as senior vice-president and vice-president respectively. (February 13, 2017)

575) Which of the following elected Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey as its new President in February 2017?

- a) Indian Banks Association (IBA)
- b) Micro Finance Institutions Network (MFIN)
- c) Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
- d) Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)*

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) on February 12, 2017 elected Nilesh Shivji Vikamsey as president and Naveen N D Gupta as vice president. They have been elected for the year 2017-18. A statutory body, the affairs of ICAI are managed by a council in accordance with the provisions of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 and the Chartered Accountants Regulations, 1988. The council has 32 elected members and eight are nominated by the central government.

576) Jiro Taniguchi died on February 12, 2017 at the age of 69. He was known for creating:

- a) Songs
- b) Comics*
- c) Puzzles

d) Apparel Jiro Taniguchi, a legend in Japan's comic art of manga, died in Tokyo on February 12, 2017 at the age of 69, leaving behind an international following for his exquisite line drawing of scenes from everyday life. In 2011, the French government awarded Taniguchi the Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters -- one of the country's most prestigious prizes.

577) Raymond Smullyan died on February 6, 2017 at the age of 97. He was known for creating:

- a) Songs
- b) Comics
- c) Puzzles*
- d) Apparel

Raymond Smullyan, whose merry, agile mind led him to be a musician, a magician, a mathematician and, most cunningly, a puzzle-creating logician, died on February 6 in Hudson, New York. He was 97. Smullyan was a serious mathematician, with the publications and the doctorate to prove it. But his greatest legacy may be the clever logic puzzles he devised, presenting them in numerous books or just in casual conversation.

578) . Who among the following was sworn as the 13th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on February 16, 2017?

- a) P. Thangamani
- b) K. Pandiarajan
- c) K.C. Karuppannan
- d) E. K. Palaniswami*

Ending the political impasse in Tamil Nadu, Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao on February 16, 2017 administered the oath of office to All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader Edappadi K. Palaniswami as the 13th Chief Minister along with a Council of 30 Ministers. On February 18, Palaniswami proved his majority in the State Assembly, winning 122 votes in favour and 11 against.

579) The Mokedatu Dam is proposed to be built on which river?

- a) Krishna
- b) Cauvery*
- c) Shrivasti
- d) Godavari

Karnataka has decided to implement the Rs. 5,912 crore Mokedatu multi-purpose (drinking and power) project that involves building a balancing reservoir across the Cauvery near Kanakapura in Ramanagaram district. The contentious project has been opposed by Tamil Nadu on the grounds that it violates the Cauvery tribunal order. However, Karnataka has said that it aims to utilise excess water after releasing 192 tmcft to Tamil Nadu. A State Cabinet meeting presided by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on February 15, 2017, gave approval, in principle, for the project which envisages

construction of the balancing reservoir for storing water. The project would ease drinking water problems of Bengaluru and Ramanagaram districts

580) . The traditional buffalo race Kambala is popular in which of the following states?

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

The Karnataka Government on February 13, 2017 passed an amendment bill in the state assembly to legalise the traditional buffalo race Kambala. Earlier in November 2016, the Karnataka High Court banned the sport through an interim order. The petition seeking the ban was filed by the People for Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

581) Projects by Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on which river are the subject of the A.K. Bajaj Committee?

- a) Krishna*
- b) Cauvery
- c) Shrivasti
- d) Godavari

The Andhra Pradesh Government has appraised the A.K. Bajaj Committee about the “defiant” attitude of Telangana in following the orders issued by the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB). The expert committee, constituted by the Union government to prepare a manual on Operating Rules and Procedures in respect of common projects located on river Krishna for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, heard Andhra Pradesh’s version on February 14. The committee met officials of Telangana on February 13, 2017.

582) Which state signed MoU with UN Women to promote “gender-responsive governance” in February 2017?

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

Andhra Pradesh on February 11, 2017 signed a memorandum of understanding with UN Women to foster “gender-responsive governance” and enhance the state government’s capacity to accelerate efforts towards advancing gender equality and empowerment of women.

583) . Which state hosted the International Spice Conference in February 2017?

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

The second edition of the International Spice Conference was held at Kovalam in Thiruvananthapuram district on February 12-14, 2017 by the All India Spices Exporters Forum (AISEF). The central theme of the conference was “21st Century Spic Industry-Disrupt or be Disrupted”.

584) The government announced plans to set up Food Legumes Research Platform (FLRP) in which of the following states in February 2017?

- a) Chhattisgarh
- b) Gujarat
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

The government on February 15, 2017 approved setting up of Food Legumes Research Platform in Madhya Pradesh with satellite hubs in West Bengal and Rajasthan for meeting the emerging food security challenges. The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of Food Legumes Research Platform (FLRP) by International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) at Amlaha, Sehore, Madhya Pradesh with satellite hubs in West Bengal (for pulses) and Rajasthan (for natural resource management).

585) After Puttamraju Kandriga in Andhra Pradesh, a village in which district in Maharashtra was selected by Sachin Tendulkar for development under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna?

- a) Nagpur
- b) Satara
- c) Osmanabad*
- d) Jalna

After transforming the lives of villagers in Puttamraju Kandriga in Andhra Pradesh, Indian cricket icon and Rajya Sabha MP Sachin Tendulkar is now set to adopt Donja in Osmanabad (Maharashtra) under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna. Tendulkar has sanctioned over Rs 4 crore from his MPLAD fund for development of Donja. The amount will be spent on

development of a new school building, a water Supply scheme that would provide potable water to each household, concrete roads and a sewage line attached to the same. (February 14, 2017)

586) Which of the following was announced as 21st district of West Bengal on February 14, 2017? It is the state's least populated district with population less than 1 lakh.

- a) Nadia
- b) Bankura
- c) Jalpaiguri
- d) Kalimpong*

A new district of Kalimpong was carved out of Darjeeling on February 14, 2017 by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Kalimpong will be the 21st district. Spreading over 1,056 square kilometers, Kalimpong is West Bengal's least populated district with a population under 50,000.

587) Lui-Ngai-Ni is the sowing festival celebrated in which state in February 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur*
- d) Tripura

The Lui-Ngai-Ni Festival was celebrated in Manipur in February 2017 to mark the onset of the seed sowing season. This year the event was celebrated under the theme- "Sowing on the good soil, reaping in abundance". The main highlights of Lui-Ngai Ni celebrations are- lighting of the sacred fire, blessing of the seeds to be sown for the season, traditional log drum beating, folk dances and songs and fire making.

588) Ravichandran Ashwin on February 12, 2017 became the fastest bowler to take 250 Test wickets in his 45th match. Whose record did he break?

- a) Malcolm Marshall
- b) Shane Warne
- c) Wasim Akram
- d) Dennis Lillee*

India's off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on February 12, 2017 became the fastest bowler to take 250 Test wickets during the Test against Bangladesh in Hyderabad. He achieved the milestone in 45 Test matches, surpassing Australian legend Dennis Lillee, who had reached the 250-wicket mark in 48 matches.

589) India won the Twenty20 World Cup for Blind on February 12, 2017. The final was played at:

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bangalore*

India thrashed Pakistan by nine wickets in the final of the cricket Twenty20 World Cup for Blind at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore and retained the title on February 12, 2017.

590) Eastern Sporting Union won the Indian Women's League (IWL) football tournament in February 2017. The event was played in:

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi*
- d) Pune

Eastern Sporting Union were on February 14, 2017 crowned Champions of the inaugural edition of the Indian Women's League at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi as the Bembem Devi coached side defeated Rising Student's Club 3-0 to bag the coveted trophy. Strikes from Kamala Devi (32', 66') and Prameshwori Devi (57') led Eastern Sporting Union to an easy win over their opponents, in a final, which was largely dominated---both in possession and chances created---by ESU. Dimitrov wins tennis title in Sofia

591) Railways won the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya All India National Style _____ Championship in Sonapat on February 11, 2017.

- a) Hockey
- b) Football
- c) Archery
- d) Kabaddi*

Haryana defeated Railways in final to win Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya All India National Style Kabaddi Championship in Sonapat on February 11, 2017.

592) . Which of the following is the Global Investor Summit organised in Ranchi on February 16-17, 2017?

- a) Vibrant Jharkhand
- b) Sunrise Jharkhand
- c) Advantage Jharkhand
- d) Momentum Jharkhand*

Two-day Global Investor Summit 'Momentum Jharkhand' was organised in capital Ranchi on February 16-17, 2017.

593) Arjun Madathil Ramachandran and Ramchandran Shlok won the Men's Doubles title at Iran Fajr _____ Tournament in Tehran in February 2017?

- a) Squash
- b) Tennis
- c) Table Tennis
- d) Badminton*

Young emerging Indian doubles pair of Arjun Madathil Ramachandran and Ramchandran Shlok notched up the men's doubles title at the 26th Iran Fajr Badminton Tournament in Tehran on February 12, 2017

594) The World Integrated Medicine Forum on 'Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products: National and Global Strategies' was organised in New Delhi on February 23-24, 2017. PCIM&H is _____ Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy.

- a) Public
- b) Primary
- c) Principal
- d) Pharmacopoeia*

The World Integrated Medicine Forum on Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products: National and Global Strategies was organised in New Delhi on February 23-24, 2017. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the two-day event on February 23. MoU was signed between Homoeopathic Pharmacopoeia Convention of the United States (HPCUS) and Indian bodies – Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine & Homoeopathy (PCIM&H) and Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) on cooperation in the field of Homoeopathic Medicine. The event was organised by AYUSH Ministry and CCRH and supported by PCIMH & Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO).

595) Rotavirus vaccine is administered to children for protection against which of the following?

- a) Diphtheria
- b) Pneumonia
- c) Diarrhoea*
- d) Swine flu

J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, announced the expansion of the Rotavirus vaccine under the Universal Immunization Programme in five additional states in a function at Agartala on February 18, 2017. The vaccine will prevent Rotavirus diarrhoea in children which accounts for approximately 40% of hospitalizations from diarrhoea in India. In March 2016, the Rotavirus vaccine was first introduced in four states namely Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. Till date, about 38 lakh children have been vaccinated with Rotavirus vaccine in these four states. Now, the vaccine will be expanded to five more states of Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

596) The Health and Family Welfare Ministry launched the SAATHIYA Resource Kit for adolescents on February 20, 2017. This was done under which government programme?

- a) Rashtriya Jan Swasthya Karyakram
- b) Rashtriya Yuva Swasthya Karyakram
- c) Rashtriya Balak Swasthya Karyakram
- d) Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram*

597) Which of the following is the mobile app on adolescent health launched by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry on February 20, 2017?

- a) Saathiya Saral
- b) Saathiya Salah*
- c) Saathiya Sawal
- d) Saathiya Subah

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry launched the SAATHIYA Resource Kit including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App for adolescents in New Delhi on February 20, 2017 as part of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) program. One of the key features of the programme is introduction of the Peer Educators (Saathiyas) who will impart age appropriate knowledge on key adolescent health issues to their peer groups. In order to equip the Saathiyas in doing so,

the Health Ministry has launched the Saathiya Resource Kit (including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App). To address and cater to the health and development needs of the country's adolescents, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) in January 2014. RKSK identifies six strategic priorities for adolescents i.e. nutrition, sexual and reproductive health (SRH), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), substance misuse, injuries and violence (including gender-based violence) and mental health.

598) Which of the following is the naval frigate that had keeled on to her side during undocking near Mumbai on December 5, 2016? It was made upright in February 2017.

- a) INS Betwa*
- b) INS Gomti
- c) INS Ganga
- d) INS Yamuna

INS Betwa, a P-16A Class frigate has been made upright by Naval Dockyard, Mumbai and the salvage firm M/s Resolve Marine, specially contracted for the operation. It may be recalled that, the ship which was undergoing major repairs, had keeled on to her side during her undocking on December 5, 2016. This was stated in a press note issued by the Defence Ministry on February 23.

599) Which of the following is the 20th and the last in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd? It was commissioned on February 18, 2017?

- a) ICGS Ajeya
- b) ICGS Ayush*
- c) ICGS Atulya
- d) ICGS Arnvesh

Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS AYUSH was commissioned at Kochi on February 18, 2017. ICGS AYUSH is the 20th and the last in the series of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Cochin Shipyard Ltd.

600) Which of the following hosted the 13th National Agricultural Science Congress organised from February 21 to 24, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Gandhinagar
- d) Bengaluru*

About 2,000 agricultural scientists from across the country and some from outside participated in the 13th National Agricultural Science Congress held at the University of Agricultural Sciences-Bengaluru (UAS-B) from February 21 to 24, 2017. The congress, being held for the first time in Karnataka, is being jointly organised by the UAS-B, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

601) Which of the following organised a three-day international conference on 'Bharat Bodh' (the idea of Bharat) in New Delhi in February 2017 in association with Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal?

- a) AICTE
- b) UGC
- c) CBSE
- d) IGNOU*

A three-day international conference on 'Bharat Bodh' - the idea of Bharat - was organised by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Bhartiya Shikshan Mandal in New Delhi on February 23-25, 2017. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the event.

602) Who among the following is the author of 'Inside Chanakya's Mind: Aanvikshiki and the Art of Thinking' released in February 2017?

- a) Ashwin Sanghi
- b) Radhakrishnan Pillai*
- c) Kiran Nagarkar
- d) Chetan Bhagat

603) Who among the following is the author of 'Suspected Poems' (translated by Pavan K. Varma) released in February 2017?

- a) Gulzar*
- b) Sameer
- c) Ghazal Srinivas
- d) Javed Akhtar

604) Former diplomat Sujata Mehta and Air Marshal Ajit Shankarrao Bhonsle were in news for their appointment as Members of which of the following in February 2017?

- a) NHRC
- b) CBFC
- c) CCI
- d) UPSC*

Former diplomat Sujata Mehta and Air Marshal Ajit Shankarrao Bhonsle were appointed as members in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in New Delhi on February 21, 2017.

605) Supreme Court Judge Abhay Manohar Sapre was appointed as Chairman of the Tribunal on sharing of which inter-state river's water in February 2017?

- a) Krishna
- b) Cauvery*
- c) Shravasti
- d) Godavari

Supreme Court Judge Abhay Manohar Sapre has been appointed as the chairman of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT). The post remained vacant after Justice B S Chauhan, currently the Law Commission chairman, resigned in March 2016. Sapre had assumed charge of Supreme Court Judge in 2014 and will retire on August 27, 2019. (February 21, 2017)

606) The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as the brand ambassador of which of the following in February 2016?

- a) Jan Dhan Yojana
- b) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
- c) Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*
- d) Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the Modi government's cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission. The 41-year-old actress will feature in TV and radio campaigns aimed at discouraging people from littering on roads. Shetty is the latest entrant in the list of the mission's ambassadors like Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Shankar Mahadevan and Sachin Tendulkar. (February 23, 2017)

607) Altamas Kabir passed away in Kolkata on February 19, 2017 at the age of 68. He was well-known for his expertise in which field?

- a) Law*
- b) Banking
- c) Medicine
- d) Agriculture

Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir passed away in Kolkata on February 19, 2017 at the age of 68. Justice Kabir held office from September 2012 till his retirement on July 2013. He was the 39th Chief Justice of India.

608) Ved Prakash Sharma died in Meerut on February 17, 2017 at the age of 62. He was a well-known:

- a) Painter
- b) Novelist*
- c) Physicist
- d) Mathematician

Celebrated Hindi novelist Ved Prakash Sharma, who has 176 novels to his credit, died in Meerut on February 17, 2017 at the age of 62. Sharma had also written scripts for about half-a-dozen Hindi movies. His best-known novels included "Qaidi No 100" and "Vardi Wala Gunda".

609) India signed MoU for sustainable development of which city in Bangladesh on February 24, 2017?

- a) Chittagong
- b) Comilla
- c) Rajshahi
- d) Sylhet*

India on February 24, 2017 agreed to provide financial assistance to Bangladesh for the sustainable development of Sylhet, a north-eastern Bangladeshi city. Under the MoU, three development projects would be taken up in Sylhet.

610) Which of the following is developing a medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) system for the Indian Army? This was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in February 2017?

- a) Boeing
- b) BAE Systems
- c) Elbit Systems

d) Israel Aerospace Industries*

Ahead of the first visit of an Indian Prime Minister to Israel later in 2017, India has approved a deal to develop jointly a medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) system for the Army in a Rs. 17,000-crore deal. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which met on February 22, 2017, gave the go-ahead for the deal to be executed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI).

611) What is the currency of Rwanda, a country visited by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in February 2017?

- a) Rwandan shilling
- b) Rwandan dollar
- c) Rwandan pound
- d) Rwandan franc*

612) What is the currency of Uganda, a country visited by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in February 2017?

- a) Ugandan shilling*
- b) Ugandan dollar
- c) Ugandan pound
- d) Ugandan rand

613) Who among the following is the President of Uganda, a country visited by Vice President M. Hamid Ansari in February 2017?

- a) Samson Kisekka
- b) George Adyebo
- c) Yoweri Museveni*
- d) Apolo Nsibambi

Vice President M. Hamid Ansari returned to New Delhi on February 24, 2017, after concluding his five-day visit of two countries Rwanda and Uganda. He visited Rwanda from February 19-21 and Uganda from February 21-23. Addressing the India-Rwanda Business Forum organized jointly by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Rwanda Development Board in Kigali, Ansari said India-Rwanda Innovation Growth Program is being launched to expand ties in Science, Technology and Innovation. During his visit to Uganda, Ansari held talks with President Yoweri Museveni at the State House in capital Kampala and reviewed the "entire gamut" of bilateral cooperation. Rwandan franc is the currency of Rwanda while Ugandan Shilling is the currency of Uganda.

614) The Indian government approved investment by CPSE SJVN Ltd. in a hydroelectric project in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal in February 2017. The project is located on which river?

- a) Arun*
- b) Rohni
- c) Karnali
- d) Indravati

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 22, 2017 approved the investment proposal for generation component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project in Nepal by SJVN Limited, a Central Public Sector Enterprise of Government of India. The project is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.

615) Which among the following Indian Ministers was the guest of honour and keynote speaker at the 'Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2017' organised in Kathmandu on February 19-20, 2017?

- a) Smriti Irani
- b) Arun Jaitley
- c) Nitin Gadkari
- d) Suresh Prabhu*

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu attended the 'Nepal Infrastructure Summit 2017', organised by the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) in association with the Nepal government and Youth Community for Nepalese Contractors (YCNC) in Kathmandu on February 19-20, 2017. The minister was the guest of honour and keynote speaker at the summit.

616) India started Golden Jubilee Scholarships for meritorious students of which neighbouring country in 2002 to mark completion of 50 years of economic cooperation?

- a) Bhutan
- b) Nepal*
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Pakistan

Embassy of India at Kathmandu awarded Golden Jubilee Scholarships to meritorious students of Nepal on February 22, 2017. The scheme was introduced in year 2002 to mark completion of 50 years of economic cooperation between India and Nepal.

617) Which of the following is the nationwide military operation to eliminate terrorists launched by Pakistan army on February 22, 2017?

- a) Rah-i-Rast
- b) Rah-e-Nijat
- c) Zarb-i-Azb
- d) Radd-ul-Fasaad*

Pakistan army on February 22, 2017 launched nationwide military operation 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' to eliminate terrorists. 'Radd-ul-Fasaad' translates roughly to 'elimination of discord'.

618) Lugansk People's Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic are separatist territories of which of the following?

- a) Belarus
- b) Ukraine*
- c) Georgia
- d) Moldova

Russia on February 18, 2017 announced a decree recognising passports issued by rebel authorities in separatist regions of Ukraine, triggering a protest from Kiev which called it a provocation. The decree, signed by President Vladimir Putin, was described by Moscow as temporary until a political solution is found to bring peace to the region. It listed the territories concerned as the self-declared Lugansk People's Republic and the Donetsk People's Republic.

619) International Mother Language Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) February 21*
- b) February 22
- c) February 23
- d) February 24

620) . What was the theme of the International Mother Language Day observed in February 2017?

- a) Books for Mother Tongue Education
- b) Mother Tongue Instruction and Inclusive Education
- c) Local languages for Global Citizenship: Spotlight on Science
- d) Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education*

621) . An incident in which of the following in 1952 started the observation of annual International Mother Language Day?

- a) Delhi
- b) Kabul
- c) Kathmandu
- d) Dhaka*

UNESCO celebrated the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) on February 21, 2017 under the theme "Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education". The date corresponds to the day in 1952 when students from the University of Dhaka, Jagannath College and Dhaka Medical College, demonstrating for the recognition of Bengali as one of the two national languages of East Pakistan, were brutally shot dead by police (then under Pakistan government) near the Dhaka High Court in the capital of present-day Bangladesh.

622) Which of the following hosted the International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) from February 19 to 23, 2017?

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Abu Dhabi*

The five-day International Defence Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) and NAVDEX (naval defence and maritime security exhibition) was organised in Abu Dhabi from February 19 to 23, 2017. Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre attended the opening ceremony. OPV (Off Shore Patrol Vehicle) INS Sunayna 2 is representing Indian Navy at the exhibition.

623) . Which of the following was the world's largest importer of arms in 2012–16 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in February 2017?

- a) USA
- b) India*
- c) China

d) France

624) . Which of the following was the world's largest exporter of arms in 2012–16 according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in February 2017?

- a) USA*
- b) India
- c) China
- d) France

India was the world's largest importer of major arms in the last five years, Stockholm-based think-tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said on February 20, 2017. India accounted for 13 per cent of the total global arms imports in 2012-16 – is highest among all the countries. The five biggest exporters in 2012–16 were the United States (33%), Russia (23%), China (6.2%), France (6.0%) and Germany (5.6%), by rank. The five biggest importers were India (13%), Saudi Arabia (8.2%), the United Arab Emirates (4.6%), China (4.5%) and Algeria (3.7%).

625) . The World Day of Social Justice was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) February 20*
- b) February 21
- c) February 22
- d) February 23

World Day of Social Justice was observed on February 20, 2017 with "Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work" as theme for 2017. The UN General Assembly proclaimed 20 February as World Day of Social Justice in 2007.

626) Who among the following was appointed as the new National Security Adviser by US President Donald Trump in February 2017?

- a) Gary Locke
- b) William Daley
- c) Rhiannon Evans
- d) Herbert McMaster*

President Donald Trump on February 21, 2017 appointed Herbert Raymond McMaster, a US Army lieutenant general, to be his new National Security Adviser.

627) . Raj Chengappa was re-elected President of Editors Guild of India in February 2017. He is associated with which publication?

- a) Frontline
- b) Outlook
- c) The Week
- d) India Today*

Veteran journalist and Group Editorial Director of India Today Raj Chengappa has been re-elected as the President of the Editors' Guild of India at the Annual General meeting of the Guild on February 18, 2017.

628) Who among the following was honoured with the 'Legendary Award' by the Brand Laureate in February 2017?

- a) Gulzar
- b) AR Rahman
- c) Alka Yagnik
- d) Lata Mangeshkar*

Melody Queen Lata Mangeshkar has been honoured with the 'Legendary Award' by the Brand Laureate. The Brand Laureate Awards recognises world-class achievement in branding among individuals and companies. (February 2017)

629) . UNSECO appointed Naseer Shamma of Iraq as an Artist for Peace in February 2017. He is a well-known:

- a) Sculptor
- b) Painter

- c) Musician*
- d) Poet

Iraqi oud player Naseer Shamma was on February 23, 2017 honoured as the Artist for Peace to United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) due to "his commitment to peace, especially by targeting youth during his musical performances". "Shamma is named in gratitude to his commitment to the musical education of young people in Iraq and elsewhere and his tireless efforts to carry a message of peace through his concerts," the Paris-based organisation said.

630) . Rodrigo Rato was handed a jail sentence of four years and six months on February 23, 2017 for embezzlement of bank funds in Spain. He is the former head of:

- a) FAO
- b) IMF*
- c) WTO
- d) ECB

Former IMF Managing Director Rodrigo Rato was handed a jail sentence of four years and six months on February 23, 2017 for misusing funds when he was the head of two Spanish banks. Spain's National Court, which deals with corruption and financial crime cases, said he had been found guilty of "embezzlement" when he headed up Caja Madrid and Bankia. Rato, who served as MD of IMF from 2004 to 2007, was also Spain's Minister of the Economy from 1996 to 2004.

631) . Russian Vitaly Churkin died at the age of 64 February 20, 2017. He was a well-known:

- a) Astronomer
- b) Diplomat*
- c) Olympian
- d) Musician

Russia's Ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin died at the age of 64 on February 20, 2017.

632) Kaci Kullmann Five died aged 65 on February 19, 2017. She was head of the committee that selected winner of Nobel Prize in:

- a) Peace*
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry

Kaci Kullmann Five, the chairwoman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee which selects the Peace Prize laureates, has died aged 65 on February 19, 2017. Kullmann became a member of the Norwegian Nobel committee in 2003, and was elected chair in 2015.

633) Which of the following hosts the Svalbard Global Seed Vault aimed at preserving the world's most important ancient crops for future generations?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway*
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

Nearly 10 years after a "doomsday" seed vault opened on an Arctic island, some 50,000 new samples from seed collections around the world, including India, have been deposited in the world's largest repository built to safeguard against wars or natural disasters wiping out global food crops. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a gene bank built underground on the isolated island in a permafrost zone some 1,000 kilometres from the North Pole, was opened in 2008 as a master backup to the world's other seed banks, in case their deposits are lost. The latest specimens sent to the bank, located on the Svalbard archipelago between mainland Norway and the North Pole, included more than 15,000 reconstituted samples from an international research centre that focuses on improving agriculture in dry zones.

634) Discovery of seven new miniature frog species was reported from which of the following in February 2017 by Delhi University-based researchers?

- a) Western Ghats*
- b) Andaman & Nicobar
- c) Rann of Kutch

d) Sundarbans National Park

Seven new miniature frog species in the world, which can comfortably sit on a coin or a thumbnail, have been discovered by Indian scientists in the Western Ghats. The study conducted by two Delhi University-based researchers with five years of extensive explorations in the Western Ghats said that these frogs were overlooked earlier because of their insect-like calls and secretive habitats. The study, titled "Seven new species of Night Frogs from the Western Ghats Biodiversity Hotspot of India, with remarkably high diversity of diminutive forms", was published on February 21, 2017 in PeerJ, a peer-reviewed open access journal.

635) Which of the following was declared Best Film at the 67th Berlin Film Festival in February 2017?

- a) Bright Nights
- b) On Body and Soul
- c) A Fantastic Woman
- d) The Other Side of Hope

636) Which trophy is given to winner of Best Film at the Berlin Film Festival?

- a) Golden Dove
- b) Golden Bear*
- c) Golden Eagle
- d) Golden Lion

Hungarian drama On Body and Soul has picked up the Golden Bear for Best Film at the 67th Berlin Film Festival on February 18, 2017. Other winners: The Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize went to Alain Gomis' African drama Félicité. Polish director Agnieszka Holland picked up the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize for crime thriller Pokot (Spoor). Aki Kaurismaki picked up the Silver Bear for Best Director for The Other Side of Hope. South Korean Actress Kim Min-hee won the Silver Bear for Best Actress for her role in 'On The Beach At Night Alone'. Austrian actor Georg Friedrich was honored with the Silver Bear for Best Actor for his role in 'Bright Nights'. Sebastian Lelio's 'A Fantastic Woman' was awarded the Silver Bear for Best Screenplay.

637) Which award was conferred on Harihar Vaishnav, Nirmal Minz, Jamsal and Thupstan Paldan by Sahitya Akademi in February 2017?

- a) Maharishi Badrayan Vyas Samman
- b) Katha Puraskar
- c) Kalidas Samman
- d) Bhasha Samman*

Four scholars were on February 21, 2017 awarded the Sahitya Akademi's prestigious Bhasha Samman for their contribution towards promoting regional languages. While Harihar Vaishnav and Nirmal Minz were awarded for their work towards the enrichment of 'Halbi' and 'Kurukh' languages, Lozang Jamsal and Thupstan Paldan were chosen for their efforts in promoting the Ladakhi language and literature. These languages are not among the ones that the Akademi recognises that numbers around 24. The 'Bhasha Samman' carries a cash prize of Rs 1,00,000, an inscribed copper plaque and a citation. In case of joint winners, the prize money is equally shared among the winners.

638) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. What is the minimum permissible investment?

- a) 1 gram*
- b) 2 grams
- c) 3 grams
- d) 4 grams

639) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. What is the maximum permissible investment (grams per person per fiscal year)?

- a) 50 grams
- b) 100 grams
- c) 500 grams*
- d) 750 grams

640) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. What is the interest rate per annum payable semi-annually on the initial value of investment?

- a) 1.5%
- b) 1.75%
- c) 2.5%*
- d) 2.75%

641) The Sovereign Gold Bond scheme will be open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017. The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years. Exit option will be available after:

- a) 3rd year
- b) 4th year
- c) 5th year*
- d) 6th year

642) Consider the following statements on the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017.

- I. Non-Resident Indians are not eligible to purchase
- II. Will be eligible for Statutory Liquidity Ratio purposes
- III. Redemptions of SGB will be subject to capital gains tax for all investors

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) I and II only*
- b) II and III only
- c) III and I only
- d) II only

643) Consider the following statements on the Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) scheme open for subscription from February 27 to March 3, 2017.

- I. Redemption will be in Indian Rupees
- II. Can be used as collateral for loans
- III. Issue price based on data previous week's (Monday-Friday) simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only
- c) III and I only
- d) I, II and III*

Government of India, in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has decided to issue Sovereign Gold Bonds 2016-17–Series IV. Applications for the bond will be accepted from February 27, 2017 to March 3, 2017. The Bonds will be issued on March 17, 2017.

The features of the Bond are as follows:

- Product name: Sovereign Gold Bond 2016-17 – Series IV
- Issuance: To be issued by Reserve Bank India on behalf of the Government of India.
- Eligibility: The Bonds will be restricted for sale to resident Indian entities including individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities and Charitable Institutions. Non-resident Indians (NRIs) cannot invest in these bonds.
- Denomination: The Bonds will be denominated in multiples of gram(s) of gold with a basic unit of 1 gram.
- Tenor: The tenor of the Bond will be for a period of 8 years with exit option from 5th year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.
- Minimum size: Minimum permissible investment will be 1 grams of gold.
- Maximum limit: The maximum amount subscribed by an entity will not be more than 500 grams per person per fiscal year (April-March). A self-declaration to this effect will be obtained.
- Joint holder: In case of joint holding, the investment limit of 500 grams will be applied to the first applicant only.

- Issue price: Price of Bond will be fixed in Indian Rupees on the basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for the week (Monday to Friday) preceding the subscription period. The issue price of the Gold Bonds will be Rs. 50 per gram less than the nominal value.
- Payment option: Payment for the Bonds will be through cash payment (upto a maximum of Rs. 20,000) or demand draft or cheque or electronic banking.
- Issuance form: The Gold Bonds will be issued as Government of India Stocks under GS Act, 2006. The investors will be issued a Holding Certificate for the same. The Bonds are eligible for conversion into demat form.
- Redemption price: The redemption price will be in Indian Rupees based on previous week's (Monday-Friday) simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by IBJA.
- Sales channel: Bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited (SHCIL), designated post offices as may be notified and recognised stock exchanges viz., National Stock Exchange of India Limited and Bombay Stock Exchange, either directly or through agents.
- Interest rate: The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50 per cent per annum payable semi-annually on the nominal value.
- Collateral: Bonds can be used as collateral for loans. The loan-to-value (LTV) ratio is to be set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by the Reserve Bank from time to time.
- KYC Documentation: Know-your-customer (KYC) norms will be the same as that for purchase of physical gold. KYC documents such as Voter ID, Aadhaar card/PAN or TAN /Passport will be required.
- Tax treatment: The interest on Gold Bonds shall be taxable as per the provision of Income Tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961). The capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB to an individual has been exempted. The indexation benefits will be provided to long term capital gains arising to any person on transfer of bond
- Tradability: Bonds will be tradable on stock exchanges within a fortnight of the issuance on a date as notified by the RBI.
- SLR eligibility: The Bonds will be eligible for Statutory Liquidity Ratio purposes.
- Commission: Commission for distribution of the bond shall be paid at the rate of 1% of the total subscription received by the receiving offices and receiving offices shall share at least 50% of the commission so received with the agents or sub agents for the business procured through them.

644) Which of the following is jointly developing and implementing government-sponsored Entrepreneurship and Skill Development initiatives in India? This is being done under the Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme.

- a) Narayan Operating Foundation
- b) Wadhvani Operating Foundation*
- c) Pichai Operating Foundation
- d) Desai Operating Foundation

The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (SDE) and Wadhvani Operating Foundation (WOF) signed in New Delhi on February 23, 2017 agreements for implementing an earlier understanding of jointly developing and implementing Entrepreneurship and Skill Development initiatives in the country. The Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme will be the first joint effort in this regard. Pradhan Mantri YUVA Scheme launched by the Ministry during November, 2016 aims at providing on line Entrepreneurship Education to about 15 lakh students across the country.

645) What was observed on February 24, 2017?

- a) Excise Day*
- b) Service Tax Day
- c) Wealth Tax Day
- d) Income Tax Day

The annual "Annual Central Excise Day 2017" was observed on February 23, 2017. 32 Officers of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) and its formations from all over India received "Commendation Certificate". The Central Excise Day is being celebrated every year to commemorate the enactment of the Central Excise and Salt Act, 1944.

646) Coaches for which of the following trains were unveiled by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on February 22, 2017?

- a) Antyodaya Express*
- b) Humsafar Express
- c) UDAY Express

d) Tejas Express

647) . Which of the following trains announced in the Railway Budget 2016-17 is the first to be launched?

- a) Antyodaya Express
- b) Humsafar Express*
- c) UDAY Express
- d) Tejas Express

The fully unreserved, long-distance, superfast Antyodaya Express trains got a little closer to reality with union minister of railways Suresh Prabhu dedicating a rake of 22 coaches in New Delhi on February 22, 2017. The coaches unveiled in Delhi were manufactured by the Integral Coach Factory in Perambur (Tamil Nadu). Ready to be pressed into service on busy routes, the first Antyodaya Express will be launched between Mumbai and Tatanagar. "We had announced in the Rail Budget that we would launch four new passenger services. First Humsafar Express was launched and now Antyodaya," Prabhu said. Railways will also soon launch Tejas Express and UDAY (Utkrisht Double-Decker Air-conditioned Yatri) Express as promised in the Railway Budget 2016-17.

648) Which of the following hosted the India Telecom-2017 organised by the TEPC (Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council) on February 20-21, 2017?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Bangalore*

India Telecom-2017 was organised in New Delhi on February 20-21, 2017. TEPC (Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council) organised the two-day event with participation from telecom ministers, senior government officials and industry leaders from many countries. In the event organized to commemorate the 25th year of the ASEAN-India relations, Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha urged the participating countries to ensure that Indian telecom products and services should become their number one choice as they accelerate the digital connectivity initiatives.

649) Cash purchases of jewellery will attract ____ tax collected at source (TCS) from April 1 if the amount exceeds 2 lakh.

- a) 0.25%
- b) 0.5%
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%*

Cash purchases of jewellery will attract one per cent tax collected at source (TCS) from April 1 if the amount exceeds Rs 2 lakh, as against the current threshold of Rs 5 lakh. Once the Finance Bill 2017 is passed, jewellery will be treated on par with general goods, which attract one per cent TCS on cash purchase of above Rs 2 lakh. The Bill seeks to do away with the threshold of Rs 5 lakh on jewellery purchases for applicability of TCS because the Union Budget 2017-18 has proposed to ban cash dealings of over Rs 3 lakh and make violations punishable with a penalty of an equivalent amount to be paid by the person receiving the cash. However, as there is no special provision for TCS on its purchase, jewellery is now being clubbed in general goods on which one per cent TCS is triggered if a single transaction exceeds Rs 2 lakh in cash. (February 20, 2017)

650) What is IMF's new growth estimate for the Indian economy in 2016-17 in its annual country report launched on February 22, 2017?

- a) 5.7 per cent
- b) 6 per cent
- c) 6.3 per cent
- d) 6.6 per cent*

"Growth is projected to slow to 6.6 per cent in FY2016-17, then rebound to 7.2 per cent in FY2017-18, due to temporary disruptions, primarily to private consumption, caused by cash shortages," IMF said in its annual country report on India on February 22, 2017. India's economy grew at 7.6 per cent in 2015-16.

651) What was the foreign direct investment (FDI) in India in 2016 as per data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) recently?

- a) \$31 billion

- b) \$36 billion
- c) \$41 billion
- d) \$46 billion*

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in India grew 18 per cent during 2016 to touch \$46 billion, data released by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) showed. The country attracted FDI of \$39.32 billion in 2015. The main sectors which attracted the highest foreign inflows include services, telecom, trading, computer hardware and software and automobile. Bulk of the FDI came in from Singapore, Mauritius, the Netherlands and Japan. (February 24, 2017)

652) The Government launched an Offer for Sale (OFS) to disinvest 5% of paid-up equity capital in which of the following in February 2017?

- a) BEL*
- b) REC
- c) NHPC
- d) BHEL

The Offer for Sale (OFS) for BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) on February 22-23 February 2017 got an enthusiastic participation both from retail and the non-retail investors including domestic institutional investors and foreign institutional investors. The Government proposed to disinvest 5% of paid-up equity capital-out of its shareholding of 74.41% in BEL through OFS mechanism. BEL is a Navratna Company under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence and is engaged in manufacturing of equipments in the field such as communication, radars, naval systems etc. The floor price was fixed at Rs.1498 per share for the OFS Issue.

653) Which of the following was the largest holder of US government securities at the end of 2016?

- a) Japan*
- b) China
- c) Ireland
- d) Switzerland

India became the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of 2016, with exposure worth USD 118.2 billion. With holdings worth USD 1.09 trillion, Japan remained the largest holder of these securities followed by neighbouring China with exposure to the tune of USD 1.06 trillion. Latest data available with the US Treasury Department showed that India's holding stood at USD 118.2 billion in December 2016, slightly lower than USD 118.7 billion seen in November.

654) Which of the following launched "Project Sangam" in February 2017 enabled trained manpower to get jobs via professional networking website LinkedIn?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft*

Microsoft's Indian-born CEO Satya Nadella launched "Project Sangam" to help the government not only train but also help people get jobs via professional networking website LinkedIn. It was launched in the presence of AP CM N. Chandrababu Naidu and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis at the "Future Decoded" event in Mumbai on February 22-23, 2017. Microsoft had acquired LinkedIn for \$26.2 billion in an all-cash deal in 2016. Nadella also announced the launch of "Skype Lite", an exclusive "Made for India" app for messaging, audio and video calling even at lower bandwidths.

655) Which of the following announced grants of Rs. 5 crore each for NGOs Foundation of Ecological Security (Gujarat), Health - Child in Need Institute (West Bengal) and MeJol (Maharashtra) in February 2017?

- a) TCS
- b) Wipro
- c) HCL Technologies*
- d) Infosys

Three winners of HCL Grant 2017 across categories of Environment, Health and Education were on February 21, 2017 announced at a ceremony held at HCL Technologies Hub, Noida. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley felicitated the winners. Each winning NGO receives a Grant of up to INR 5 crores. The winning NGOs across three categories are: Environment - Foundation of Ecological Security (Gujarat), Health - Child in Need Institute (CINI) (West Bengal), Education - MeJol (Maharashtra).

656) 'BharatQR' is the Quick Response (QR) code payments solution launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), MasterCard and _____ on February 20, 2017.

- a) Paytm
- b) Visa*
- c) MoneyGram
- d) CCAvenue

657) 'BharatQR' is the Quick Response (QR) code payments solution launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its partners on February 20, 2017. Which of the following statements is not correct in case of payment made using the code?

- a) Amount is debited from customer's account instantaneously
- b) Amount is credited into merchant's account instantaneously
- c) Amount is credited into merchant's account on the next day*
- d) All the above

658) 'BharatQR' is the Quick Response (QR) code payments solution launched by National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and its partners on February 20, 2017. Consider the following.

- I. Smartphone
- II. Internet Connection
- III. Mobile Banking App

Which of the above are essential for making payment using BharatQR?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), MasterCard and Visa on February 20, 2017 joined hands to launch 'BharatQR', the world's first smartphone-based standardised, interoperable Quick Response (QR) code payments solution. A QR or quick response code is a type of two-dimensional bar code that is used to provide easy access to information through a smartphone. With the 'BharatQR' code (unique to each merchant), the merchant will receive the money instantaneously. In the case of a card-based transaction at a point-of-sale (POS) terminal, the merchant receives money only the next day. According to a joint NPCI, MasterCard and Visa statement, BharatQR has many benefits — consumers need not scan different QR codes at the same merchant provided by different payment networks; merchants will only need to display one QR code at the storefront or through the acquiring bank's mobile application. To use the BharatQR code you need to have a smart phone with an Internet connection and a bank application that is compatible with the new code.

659) Who among the following was named as the 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016' in February 2017?

- a) Basudeo Narain Singh
- b) Vivek Chaand Sehgal*
- c) Vishwavir Ahuja
- d) Chandubhai Viran

660) Who among the following was felicitated with the Entrepreneur Of The Year Lifetime Achievement Award by EY in New Delhi on February 24, 2017?

- a) Adi Godrej
- b) Ratan Tata
- c) Azim Premji
- d) Nandan Nilekani*

Vivek Chaand Sehgal, chairman of Motherson Sumi Systems Limited (MSSL), the flagship company of Samvardhana Motherson Group (SMG), received the 'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2016' award in New Delhi on February 24, 2017. Sehgal will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award ceremony at Monte Carlo in June. The EOY is a global business award programme, now in its 18th year in India. Co-Founder of Infosys Nandan Nilekani got the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the Unique Identification Authority of India – the Aadhaar initiative.

Category winners are: Business Transformation: Dr Abhay Firodia (Chairman, Force Motors), **Consumer Products & Retail:** Chandubhai Virani (Whole time Director, Balaji Wafers), **Entrepreneurial CEO:** Uday Shankar (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Star India), **Financial Services:** Vishwavir Ahuja (MD and CEO, RBL Bank), **Life Sciences &**

Healthcare: Samprada Singh and Basudeo Narain Singh (Chairman Emeritus and Executive Chairman, Alkem Laboratories), **Manufacturing:** Hari Mohan Bangur (Managing Director, Shree Cement), **Real Estate & Infrastructure:** Vikas Oberoi (CMD Oberoi Realty), **Services:** R Dinesh (Managing Director, TVS Logistics Services), **Start-up:** Darshan Patel (CMD, Vini Cosmetics)

661) Which corporate group launched 'MyAgriGuru', an advisory platform for farmers, as a mobile app in February 2017?

- a) Tata
- b) Godrej
- c) ITC
- d) Mahindra & Mahindra*

Mahindra Agri Solutions Ltd (MASL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mahindra & Mahindra on February 24, 2017 announced the launch of 'MyAgriGuru', an advisory platform for farmers that has been introduced as a mobile app. Mahindra is working with Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) to source weather forecast for a five-day period, in order to ensure that that crucial farming activities are aligned with the climatic conditions.

662) Which of the following announced a deal to acquire internet company Yahoo! for a reduced price in February 2017?

- a) Google
- b) Nextel
- c) Verizon*
- d) AT&T

663) Yahoo! Was started in 1994 by Jerry Yang and _____.

- a) Jeff Bezos
- b) David Filo*
- c) Tim Cook
- d) Jan Koum

Yahoo slashed the price of the sale of its core Internet business to Verizon by USD 350 million following a pair of major data breaches at Yahoo, the two companies announced on February 21, 2017. Under the revised terms of the deal, Verizon will now pay USD 4.48 billion for Yahoo. Yahoo announced in September that hackers in 2014 stole personal data from more than 500 million of its user accounts. Founded in 1994 by Stanford graduate students, Jerry Yang and David Filo, Yahoo! was one of the last independently operated pioneers of the web.

664) Kenneth J. Arrow died at 95 on February 21, 2017 at Palo Alto (USA). He was 95. He won Nobel Prize in 1976 in which of the following?

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics*
- d) Chemistry

Kenneth J. Arrow, the youngest-ever winner of a Nobel prize for economics, whose theories on risk, innovation and the basic mathematics of markets have influenced thinking on everything from voting to health insurance to high finance, died on February 21, 2017 at Palo Alto (USA). He was 95. Arrow and British economist Sir John R. Hicks shared the 1972 Nobel memorial prize in economic science for their pioneering mathematical work on general equilibrium theory, which says that there is an overall balance between supply and demand in an economy as a whole.

665) Carlos Ghosn has decided to step down as CEO of which of the following automobile companies?

- a) Ford
- b) Volkswagen
- c) Peugeot
- d) Nissan*

Nissan Motor Co said on February 23, 2017 that Carlos Ghosn, 62, will step aside as CEO after leading the company for 16 years, allowing him to concentrate on deploying his cost-cutting expertise across its alliance with Renault SA and newly added Mitsubishi Motors Corp. Hiroto Saikawa, a company veteran of 40 years, will be the new CEO.

666) Which telecom service provider said in February that it will acquire Telenor India?

- a) Reliance Communications
- b) BSNL
- c) Idea Cellular
- d) Bharti Airtel*

India's largest telecom service provider Bharti Airtel on February 23, 2017 announced that it has inked a definitive agreement to acquire Telenor India which has a customer base of 44 million.

667) Which of the following became the first company to launch smartphone with the panic button service “112” in India in February 2017?

- a) Micromax
- b) Xiaomi
- c) Apple
- d) LG*

In line with the government’s initiative to make the “Panic Button” service on mobile phones mandatory from March 2017, South Korean electronics conglomerate LG on February 22, 2017 launched “K10 2017” smartphone that comes with the panic button service “112”. With this, LG Electronics has become the first company to adhere to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommendation to have a single number ‘112’ for all emergency calls across the country.

668) Which of the following has been introduced by Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) in February 2017 to control the unauthorised usage of removable USB storage media devices like pen drives and external hard drives?

- a) USB Pratibandh
- b) USB Pratirodh*
- c) USB Pramaan
- d) USB Prabal

At a time when cyber attacks are increasing by day, the government through its Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) on February 21, 2017 launched “Cyber Swachhta Kendra” -- a new desktop and mobile security solution for a secure cyber space in the country. The ‘Cyber Swachhta Kendra’ (Botnet Cleaning and Malware Analysis Centre) will notify, enable cleaning and secure systems of end-users to prevent further infections. Union IT and Electronics Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad also announced the launch of several other apps. USB Pratirodh will control the unauthorised usage of removable USB storage media devices like pen drives, external hard drives. Samvid app will protect desktops from suspicious applications. M-Kavach tool will provide a comprehensive mobile device security solution for Android devices addressing threats related to mobile phones.

669) Which of the following became the first bank in India to use its corporate name as its website’s top-level identifier, instead of “.com” or “.co.in” domains?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) State Bank of India*

State Bank of India (SBI) has rebranded its corporate website as “bank.sbi” from the earlier sbi.co.in. Bank.sbi is the highest domain protocol, known as generic top level domain (gTLD). The adoption of gTLD enables an organisation to use its corporate name – .sbi – as their website’s top-level identifier, instead of using a more traditional “.com” or “.co.in” domains, SBI said in a statement on February 19, 2017. The existing web address will remain active till customers become familiar with operating through the new address. With this, SBI has become the first banking organisation in India to use a gTLD for its internet presence.

670) Which state conferred prestigious Bhim Awards upon 42 outstanding sportspersons on February 19, 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Haryana*

Haryana Governor Kaptan Singh Solanki accompanied by Chief Minister Manohar Lal and Sports Minister Anil Vij and other senior ministers on February 19, 2017 conferred prestigious Bhim Awards upon 42 outstanding sportspersons of the state at a function organised at Haryana Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh. Each recipient of the Bhim Award was honoured with Rs five lakh in cash, a memento, citation, blazer, tie and scarf.

671) Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on February 18, 2017 declared 2017 as ‘Year of ____’.

- a) Apple*
- b) Saffron
- c) Pineapple
- d) Apricot

Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti on February 18, 2017 declared 2017 as 'Year of Apple' in a major bid to promote the famed Kashmiri apples in domestic and foreign markets.

672) Which state's offer of Deputy Collectors' job has been accepted by Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu in February 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Kerala
- c) Telangana
- d) Andhra Pradesh*

Ace Indian shuttler PV Sindhu, who is the first Indian woman athlete to win a silver medal at the Olympics, has accepted the government job that was offered by the Andhra Pradesh Government to her following her Rio de Janeiro triumph. Sindhu's mother Vijaya confirmed the news to the media about her daughter's willingness to take the offer of Deputy Collector. The 21-year-old shuttler has been working with Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) since 2013.

673) V K Srinivasan passed away in Hyderabad on February 21, 2017 at the age of 76. He was well-known as:

- a) Doctor
- b) Lawyer
- c) Painter
- d) Economist*

Noted economist and retired Special Chief Secretary of the undivided State of Andhra Pradesh, V K Srinivasan, passed away in Hyderabad on February 21, 2017. Srinivasan, who was also the Director of city-based Indian Institute of Economics, was 76. A 1963-batch IAS officer, he had served as Collector of Karimnagar and Anantapur districts. He also served in Ministry of Finance.

674) Which of the following celebrated its statehood day on February 20, 2017?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura
- d) Mizoram*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20, 2017 conveyed his greetings to the people of Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on their Statehood Day.

675) Who among the following was sworn in as the eleventh Nagaland Chief Minister in Kohima on February 22, 2017?

- a) Kiyaniilie Peseyie
- b) Yanthungo Patton
- c) Shurhozelie Liezietsu*
- d) Tokheho Yephthomi

Nagaland Peoples' Front President Shurhozelie Liezietsu was sworn in as the eleventh Nagaland Chief Minister in Kohima on February 22, 2017. T. R. Zeliang had resigned as Chief Minister on February 19, 2017 against the backdrop of widespread protests in the state triggered by the government decision to reserve 33 per cent seats for women in urban local bodies.

676) John-John Dohmen received International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Male Player of the Year (2016) award in Chandigarh on February 23, 2017. He plays for which country?

- a) Spain
- b) Belgium*
- c) Germany
- d) Australia

Belgium captain and Olympic silver medallist John-John Dohmen and Netherlands' Naomi van As won the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) male and female Player of the Year (2016) awards respectively at the gala FIH Hockey Stars Awards Ceremony, in Chandigarh on February 23, 2017.

677) The Indian Women's team won the ICC 2017 Women's World Cup Qualifiers in Colombo on February 21, 2017. Who among the following was the losing finalist?

- a) South Africa*
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Pakistan
- d) New Zealand

The Indian Women's team on February 21, 2017 defeated South Africa by a solitary wicket to clinch victory in the final of the ICC 2017 Women's World Cup Qualifiers at the P Sara Oval in Colombo. Both India and South Africa were already assured of places in the ICC Women's World Cup 2017 with a round to go in the Super Six stage of the tournament. Sri Lanka and Pakistan are the other teams to have qualified from this tournament to join Australia, England, New Zealand and the West Indies, who booked places in the pinnacle event by finishing in the top four in the ICC Women's Championship.

678) Who won the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy in February 2017?

- a) Central Zone
- b) South Zone
- c) North Zone
- d) East Zone*

East Zone beat West Zone by eight wickets to clinch the National T20 Championship for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Mumbai on February 18, 2017.

679) Which of the following events at ITTF World Tour India Open held in New Delhi on February 2017 was won by Indian players?

- a) Men's Singles
- b) Women's Singles
- c) Women's Doubles
- d) None of the above*

German table tennis player Dimitrij Ovtcharov beat Japan's Tomokazu Harimoto to win the Men's Singles title in the Seamaster 2017 ITTF World Tour India Open at the Thyagaraja Sports Complex in New Delhi on February 20, 2017. Other winners: Sakura Mori won Women's Singles title. Women's Doubles title was won by Matilda Ekholm of Sweden and her Hungarian partner Georgina Pota. Men's Doubles title was won by Japan's Masataka Morizono & Yuya Oshima.

680) The 8th Asian Winter Games were inaugurated at which of the following on February 19, 2017?

- a) Kyoto
- b) Saitama
- c) Sapporo*
- d) Shizuoka

The 8th Asian Winter Games opened in Sapporo (Japan) on February 19, 2017. The Games feature five sports, 11 disciplines and 64 events and have attracted around 1,500 participants from 30 countries and regions. Australia and New Zealand are making their first appearance at the Games after accepting an invitation from the Olympics Council of Asia (OCA). Since Oceania does not have regional Winter Games, this is also first time the two countries are competing on snow and ice at a continental event. The 7th edition of the Asian Winter Games was hosted by Almaty, Kazakhstan.

681) What was the performance of Indian Women's team at the Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy tournament at Vientiane, Laos in February 2017?

- a) Gold medal
- b) Silver medal*
- c) Bronze Medal
- d) Fourth place

Indian Women's team won silver at the Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy tournament at Vientiane, Laos on February 18, 2017.

682) Denmark's Erland Kops passed away in Copenhagen on February 18, 2017 at 80. He was known for achievements in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Tennis
- c) Squash
- d) Badminton*

Denmark's badminton legend Erland Kops passed away in Copenhagen on February 18, 2017. The 11-time All England champion was 80

683) The Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which has the capability to destroy incoming enemy missiles, was test-fired successfully on March 1, 2017. The enemy missile was launched from which of the following locations?

- a) Mahe
- b) Chandipur*
- c) Thar Desert
- d) Sriharikota

684) The Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which has the capability to destroy incoming enemy missiles, was test-fired successfully on March 1, 2017. The interceptor missile was launched from which of the following locations?

- a) Mahe
- b) Chandipur
- c) Thar Desert
- d) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island*

685) The Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which has the capability to destroy incoming enemy missiles, was test-fired successfully on March 1, 2017. Which of the following was the enemy missile?

- a) Prithvi*
- b) BrahMos
- c) Agni
- d) Trishul

India on March 1, 2017 successfully test-fired an indigenously-developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying any incoming enemy missile at low altitude. The endo-atmospheric missile is capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 km.

The interceptor was engaged against a target which was a Prithvi missile launched from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, taking up the trajectory of a hostile ballistic missile. The target missile was launched at about 10.10 hours.

After about four minutes the interceptor, Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile positioned at Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal, getting signals from tracking radars, roared through its trajectory to destroy the incoming hostile missile in mid-air, in an endo-atmospheric altitude.

686) What was the Infant Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 37
- b) 41*
- c) 46
- d) 50

687) What was the Under-five Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 37
- b) 41
- c) 46
- d) 50*

688) Which state had the highest Infant Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) Bihar
- b) Odisha
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Chhattisgarh*

689) . Which state had the highest Under-five Mortality Rate according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) Bihar

- b) Odisha
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

690) What was the sex ratio at birth in 2015-16 according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 919*
- b) 923
- c) 931
- d) 937

691) 9. What was the overall sex ratio in 2015-16 according to the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4)?

- a) 871
- b) 886
- c) 894
- d) 991*

Infant mortality rate (IMR) reduced by 16 points over the last 10 years -- 41 children below the age of one died per 1,000 live births, down from 57 a decade ago, according to the India fact-sheet of the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 (NFHS-4), the largest-ever assessment of the country's health and family welfare indicators. The last survey was in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). Although it has reduced infant deaths by 48 per cent over 23 years, from 79 in 1992-93 to 41 in 2015-16, India is far from the 2015 millennium development goal (MDG) -- set in consultation with the United Nations -- of an IMR of 27.

NFHS-4 also reveals a 24-point reduction in **Under-five Mortality Rate**: From 74 children under five dying for every 1,000 live births in 2005-06, it is now 50. India was set MDG target of U5MR of 42 per 1000 live births in 2015.

Chhattisgarh had the highest IMR at 54 while Madhya Pradesh had the highest under-five mortality (65) in the country. Kerala's IMR (6) and under-five mortality (7) rates were the lowest.

Total Fertility Rate (TFR) too declined to 2.2 children per woman from 2.7 in NFHS-3 moving closer to target level of 2.1.

The survey also stated that sex ratio at birth (number of females per 1,000 males) improved from 914 (2005-06) to 919 (2015-16) at the national level over the last decade with the highest in Kerala (1,047), followed by Meghalaya (1,009) and Chhattisgarh (977). The overall sex-ratio for the country is 991, while in rural India it was 1009 and in urban areas it was 956. (March 3, 2017)

692) Which of the following hosted the International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2017) from March 7 to 9, 2017?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi*
- d) Mumbai

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, in collaboration with United Nations University and UNESCO, is organizing a three-day International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance (ICEGOV 2017) in Delhi from March 7 to 9, 2017. Themed on 'Building Knowledge Societies: From Digital Government to Digital Empowerment', the ICEGOV 2017 will be inaugurated by Ravi Shankar Prasad, Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology and Law & Justice. The key objective of ICEGOV 2017 is to explore how Digital Government can lead to Digital Empowerment by local knowledge.

693) What is the Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) launched by DRDO in March 2017 named?

- a) Ananya
- b) Aastha
- c) Chinmayi
- d) Swathi*

694) . DRDO launched 15 NBC drugs for the Indian Army in March 2017. NBC refers to:

- a) Nuclear, Bionic and Chemical
- b) Nuclear, Binary and Chemical
- c) Nuclear, Bacterial and Chemical
- d) Nuclear, Biological and Chemical*

:

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over three of its products for induction into the Indian Army in a formal function in New Delhi on March 2, 2017. The products are: (i) Weapon Locating Radar (WLR), SWATHI, (ii) NBC Recce vehicle and (iii) NBC Drugs. Weapon Locating Radar (WLR), SWATHI has been developed by DRDO's Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE). The NBC Recce Vehicle Mk-I has been developed by Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE). NBC refers to Nuclear, Biological and Chemical. The NBC drugs have been developed by DRDO's INMAS (Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences) which is actively engaged in developing antidotes for chemical, biological and nuclear emergencies, combat casualty care and other life saving drugs.

695) Submarine Kalvari is Indian Navy's first submarine of which of the following categories?

- a) Viking
- b) Agosta
- c) Sturgeon
- d) Scorpene*

The Indian Navy on March 2, 2017 successfully conducted the maiden firing of an Anti-Ship missile from the indigenously built Kalvari class submarine, during a test firing in the Arabian Sea. The Kalvari class is a class of submarines based on the Scorpene-class submarine being built for the Indian Navy. It is a class of diesel-electric attack submarine which is designed by French naval defence and energy company DCNS and being manufactured by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.

696) INS Viraat, the second aircraft carrier in the Indian naval fleet, was decommissioned on March 6, 2017. It was acquired by India from which of the following countries?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) United Kingdom*

INS Viraat, the second aircraft carrier in the Indian naval fleet, will be decommissioned on March 6, Vice Admiral Girish Luthra said in Mumbai on February 27, 2017. INS Viraat has spent 30 years in the Indian Navy and before that 27 years in the Royal Navy of UK. Earlier known as HMS Hermes, the ship was in the Royal Navy from 1959. In the late 80s, Indian Navy purchased it at the cost of USD 65 million and was re-commissioned on May 12, 1987.

697) The first train of which of the following categories that connects Ernakulam and Howrah was flagged off by the Railways Minister on February 27, 2017?

- a) UDAY Express
- b) Tejas Express
- c) Antyodaya Express*
- d) Humsafar Express

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the fourth Humsafar class of trains and the first Antyodaya class of trains through video conferencing from Rail Bhawan on February 27, 2017. The Sri Ganganagar–Tiruchirappalli Humsafar Express (Weekly) will travel via Krishnarajapuram, Pune and Ahmedabad. The Ernakulam–Howrah Antyodaya Express (Weekly) will travel via Salem, Katpadi and Visakhapatnam. Antyodaya Express is a long-distance, fully unreserved, superfast train service, for the common man to be operated on dense routes. Prabhu said that Tejas and UDAY Express will be launched soon.

698) Which of the following is the social media campaign launched by the Women & Child Development Ministry in March 2017 to create awareness about gender discrimination?

- a) #IAmEqual
- b) #ShelsEqual
- c) #AllAreEqual
- d) #WeAreEqual*

In order to raise awareness about gender discrimination, the Ministry of Women and Child Development has initiated a social media campaign -- #WeAreEqual. The campaign will culminate in the celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, marked by the Nari Shakti Award ceremony during which President Pranab Mukherjee will honour individuals and institutions for their exemplary contribution to women's empowerment, the ministry said in a statement on March 2, 2017.

699) 'Collective Choice and Social Welfare' is a recently released book authored by who among the following economists?

- a) Amartya Sen*
- b) Jagdish Bhagwati
- c) Raghuram Rajan
- d) Arvind Panagariya

700) Who among the following economists has co-authored the recently released book 'Indian Railways: The Weaving of a National Tapestry'?

- a) Vijay Kelkar
- b) Bibek Debroy*
- c) Kaushik Basu
- d) Arvind Virmani

701) Who among the following has co-authored the recently released novel 'Private Delhi' with James Patterson?

- a) Aman Sethi
- b) Dheeraj Sharma
- c) Ashwin Sanghi*
- d) Amish Tripathi

702) 'Master on Masters' is a recently released book authored by who among the following musicians?

- a) Amjad Ali Khan*
- b) Shivkumar Sharma
- c) Vishwa Mohan Bhatt
- d) Hariprasad Chaurasia

Collective Choice and Social Welfare by Amartya Sen, Master on Masters by Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Indian Railways: The Weaving of a National Tapestry by Bibek Debroy, Sanjay Chadha & Vidya Krishnamurthi, 'Master on Masters' by Amjad Ali Khan and Private Delhi by Ashwin Sanghi and James Patterson.

703) . 11 innovators, who have used basic technology to improve life, are part of the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi in March 2017. Which of the following pairs of innovators and innovations is not matched correctly?

- a) Moa Subong: Invented Bamhum -- a wind musical instrument
- b) Girish Badragond: Designed low cost bore-well scanners
- c) Akash Manoj: Developed non-invasive self diagnosis of silent heart attack
- d) Ajay Kumar Sharma: Developed bamboo strip, incense stick and incense making machine*

704) 11 innovators, who have used basic technology to improve life, are part of the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi in March 2017. Which of the following pairs of innovators and innovations is not matched correctly?

- a) Subhash Ola: Developed a modified milk boiler
- b) Santosh Pachar: Developed improved carrot variety.
- c) Shalini Kumari: Created a modified walker with adjustable legs
- d) Paresh Panchal: Designed farmer friendly compressor for biogas bottling*

Noted writers Ashokkumar P Chavda and Prabal Kumar Basu, artists Rahul Shailendra Kokaste and Dheeraj Yadav, and 11 innovators will be part of the in-residence programme at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi from March 3 till March 18. Also artists Subodh Gupta and Bharti Kher will start staying at Rashtrapati Bhavan as artists-in-residence from March 2 to

March 10. Gupta is known for working with everyday objects like steel utensils. He has also masterfully executed works in bronze, marble, brass and wood. Kher is an who uses “bindi” as a central motif in her work to link tradition and modernity.

Also, 11 innovators, who have used basic technology to improve life, are included in the in-residence programme. **Surjeet Singh** from Haryana has developed a high yield basmati rice variety which is salt tolerant. **Moa Subong** from Nagaland has invented Bamhum -- a wind musical instrument. **Ajay Kumar Sharma** from Uttar Pradesh has designed farmer friendly compressor for biogas bottling.

Akash Manoj from Tamil Nadu has developed non-invasive self diagnosis of silent heart attack. **Girish Badragond** from Karnataka has designed low cost bore-well scanners. **Mansukhbhai Prajapati** from Gujarat has come up with refrigerator, non-stick ‘tawa’ and a cooker made from clay.

Subhash Ola from Rajasthan developed a modified milk boiler. **Shalini Kumari** from Bihar created a modified walker with adjustable legs. Paresh Panchal from Gujarat developed bamboo strip, incense stick and incense making machine. **Santosh Pachar** from Rajasthan developed improved carrot variety.

705) Nutan Guha Biswas was appointed as the Chairperson of which of the following regulatory organisations in March 2017?

- a) Forward Markets Commission
- b) Inland Waterways Authority of India*
- c) National Highways Authority of India
- d) Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

Nutan Guha Biswas will be the new Chairperson of the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI). Biswas would replace Amitabh Verma in the IWAI under the Ministry of Shipping. Guha would continue in the post till July 31, 2018 or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the department of personnel and training said in a notification on March 3, 2017.

706) D. R. Doley Barman was appointed as the Director of which of the following in March 2017?

- a) National Judicial Academy
- b) National Defence Academy
- c) Indian Military Academy
- d) National Police Academy*

Senior police officer D R Doley Barman was on February 28, 2017 appointed as Director of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy, Hyderabad.

707) Former Union Minister P. Shivshankar passed away on February 27, 2017 at the age of 90. He had worked as which of the following before joining politics?

- a) Judge*
- b) Diplomat
- c) Civil Servant
- d) Police Officer

Former Union Minister and Congress leader P. Shivshankar passed away in Hyderabad on February 27, 2017. He was 90. Shivshankar served as a judge in the then Andhra Pradesh High Court. He joined Congress and won Lok Sabha election from Secunderabad in 1978 and 1980. He served as Union Minister in the governments of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi. He also served as Governor of Sikkim and Kerala.

708) Which of the following was won by Tarak Mehta who passed away at the age of 87 in Ahmedabad on March 1, 2017?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri*

Eminent humorist and playwright Tarak Mehta, best known for his Gujarati column “Duniya Ne Undha Chasma”, passed away at the age of 87 in Ahmedabad on March 1, 2017. Mehta’s columns, which first appeared in Gujarati weekly

magazine 'Chitralekha' in 1971, were adapted into a TV serial, "Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashma" in 2008. He won Padma Shri in 2015.

709) Haji Abdul Salam died on February 28, 2017 at the age of 69. He was the Rajya Sabha member from which state?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur*

Congress leader and Rajya Sabha member Haji Abdul Salam passed in Imphal on February 28, 2017 at the age of 69. Salam has been member of the upper house from Manipur since 2014. He was elected to the 3rd, 6th and 8th Manipur Legislative Assembly from Wabagai assembly constituency.

710) According to the Indus Waters Treaty, India has control over waters of which of the following rivers?

- a) Beas
- b) Ravi
- c) Sutlej
- d) All the above*

The Indian Commissioner of the Permanent Indus Commission has accepted his Pakistani counterpart's invitation for talks on the Indus Waters Treaty scheduled to be held in Pakistan in the second half of March, media reports said on March 3, 2017. The Permanent Indus Commission is a bipartisan body entrusted with everyday implementation of the World Bank-brokered Indus Waters Treaty that was signed in 1960. According to the agreement, India has control over three eastern rivers -- Beas, Ravi and Sutlej -- all flowing from Punjab. Pakistan controls the western rivers of the Indus -- Chenab and Jhelum that flow from Jammu and Kashmir.

711) Consider the following regarding Tunisia.

- I. Capital: Tunis
 - II. Currency: Tunisian dollar
 - III. President: Beji Caid Essebsi
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only*

712) Consider the following regarding Mali.

- I. Capital: Bamako
 - II. Currency: West African CFA franc
 - III. President: Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III*

713) Consider the following regarding Republic of Congo.

- I. Capital: Libreville
 - II. Currency: Central African CFA franc
 - III. President: Denis Sassou Nguesso
- Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III and I only

Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar went on a 3-day visit to Tunisia from February 26 to 28, 2017. Akbar met with President Beji Caid Essebsi and other leaders in Tunis (Currency: Tunisian dinar). Akbar visited Mali (Currency: West African CFA franc) on March 2-4 where he called on President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita and Prime Minister Modibo Keita in capital Bamako. The minister visited Timbuktu and presented a cheque of USD 0.5 million as India's support to Mali towards restoration of its heritage. The Minister also visited Republic of Congo (Currency: Central African CFA franc) on March 5-6 where he called on President Denis Sassou Nguesso in capital Brazzaville.

714) India held 'Al-Nagah-II' defence exercises with which of the following in Himachal Pradesh in March 2017?

- a) UAE
- b) Qatar*
- c) Oman
- d) Bahrain

In an effort to build bilateral military-to-military relations and skills, a 14-day joint defence exercise 'Al-Nagah-II' between the armies of India and Oman will begin in Himachal Pradesh from March 6.

715) Which of the following hosted the Summit of the 21-nation Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on March 7, 2017?

- a) Jakarta*
- b) Kuala Lumpur
- c) Manila
- d) Singapore

Vice President Hamid Ansari will attend the Summit of the 21-nation Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on March 7 in Jakarta, Indonesia. The summit has the theme: 'Strengthening Maritime Cooperation for a Peaceful, Stable and Prosperous Indian Ocean'.

716) Who among the following was appointed as the new Spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry in February 2017?

- a) Ranjit Rae
- b) Deepak Mittal
- c) Gopal Baglay*
- d) Jitendra Bhargava

Senior diplomat Gopal Baglay was on February 27, 2017 appointed Spokesperson in the External Affairs Ministry succeeding Vikas Swarup, who was made India's new High Commissioner to Canada. Manjeev Singh Puri is set to be the country's envoy to Nepal. Puri's name has been proposed with the term of Ranjit Rae coming to an end.

717) Which of the following hosted the India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave on February 27-28, 2017?

- a) Gandhinagar
- b) Jaipur*
- c) Mumbai
- d) Hyderabad

Two-day fourth India-CLMV (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam) Business Conclave was organised in Jaipur on February 27-28, 2017.

718) National Science Day was observed on February 28, 2017 to mark the _____.

- a) Birth anniversary of Sir C. V. Raman
- b) Day of conferment of Knighthood on C. V. Raman
- c) Day of discovery of Raman Effect by C. V. Raman*
- d) Foundation of Indian Academy of Sciences by C V Raman

719) What was the theme of the National Science Day observed on February 28, 2017?

- a) Fostering Scientific Temper
- b) Science for Nation Building

- c) Genetically Modified Crops and Food Security
- d) Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons*

Every year since 1987, National Science Day is celebrated on February 28. On this day in 1928, Sir C.V. Raman discovered the famous "Raman Effect", about scattering of light. He was awarded Nobel Prize in physics for this discovery in 1930. Main objective is to bring science in the forefront through celebration of the national science day (NSD), inculcate scientific temper and take pride in the scientific achievements of the country. Theme for the National Science Day 2017 is "Science and Technology for Specially Abled Persons".

- 720)** Which of the following was launched by Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Narendra Singh Tomar in Gurugram on March 1, 2017?
- a) Swachh Samay Saptah
 - b) Swachh Shakti Saptah*
 - c) Swachh Saathi Saptah
 - d) Swachh Shiksha Saptah

Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation Narendra Singh Tomar launched the 'Swachh Shakti Saptah' in Gurugram on March 1, 2017. The Minister declared that he was now glad that 102 districts of the country have declared themselves ODF (open defecation free) under the scheme covering 1.71 lakh villages. Three states - Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Kerala - have already declared themselves ODF.

- 721)** Which of the following hosted the International Yoga Festival that was jointly organized by AYUSH, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, GMVN and Parmarth Niketan Ashram from March 1 to 7, 2017?
- a) Mussoorie
 - b) Rishikesh*
 - c) Dehradun
 - d) Haridwar

The International Yoga Festival was jointly organized by AYUSH, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, GMVN and Parmarth Niketan Ashram in Rishikesh from March 1 to 7, 2017.

- 722)** Zero Discrimination Day, which was celebrated on March 1, 2017, is an initiative of:
- a) UNICEF
 - b) UNDP
 - c) UNAIDS*
 - d) UNESCO

Zero Discrimination Day was celebrated by UNAIDS on March 1, 2017. The theme of this year's Day was 'Make Some Noise for #ZeroDiscrimination'. "From Bamako to Baltimore, the right to health belongs to all. On this #ZeroDiscrimination Day let us commit to ensuring everyone, everywhere can access health care safely and live life fully with dignity", said Michel Sidibé, UNAIDS Executive Director in his message.

- 723)** World Wildlife Day was observed on March 3, 2017 to mark the day of adoption of CITES in 1973. CITES is:
- a) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora*
 - b) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora
 - c) Collaboration on International Trade in Endangered Species of World Fauna and Flora
 - d) Convention on International Trafficking in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

- 724)** What was the theme of the World Wildlife Day observed on March 3, 2017?
- a) Climate change in the wild
 - b) Listen to the young voices*
 - c) The future of wildlife is in our hands
 - d) Involve forest dwellers in conservation

World Wildlife Day was observed on March 3, 2017. Theme: 'Listen to the Young Voices'. March 3 marks the day of the adoption of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1973.

725) Which historic city and UNESCO World Heritage site was retaken by the Syrian army from the Islamic State terrorist group in March 2017?

- a) Delos
- b) Patmos
- c) Palmyra*
- d) Meteora

The General Staff of the Syrian Army on March 2, 2017 said it had recaptured the ancient city of Palmyra from the extremist group Islamic State (IS).

726) World Civil Defence Day was celebrated on:

- a) March 1*
- b) March 2
- c) March 3
- d) March 4

727) Consider the following regarding the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO).

- I. Its Permanent Secretariat is based in Geneva
- II. India has the status of an Observer State
- III. Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov is Secretary General

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only*

World Civil Defence Day was celebrated on March 1, 2017. This Day commemorates the entry into force of the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO) Constitution as an intergovernmental organisation in 1972. In 2017, the theme for the World Civil Defence Day celebration is "Together with civil defence against disasters". The ICDO comprises Member States (56 States), Observer States (18 States) and Affiliated Members (30 Members). Its Permanent Secretariat is based in Geneva. India is an affiliated member. Dr. Vladimir Kuvshinov is Secretary General of ICDO.

728) Consider the following regarding Sweden.

- I. Eurozone
- II. European Union
- III. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

The country is a member of which of the above?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only*
- d) III and I only

729) Consider the following regarding Sweden.

- I. Parliament: Riksdag
- II. Capital: Stockholm
- III. King: Harald V

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II only
- d) III and I only

Sweden announced on March 2, 2017 that it will reintroduce compulsory military service starting this summer. The conscription will cover all Swedes born after 1999. They will be called up each year after January 1 2018. Sweden is not a NATO member but has signed the body's Partnership for Peace programme launched in 1994 to develop military cooperation between NATO and non-member countries. Sweden joined the European Union on 1 January 1995, but

declined Eurozone membership. Currency: Swedish krona, Parliament: Riksdag, Capital: Stockholm, King: Carl XVI Gustaf. Prime Minister: Stefan Lofven. Harald V is the King of Norway.

730) The government of Pakistan announced the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with which province in March 2017?

- a) Sindh
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*

Pakistan government on March 2, 2017 approved the merger of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) with the Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province to bring the impoverished and politically deprived tribal region at par with the rest of the country. The FATA is a semi-autonomous tribal region in northwest Pakistan, bordering Afghanistan.

731) . Consider the following statements regarding Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO).

- I. It has 10 countries as Members
- II. India is not its Member
- III. Its 2017 Summit was organised in Baku

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II only
- d) III and I only

The day-long 13th summit of the 10-nation Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) was organised in Islamabad on March 1, 2017. The ECO summit was attended by the representatives of nine other countries -- Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan -- besides Pakistan. The theme of the summit was 'Connectivity for Regional Prosperity'. The summit concluded with the adoption of the Islamabad Declaration and Vision 2025. ECO was established in 1985 by Pakistan, Iran and Turkey with Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Tajikistan joined in 1992.

732) . What is the joint military exercise between South Korea and USA in March 2017 named?

- a) Key Resolve*
- b) Peninsular Drill
- c) Austere Challenge
- d) Cormorant Strike

South Korea and the United States kicked off their annual, massive military exercises on March 1, 2017. The joint exercises are known as Key Resolve and Foal Eagle.

733) Which of the following saw the eruption of 3,763-metre-high Volcan de Fuego, one of the country's three active volcanoes, in February 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Nicaragua
- c) Venezuela
- d) Guatemala*

Guatemala's Volcano of Fire erupted today on February 25, 2017, spewing lava and sending up ash plumes that rained down ashes on nearby communities. The 3,763-metre-high Volcan de Fuego, one of the country's three active volcanoes, is located about 45 kilometres southwest of the capital Guatemala City.

734) Neil Fingleton died at 36 on February 25, 2017. He was the tallest person in which country?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada
- c) New Zealand
- d) United Kingdom*

735) Bill Paxton died at 61 on February 25, 2017. He was well-known as:

- a) Actor*
- b) Painter
- c) Economist
- d) Industrialist

US actor Bill Paxton, a favourite go-to cast member for director James Cameron, who appeared in films such as "The Terminator," "Aliens," "True Lies" and "Titanic," died at 61 in Los Angeles on February 25, 2017. Game of Thrones actor Neil Fingleton, who was named Britain's tallest man, died at 36 on February 25, 2017. Fingleton started his career as a professional basketball player for teams in the United States and Spain but an injury forced him into early retirement in 2007. He then started his acting career and joined the cast of Game of Thrones in 2014.

736) Essa Moosa died aged 81 on February 26, 2017. He was a prominent Indian-origin human rights lawyer based in which country?

- a) South Africa*
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Fiji
- d) New Zealand

Essa Moosa, a prominent Indian-origin South African human rights lawyer, died aged 81 in Cape Town on February 26, 2017.

737) Who among the following assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in March 2017?

- a) Amjad Hussain B. Sial*
- b) Ghulam Murtaza Jatoi
- c) Syed Ashiq Hussain Bukhari
- d) Aftab Ahmad Sherpao

Pakistan's diplomat Amjad Hussain B. Sial on March 1, 2017 assumed office as the new Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) at the SAARC Secretariat in Kathmandu. He will continue till February 28, 2020. Sial succeeded Nepal's Arjun Bahadur Thapa, who was appointed the Secretary-General in 2014.

738) Which of the following was conducted by Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and Interpol in India from January 30 to February 19 to nab those involved in illegal trade in wildlife?

- a) Operation Black Panther
- b) Operation Flying Dagger
- c) Operation Thunder Bird*
- d) Operation Black Archer

Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change organised 'Operation Thunder Bird' from January 30 to February 19 to nab those involved in illegal trade in wildlife in India. 'Operation Thunder Bird' is the code name for Interpol's multi-national and multi-species enforcement operation in India.

739) Which island nation became the first in the world to ratify the Kigali Amendment on ending hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in February 2017?

- a) Nauru
- b) Palau
- c) Samoa
- d) Marshall Islands*

Pacific archipelago nation Marshall Islands said on February 28, 2017 it was the first country to ratify a global pact to phase out planet-warming gases called HFCs. The Kigali Amendment on ending hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) was agreed by nearly 200 countries in the Rwandan capital in October 2016, after years of talks. It must be officially ratified by 20 nations to enter into force.

740) Which of the following won the Best Picture award at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Lion
- b) Arrival
- c) Fences
- d) Moonlight*

741) Who won the Best Actress award at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Emma Stone*
- b) Meryl Streep
- c) Ruth Negga
- d) Natalie Portman

742) The Salesman (Persian) was the Best Foreign Language Film at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017. It has been directed by who among the following?

- a) Babak Karimi
- b) Asghar Farhadi*
- c) Ebrahim Golestan
- d) Nader Talebzadeh

743) Who among the following won the Best Director award at 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Mel Gibson
- b) Barry Jenkins
- c) Damien Chazelle*
- d) Kenneth Lonergan

744) Casey Affleck won the Best Actor award for which movie at the 89th Academy Awards in Los Angeles on February 26, 2017?

- a) Lion
- b) Arrival
- c) Fences
- d) Manchester by the Sea*

The 89th Academy Awards were presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles, California on February 26, 2017. Moonlight, directed by Barry Jenkins, won three awards, including Best Picture. La La Land won the most awards with six. The Salesman (Persian), an Iranian film directed and written by Asghar Farhadi, won Best Foreign Language Film award. Top winners: **Best picture:** Moonlight, **Best actor:** Casey Affleck (Manchester By The Sea), **Best Actress:** Emma Stone (La La Land), **Best Supporting Actor:** Mahershala Ali (Moonlight), **Best Supporting Actress:** Viola Davis (Fences), **Best Director:** Damien Chazelle (La La Land), **Best Animated Feature Film:** Zootopia, **Best Foreign Language Film:** The Salesman

745) Former President Barack Obama has been named the 2017 winner of the _____ Profile in Courage Award in March 2017.

- a) Woodrow Wilson
- b) John F. Kennedy*
- c) Harry S. Truman
- d) Dwight D. Eisenhower

Former President Barack Obama has been named the 2017 winner of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award by the John F Kennedy Library Foundation announced on March 2, 2017. The award is named for Kennedy's 1957 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Profiles in Courage".

746) Rajinder Goel and Padmakar Shivalkar won the _____ Lifetime Achievement awards at the BCCI Annual Awards in March 2017.

- a) Polly Umrigar
- b) Lala Amarnath
- c) Col. C K Nayudu*
- d) MA Chidambaram

747) Virat Kohli was declared winner of the ____ award at the BCCI Annual Awards in March 2017.

- a) Polly Umrigar*
- b) Lala Amarnath
- c) Col. C K Nayudu
- d) Jagmohan Dalmiya

748) Dilip Sardesai award is given for best performance in India's test series with which of the following?

- a) Australia
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) South Africa
- d) West Indies*

The BCCI Annual Awards committee consisting N Ram, Ramachandra Guha and Diana Edulji announced the winners for the prestigious awards on March 1, 2017. Virat Kohli will become the first player to receive the Polly Umrigar Award - given to the International Cricketer of the Year - for the third time. Ravichandran Ashwin won the Dilip Sardesai award, which is given to honour the best performance in the bilateral Test series between India and West Indies, for the second time.

The complete list of the winners is as follows:

- Col. CK. Nayudu Lifetime achievement award: Rajinder Goel, Padmakar Shivalkar
- BCCI Lifetime achievement award form women: Shantha Rangaswamy
- BCCI special award: VV Kumar, Late Ramakant Desai
- Polly Umrigar Award: Virat Kohli
- Dilip Sardesai award (For India's best cricketer in the West Indies series 2016): Ravichandran Ashwin
- Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16: Jalaj Saxena of Madhya Pradesh
- Lala Amarnath Award for the best all-rounder in domestic limited-overs competitions, 2015-16: Axar Patel of Gujarat
- Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest scorer in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16): Shreyas Iyer of Mumbai
- Madhavrao Scindia Award (Highest wicket-taker in the Ranji Trophy 2015-16): Shahbaz Nadeem of Jharkhand
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest scorer in U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16: Jay. G. Bosta of Mumbai
- M.A. Chidambaram Trophy (Highest wicket-taker in (U-23) Col. CK. Nayudu Trophy 2015-16: Satyajeeet Bachhav of Maharashtra
- NKP Salve Award (Highest scorer in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16: Arman Jaffer of Mumbai
- NKP Salve Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-19) Cooch Behar Trophy in 2015-16: Ninad Rathva of Baroda
- Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest scorer in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16): Abhishek Sharma of Punjab
- Raj Singh Dungarpur Award (Highest wicket-taker in (U-16) Vijay Merchant Trophy in 2015-16): Abhishek Sharma of Punjab
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Sr.) of 2015-16): Mithali Raj of Railways
- Jagmohan Dalmiya Award (Best Woman cricketer (Jr.) of 2015-16): Deepti Sharma of Uttar Pradesh
- Best Umpire in Domestic cricket in 2015-16: Nitin Menon
- Best performance in BCCI Domestic tournaments of 2015-16: Mumbai Cricket Association

749) President Pranab Mukherjee presented the 'Standard' to 125 Helicopter Squadron and 'Colours' to Mechanical Training Institute of Indian Air Force on March 3, 2017. These are based in which state?

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

President Pranab Mukherjee on March 3, 2017 presented the 'Standard' to 125 Helicopter Squadron and 'Colours' to Mechanical Training Institute of Indian Air Force at Air Force Station, Tambaram, Tamil Nadu.

750) Possession of more than ____ pieces for study, research or numismatics purpose will be a criminal offence under the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017.

- a) 5
- b) 10

- c) 15
- d) 25*

The government on March 1, 2017 notified the law that makes holding of more than 10 scrapped notes punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 10,000. The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017, was passed by Parliament in February 2017 with a view to eliminate the “possibility of running a parallel economy” using the old Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes that have been demonetised. With the law coming into force, possession of more than 10 pieces of the old notes by individuals and more than 25 pieces for study, research or numismatics purpose will be a criminal offence, attracting fine of Rs 10,000 or five times the cash held, whichever is higher. The act also ends the liability of the RBI and the government on the demonetised currency notes.

751) The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released its **second advance estimates** of economic growth on February 28, 2017. What is the growth rate estimate for 2016-17?

- a) 6.9%
- b) 7.1%*
- c) 7.3%
- d) 7.5%

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) released its **second advance estimates** of economic growth on February 28, 2017. The CSO has kept its estimate for growth in gross domestic product (GDP) in 2016-17 unchanged at 7.1% which it had projected in the **first advance estimates** in January 2017. The Indian economy expanded by 7% in the third quarter of 2016-17. The CSO has also marginally revised upwards the estimates for the first and the second quarters to 7.2 per cent and 7.4 per cent.

752) Jose Angel Gurria is associated with which of the following organisations?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) WEF
- c) WTO
- d) OECD*

Paris-based think tank OECD on February 28, 2017 cut India's growth forecast to 7% for 2016-17 in view of demonetisation, but said the pace will accelerate to 7.3% in 2017-18. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had in February 2016 projected the country's economy to expand at 7.4% in 2016-17. “India has been a star performer in gloomy times. We do not have many cases of 7% growth. It is a top reformer among all the G-20 countries,” OECD Secretary-General Jose Angel Gurria said. The organisation forecast the country's economic growth to rise further to 7.7% in 2018-19.

753) Who among the following is the Chairman of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to investigate the stashing away of black money in foreign banks and suggest ways to bring it back to India?

- a) Justice M.B. Shah*
- b) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- c) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- d) Justice Madan B. Lokur
- e) Justice Arijit Pasayat

Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigating Team (SIT) on black money has so far unearthed black money to the tune of 70 thousand crore rupees across the country. Speaking to media after a high-level meeting of SIT on black money, its Vice-Chairman Justice Arijit Pasayat said in Cuttack March 2, 2017 that the committee will submit its sixth report to the Apex court in the first week of April. Justice M.B. Shah is the Chairman of SIT.

754) Which of the following has topped the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy?

- a) Thiruvananthapuram*
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi
- d) Mumbai

Thiruvananthapuram has topped the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) conducted by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy. The not-for-profit organisation revealed the findings of the fourth edition of the survey on February 28, 2017. Notably, all the Indian cities surveyed fared poorly on the 82 parameters, scoring between 2.1 and 4.4 on a scale of 10, against the global benchmarks set by London (9.3) and New York 9.8.

755) India's first Integrated Heliport was inaugurated at which of the following on February 28, 2017? It has been built by Pawan Hans.

- a) Thiruvananthapuram
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi*
- d) Mumbai

India's first Integrated Heliport was inaugurated at Rohini, New Delhi on February 28, 2017. State-owned Pawan Hans has carried out the heliport project for the Civil Aviation Ministry. Built at an investment of Rs 100 crore, the facility will be useful in providing medical emergency, public safety and enhancing tourism. The Heliport consists of a terminal building having capacity of 150 passengers, 4 hangers with parking capacities for 16 helicopters and 9 parking bays.

756) Which was the top state in terms of Domestic Tourist Visits at 344.3 million in 2016?

- a) Kerala
- b) Tamil Nadu*
- c) Karnataka
- d) Uttar Pradesh

Domestic Tourist Visits (DTVs) during 2016 recorded a growth rate of 15.5% over 2015, showed data released by the Ministry of Tourism on March 2, 2017. During 2016, the number of DTVs to the States/UTs was 1653 million (provisional) as compared to 1432 million in 2015 registering a growth of 15.5%. The top ten States in terms of number of DTVs (in millions), during 2016, were Tamil Nadu (344.3), Uttar Pradesh (229.6), Madhya Pradesh (184.7), Andhra Pradesh (158.5), Karnataka (129.8), Maharashtra (115.4), West Bengal (74.5), Telangana (71.5), Gujarat (42.8) and Rajasthan (41.5).

757) What is the share of core sector industries in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- a) 8%
- b) 18%
- c) 28%
- d) 38%*
- e) 48%

The growth of eight core industries (coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity) slowed down to a five-month low of 3.4% in January 2017, mainly due to contraction in output of refinery products, fertiliser and cement. The growth rate was 5.7% in January 2016. The eight core industries account for nearly 38 per cent of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

758) India was ranked 36th in Internet Inclusiveness, which is based on factors like Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness, in March 2017. The ranking is an initiative of Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) and which of the following?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook*
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft

India ranked 36th among 75 nations in Internet inclusiveness based on factors like Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness, a Facebook-Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) report said on March 1, 2017. Singapore and Sweden were joint first. United States was third while United Kingdom was fourth. Japan was fifth. South Korea was sixth. France was seventh while the Netherlands and Canada were joint eighth. Italy was tenth.

759) Which of the following has decided to end its mobile service joint venture with NTT DoCoMo of Japan?

- a) Reliance Communications

- b) BSNL
- c) Idea Cellular
- d) Tata Teleservices*

Tata Sons has agreed to pay USD 1.18 billion in damages to NTT DoCoMo to settle long standing dispute over exit of the Japanese firm from their India joint venture. Tata Sons reached an out-of-court agreement with Japan's largest mobile phone firm to enforce a June 2016 award of a London arbitral tribunal. Following this, the two firms applied to the Delhi High Court to suspend legal proceedings and accept the settlement. (March 2017)

760) Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) belongs to which corporate group?

- a) Tata*
- b) Godrej
- c) ITC
- d) L&T

The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on March 2, 2017 decided to auction off the Taj Mansingh hotel. Tata Group's Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL) has been operating the iconic hotel on Mansingh Road since 1978. IHCL's 33-year lease of the Taj hotel expired in 2011 and it was given nine temporary extensions on various grounds.

761) Which former Indian cricketer joined global professional network LinkedIn as an 'Influencer' in March 2017?

- a) Rahul Dravid
- b) Sachin Tendulkar*
- c) Dilip Vengsarkar
- d) Sunil Gavaskar
- e) Saurav Ganguly

Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar on March 2, 2017 joined LinkedIn, global professional network, as an 'Influencer'. LinkedIn India said, "Tendulkar, with his success in sports and in business adds to the growing cast of iconic Indian influencers, ultimately helping to inspire our more than 467 million members worldwide to achieve higher heights in their careers."

762) The annual Mobile World Congress was organised in _____ in February 2017.

- a) Seattle
- b) Mumbai
- c) Shanghai
- d) Barcelona*

The iconic Nokia 3310 is set to make a comeback in a new trendier avatar, with HMD Global bringing the handset to India in the next quarter for about Rs 3,500. HMD Global, which has struck a 10-year brand licensing agreement with Nokia for mobile phones and tablets, will also bring in Android-powered Nokia 6, Nokia 5 and Nokia 3 to India in the second quarter of this year. This was announced at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2017 in Barcelona in February 2017.

763) Who among the following opened the London Stock Exchange in a special ceremony on February 27, 2017?

- a) Urjit Patel
- b) Arun Jaitley*
- c) Nitin Gadkari
- d) Suresh Prabhu

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley opened the London Stock Exchange in a special ceremony on February 27, 2017. Following the market open ceremony, Nikhil Rathi, CEO, London Stock Exchange (LSE) plc, hosted a roundtable event with Jaitley, delegates from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and leading investors.

764) Which of the following global market research companies announced the setting up of its Public Affairs unit in India in March 2017?

- a) Ipsos*
- b) Gallup
- c) Nielsen
- d) Maplecroft

Global market research company Ipsos on March 3, 2017 announced the launch of Ipsos Public Affairs in India. The public affairs wing has been launched with an aim to help customers identify what drives, builds and sustains social research and corporate reputation in India.

765) The Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA) of the New York Stock Exchange closes above the 21,000 mark for the first time on March 1, 2017. DJIA comprises shares of how many companies?

- a) 10
- b) 20
- c) 30*
- d) 40

Wall Street closed with strong gains on March 1, 2017 with the Dow Jones Industrial Average (DJIA), the main market indicator, rising 1.45 per cent and ending the day above 21,000 for the first time in history. The DJIA, which is made up of 30 "blue chip" stocks, including IBM, ExxonMobil and Coca-Cola, had closed above 20,000 for the first time on January 25.

766) Who among the following will take charge as India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June 2017?

- a) Ashok Lavasa
- b) J. S. Deepak*
- c) Shaktikanta Das
- d) Anjuly Chib Duggal

Telecom Secretary J. S. Deepak was on March 1, 2017 named India's next Ambassador to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) from June 2017.

767) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for a period of five years recently?

- a) Biswajit Roy
- b) B. S. Giridhar
- c) G. K. Satish
- d) Sanjiv Singh*

Sanjiv Singh was on February 28, 2017 appointed Chairman of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for a period of five years. Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) interviewed eight candidates. He will be assuming the charge on or after June 1.

768) Which of the following claimed to have become the "first state" in the country to serve midday meal up to class 12 for girl students?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi*
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

Girl students up to class 12 in all Delhi government schools will get midday meal facility from April 1. Currently the scheme covers boy and girl students till class 8 only. The government claimed that Delhi will become the "first state" in the country to serve midday meal up to class 12.

769) Which state announced the 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojna' in March 2017 to provide food at subsidized rate to the poor in urban areas?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh*

In order to provide food at subsidized rate to the poor in urban areas, Finance Minister Jayant Malaiya announced 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojna' while presenting Madhya Pradesh's Budget for 2017-2018 in Bhopal on March 1, 2017. The minister said: "Year 2017, the birth centenary year of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, is being celebrated as 'Garib Kalyan Varsh'. To mark the year, 'Deendayal Rasoi Yojna' is being launched in selected urban areas." The funds for the scheme will be arranged through the donations received from corporate sector under Corporate Social Responsibility.

770) The World Bank announced a loan of \$63 million for 'Tejaswini: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project' in which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Jharkhand*
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Delhi
- d) Haryana
- e) Madhya Pradesh

The World Bank will provide loan to India to empower 6.8 lakh adolescent girls in Jharkhand under the 'Tejaswini' project. A Financing Agreement for International Development Association (IDA) credit of USD 63 million (equivalent) for the "Tejaswini: Socio-Economic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women Project" was signed in New Delhi in February 2017 between the bank and the government.

771) Kristalina Georgieva is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at which of the following?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF
- c) WTO
- d) World Bank*

World Bank Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Kristalina Georgieva, who was on a visit to India, on February 28, 2017 travelled in local train from Churchgate to Dadar in Mumbai.

772) Which of the following won the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) in February 2017?

- a) Ranchi Rays
- b) Delhi Waveriders
- c) Uttar Pradesh Wizards
- d) Kalinga Lancers*

773) Which of the following hosted the final of the Hero Hockey India League (HIL) on February 26, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chandigarh*
- d) Bhopal

774) Who among the following was the top scorer with 12 goals in the fifth edition of Hero Hockey India League (HIL) that concluded in February 2017?

- a) Moritz Fuerste*
- b) Affan Yousuf
- c) Agustin Mazzilli
- d) Robbert Kempermann

Odisha-based Kalinga Lancers defeated Dabang Mumbai 4-1 in a keenly-contested summit clash to win their maiden Hockey India League title, in Chandigarh on February 26, 2017. Skipper Moritz Fuerste (30th, 58th) converted two penalty corners for the Lancers before Glenn Turner (18th minute) struck a field effort for the Odisha outfit, which lost the final in 2016 to Jaypee Punjab Warriors. A field goal gets two points. For Dabang Mumbai, Affan Yousuf (33rd) scored the lone goal from a penalty corner variation. Earlier in the day, Uttar Pradesh Wizards registered a 5-4 come-from-behind win over Delhi Waveriders and claim the bronze medal. Fuerste and Turner of Kalinga Lancers finished as the league's joint highest scorers with 12 goals each in as many matches. Dabang Mumbai's Harmanpreet Singh bagged the award for emerging player of the league, which carries a cash award of Rs 20 lakh. Harmanpreet scored seven goals.

775) Who among the following won the World Women's Chess Championship in Tehran in March 2017?

- a) Tan Zhongyi*
- b) Antoaneta Stefanova
- c) Anna Ushenina
- d) Koneru Humpy

Indian GM Dronavali Harika won her third bronze medal in a row after a defeat against Tan Zhongyi of China in a semi-final tie-breaker at the World Women's Chess Championship in Tehran on February 26, 2017. Zhongyi became the new Women's World Champion after defeating Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine in the final on March 4.

776) 45. India returned with three medals at the 68th Strandja Memorial _____ Tournament held in Sofia, Bulgaria in February 2017?

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing*
- c) Wrestling
- d) Archery

Mohamed Hussamuddin won silver medal as India signed off with three medals at the 68th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria. Hussamuddin was beaten 2-3 by Ukraine's Mykola Butsenko in the bantamweight (56kg) final. India thus ended with three medals at the event after Amit Phangal (49kg) and Meena Kumari Maisnam (54kg) lost their respective semifinals to settle for bronze medals. (February 27, 2017)

777) John Hampshire died aged 76 on March 1, 2017. He was known for achievements in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Rugby
- c) Football
- d) Cricket*

Former England batsman and Test umpire John Hampshire died aged 76 on March 1, 2017 in London. Hampshire made history on his Test debut by becoming the first Englishman to score a century at Lord's in his maiden Test in the series with the West Indies in 1969. He played eight Tests and three One Day Internationals (ODIs) for England between 1969 and 1975.

778) Raymond Kopa died on March 3, 2017 aged 85. He was known for achievements in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Rugby
- c) Football*
- d) Badminton

French football legend Raymond Kopa, who won the European Cup three times with Real Madrid in the 1950s, died on March 3, 2017 aged 85.

779) Who among the following won the only gold for India at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup organised in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Jitu Rai*
- b) Vijay Kumar
- c) Ankur Mittal
- d) Amanpreet Singh

780) Which country topped the medals tally at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup organised in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) China*
- c) Vietnam
- d) Australia

India won five medals, including one gold, in the ISSF World Cup that concluded at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi on March 4, 2017. India's medals came from Pooja Ghatkar in the Women's Air Rifle (bronze), Ankur Mittal in men's double trap (silver), Amanpreet Singh in men's 50m pistol (silver) and two-time Olympian Jitu Rai in the men's 10m air pistol (bronze) and 50m pistol (gold). China topped the medals tally with 12 medals (6 gold and 6 silver) followed by Italy, Australia, Japan and India. India also won two more medals in test events. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa won bronze with Haley Dunn of the United States in the Mixed Team Skeet event. Also Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu won gold medal in the Mixed Team Air Pistol event. As the mixed team events are Test-only event, there will be no official World Cup medals and no official scores added to the shooters' accolades.

781) Both Men's and Women's races at Tokyo Marathon on February 26, 2017 were won by athletes from:

- a) Chad
- b) Kenya*
- c) Nigeria
- d) Norway

Kenya's Wilson Kipsang stormed to victory in the Tokyo Marathon on February 26, 2017 in the fastest race ever run in Japan. The former world record holder clocked 2hr 3min 58sec. Another Kenyan Sarah Chepchirchir won the women's race in 2:19:47.

782) Monika Athare has won laurels for India in which event in women's athletics?

- a) High jump
- b) Javelin throw
- c) Shot put
- d) Marathon*

T. Gopi and Monika Athare won the second edition of IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon on February 26, 2017 in Delhi, finishing in 2:15:37 hours and 2:39:08 hours, respectively.

783) Tarun Kona and Alwin Francis recently won Men's Doubles event in which sport in February 2017?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Tennis
- c) Badminton*
- d) Archery

India's Tarun Kona and Alwin Francis won the Men's Doubles title at the 2017 Uganda International Series badminton tournament in Kampala on February 25, 2016. They beat Aatish Lubah and Georges Julien Paul of Mauritius, 21-8, 21-14 in the final.

784) The 51st edition of _____ Vintage and Classic Car Rally was hosted in the national capital on February 26, 2017.

- a) Indian Express
- b) Hindustan Times
- c) The Hindu
- d) Times of India
- e) The Statesman

The 51st edition of The Statesman Vintage and Classic Car Rally was hosted in the national capital on February 26, 2017.

785) Which of the following statements about the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which was passed by the Rajya Sabha on March 10, 2017 is/are correct?

- I. It refers to inheritance of property left in Pakistan by those who migrated to India
- II. It refers to government confiscation of property belonging to those convicted for terrorist offences
- III. It refers to inheritance of property left in India by those who migrated to Pakistan and China

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only*

786) The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 amends the Enemy Property Act,_____.

- a) 1964
- b) 1968*
- c) 1970
- d) 1972

Rajya Sabha on March 10, 2017 passed a Bill to amend a 49-year-old law to guard against claims of succession or transfer of properties left by people who migrated to Pakistan and China, amid a walkout by the entire Opposition. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968, was passed by voice vote in the Rajya Sabha. The measure was passed by the Lok Sabha in March 2016. After this, the Rajya Sabha had sent it to a select committee, following whose recommendations, the government had moved a number of amendments to it. After the amended bill was passed by a voice vote by the Rajya Sabha on March 10, it was returned to the Lok Sabha for final passage.

787) Which of the following launched Women Transforming India, an online contest to select women achievers, on March 8, 2017?

- a) CMIE
- b) NCAER
- c) FICCI
- d) NITI Aayog*

788) Which of the following was the theme of International Women's Day observed on March 8, 2017?

- a) Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty
- b) Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality
- c) Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!
- d) Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030*
- e) A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women

On the occasion of International Women's Day 2017 on March 8, 2017, NITI Aayog, in partnership with the UN in India and MyGov, launched the second edition of Women Transforming India, an online contest to celebrate women achievers, leaders and change makers from across the country. The theme for this year's International Women's Day is: "Women in the Changing World of Work: Planet 50-50 by 2030".

789) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament on March 9, 2017. It has increased the maternity leave for women employed in the organised sector for the first two children to:

- a) 14 weeks
- b) 20 weeks
- c) 26 weeks*
- d) 30 weeks

790) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament on March 9, 2017. The new law will apply to all establishments employing _____ or more people

- a) 10*
- b) 12
- c) 14
- d) 16

791) The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 was passed by the Parliament on March 9, 2017. Which of the following provides the longest maternity leave of 50 weeks to women employees?

- a) Australia
- b) Canada*
- c) New Zealand
- d) United States

- Women working in the organised sector will now be entitled to paid maternity leave of 26 weeks, up from 12 weeks, as Parliament on March 9, 2017. The new law will apply to all establishments employing 10 or more people and the entitlement will be for only up to first two children. For third child, the entitlement will be for only 12 weeks.
- The Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 9, had been passed by the Rajya Sabha in August 2016.
- The measure that takes India to the third position in terms of the number of weeks for maternity leave after Canada and Norway where it is 50 weeks and 44 weeks, respectively.
- The Maternity Benefit Act, 1961, protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her full paid absence from work, to take care for her child.
- The bill provides for 12 weeks of maternity leave to a woman who legally adopts a child below three months of age and a commissioning mother (defined as a biological mother) who uses her egg to have a surrogate child. In such cases, 12-week period of maternity leave will be calculated from the date the child is handed over to the adoptive or commissioning mother.
- The central government has already amended its service rules and is providing 26 weeks maternity leaves to its employees.

792) A national conference on which of the following was organised by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation in New Delhi on March 7, 2017?

- a) Jal Shuddhi Abhiyan
- b) Jal Nirmal Abhiyan
- c) Jal Jeevan Abhiyan
- d) Jal Kranti Abhiyan*
- e) Jal Sanchay Abhiyan

793) Two water stressed villages in each district of the country are to be selected and a comprehensive water security plan is to be formulated to achieve water security for these villages. This will be done which scheme of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation?

- a) Jal Gaon Abhiyan
- b) Jal Gram Abhiyan*
- c) Jal Panchayat Abhiyan
- d) Jal Krishi Abhiyan

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation organized a national conference on Jal Kranti Abhiyan in New Delhi on March 7, 2017. Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti inaugurated the conference. About 700 participants representing various stakeholder groups such as farmers, Panchayat members, officials, NGOs and students attended the daylong conference.

Jal Kranti Abhiyan was launched in June 2015 to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders making it mass movement. One of the main objectives of the Jal Kranti Abhiyan is "strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj institutions and local bodies for Participatory Irrigation Management."

There are four important components of Jal Kranti Abhiyan viz. Jal Gram Yojana, Development of Model Command Area, Pollution Abatement and Mass Awareness Programme. Under Jal Gram Yojana two water stressed villages in each district of the country are to be selected and a comprehensive water security plan is formulated to achieve water security for these villages.

794) Aircraft carrier INS Viraat was decommissioned in Mumbai on March 6, 2017. What was it known as when acquired by India from United Kingdom in 1980s?

- a) HMS Kent
- b) HMS Albion
- c) HMS Bulwark
- d) HMS Hermes*

Aircraft carrier INS Viraat was on March 6, 2017 decommissioned in Mumbai, at an impressive ceremony onboard and in the presence of Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba and top armed forces officials. INS Viraat was a centaur-class aircraft carrier which was in service with Indian Navy for 30 years. It served in the Royal British Navy as HMS Hermes from

November 1959 to April 1984. In the late 80s, Indian Navy purchased it at the cost of USD 65 million and was re-commissioned after refurbishment on 12 May 1987.

795) The Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) INS Tillanchang was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Karwar on March 9, 2017. It was built at:

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers*
- e) Cochin Shipyard

The Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tillanchang, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command, in Karwar (Karnataka) on March 9, 2017. INS Tillanchang is the third ship of four follow-on WJFAC built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The first two ships of the class, IN ships Tarmugli and Tihayu were commissioned in 2016 and are based at Vishakhapatnam.

796) The Air Force Station inaugurated at Panagarh in Burdwan district on March 7, 2017 is named after who among the following former Air Force Chiefs?

- a) Arjan Singh*
- b) Pratap Chandra Lal
- c) Subroto Mukherjee
- d) Om Prakash Mehra

A new C-130J squadron complex was on March 7, 2017 inaugurated by Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh at Panagarh in Burdwan district. This will be the second C-130 squadron of the IAF after Hindon which will house a squadron of the Super Hercules aircraft. The squadron complex has been named "Air Force Station Arjan Singh" after the 97-year-old Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh, would be capable of undertaking all types of air transport missions in this sector.

797) What was the rank of Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Times Higher Education's (THE) 'Best Small Universities in the World' ranking released in March 2017?

- a) 2nd
- b) 4th
- c) 6th
- d) 8th*

798) Which of the following has topped the Times Higher Education's (THE) 'Best Small Universities in the World' ranking released in March 2017?

- a) University of Chicago
- b) California Institute of Technology*
- c) Cambridge University
- d) Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has made it to the top 10 of Times Higher Education's (THE) Best Small Universities in the World ranking for 2017 released on March 7, 2017. IISc is the only Indian university to have made it to the list. Small universities are defined by having fewer than 5,000 students and teach and research across more than four disciplines. Top 10: 1. California Institute of Technology (Caltech), United States 2. École Normale Supérieure, France 3. Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), South Korea 4. École Polytechnique, France 5. Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy 6. Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna, Italy 7. École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France 8. Indian Institute of Science, India 9. Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden 10. Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy (March 7, 2017)

799) India's largest tricolour was inaugurated in which state on March 5, 2017?

- a) Himachal Pradesh
- b) Arunachal Pradesh
- c) Punjab*

d) Jammu & Kashmir

A mammoth tricolour, believed to be the largest in the country with the tallest flag post, has been inaugurated at the Indo-Pak Attari Border in Amritsar on March 5, 2017. The flag measures 110 metres (360-foot) in length, 24 metres in width and weighing 55 tonnes. The flag post, which stands 110 metres tall, now outflanks the 91.44 metres (300-foot) high tricolour in Ranchi which was till now considered the tallest in the country. The flag mast has been installed just 150 metres away from the border. Built at a cost of Rs 3.50 crore, it was a project of the Amritsar Improvement Trust Authority of Punjab govt.

800) A commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of which of the following was released by the Prime Minister on March 7, 2017?

- a) Sahaj Yog
- b) Isha Foundation
- c) Chinmay Mission
- d) Yogoda Satsang Math*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a special commemorative postage stamp on 100 years of Yogoda Satsang Math on March 7, 2017. Yogoda Satsanga Society of India (YSS) celebrated its 100 years journey on March 3. One major aim of YSS is to reveal the complete harmony, basic oneness, and common foundations of all true religions.

801) Which of the following hosted the 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) on March 9-10, 2017?

- a) New Delhi*
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Gangtok

The 11th North East Business Summit (NEBS) was organised in New Delhi on March 9-10, 2017. The two-day event was an initiative to facilitate investment, highlight strengths of the North-East Region (NER) and business opportunities which North-East has to offer. The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh addressed the Summit on March 10.

802) India was ranked among the lowest on 'Women Business Ownership' index in March 2017. The survey was conducted by:

- a) BillDesk
- b) Visa
- c) MasterCard*
- d) CCAvenue

India, which is yet to step up overall conditions conducive to the success of women entrepreneurs, has ranked among the lowest 'Women Business Ownership' index, a survey has revealed. "Women entrepreneurs have been carving out a niche for them across the globe, including India especially in niche and unconventional businesses. However, there is significant potential to harness the untapped potential of women's entrepreneurship in India", said MasterCard Index of Women Entrepreneurs. (March 7, 2017)

803) Which of the following hosted the 'Destination North East-2017' on March 6-8, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Guwahati
- c) Agartala
- d) Chandigarh*

A 3-day festival 'Destination North East-2017' was organised in Chandigarh on March 6-8, 2017. The festival was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

804) Who among the following social activists is the author of 'Foot Soldier of the Constitution: A Memoir' released recently?

- a) Anna Hazare
- b) Teesta Setalvad*
- c) Ila Bhatt
- d) Binayak Sen

805) 'The Man Who Became Khali' has been co-authored by Dalip Singh Rana and:

- a) Suhel Seth
- b) Vinit K. Bansal*
- c) Harsh Mander
- d) Sushant Singh

806) Who among the following has authored 'India's Railway Man: A Biography of E. Sreedharan' released recently?

- a) Asok Kumar Ray
- b) Gorky Chakraborty
- c) Rajendra B. Aklekar*
- d) Shantanu Guha Ray

807) Who among the following Congress leaders is the author of the book Courage and Commitment released recently?

- a) Kumari Selja
- b) Ambika Soni
- c) Margaret Alva*
- d) Shashi Tharoor
- e) Jayanthi Natarajan

Recent books: India's Railway Man: A Biography of E. Sreedharan by Rajendra B. Aklekar; The Target by Shantanu Guha Ray and Suhel Seth; Pages from My Life by Subhash Sethi; Mission Overseas: Daring Operations by the Indian Military by Sushant Singh; Foot Soldier of the Constitution: A Memoir Teesta Setalvad; Fatal Accidents of Birth: Stories of Suffering Oppression & Resistance by Harsh Mander; Courage and Commitment by Margaret Alva; The Look East Policy and the Northeast India Gorky Chakraborty, Asok Kumar Ray; The Secret Diary of Kasturba by Neelima Dalmia Adhar; The Man Who Became Khali by Dalip Singh Rana (with Vinit K. Bansal)

808) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of Central Water Commission (CWC) in March 2017?

- a) Uma Tuli
- b) Gopal Sinha
- c) Pranay Singh
- d) Narendra Kumar*

Narendra Kumar, a Central Water Engineering Service (1979 batch) officer, is the new Central Water Commission (CWC) chairman. He assumed the charge of the post up on superannuation of GS Jha on March 10, 2017.

809) World's heaviest woman Eman Ahmed was in news for undergoing surgery for obesity in Mumbai in March 2017. She is a native of:

- a) Iran
- b) Egypt*
- c) Turkey
- d) Tunisia

Egypt's Eman Ahmed, the world's heaviest woman with a weight of 500 kg, has undergone a surgery in Mumbai. A team of doctors at Saifee hospital performed a laparoscopic sleeve gastrectomy on 36-year-old Eman on March 7, 2017.

810) Former Lok Sabha member Syed Shahabuddin died in Noida on March 4, 2017 at the age of 82. He had served in which of the following before joining politics?

- a) Indian Police Service
- b) Indian Forest Service
- c) Indian Foreign Service*
- d) Indian Engineering Service

Former three-time MP and diplomat Syed Shahabuddin died in Noida on March 4, 2017. He was 82. Shahabuddin, born in Ranchi in 1935, had joined Indian Foreign Service in 1958 and served as a Vice Consul and Consul in New York from 1959-61. Shahabuddin was enrolled as an advocate in the Patna High Court and the Supreme Court. He was a Rajya Sabha member from Bihar during 1979-84 and a Lok Sabha member (Kishanganj) from 1985-89 and 1991-96.

811) Arvind Padmanabhan died in New Delhi on March 8, 2017 at the age of 49. He was well-known as:

- a) Diplomat
- b) Economist
- c) Journalist*
- d) Civil Servant

Veteran journalist Arvind Padmanabhan, an Executive Editor at IANS, died in New Delhi on March 8, 2017 at the age of 49. Padmanabhan had a long inning at IANS, joining the India Abroad newspaper that was then part of the wire service in 1999 as in-charge of its Business Section. He steadily took on greater responsibilities in the news agency, first assuming charge of the Business Bureau of the wire service and subsequently rising to become, first, the Business Editor of IANS and then the Bureau Chief. He was soon elevated as the Executive Editor and headed the business and economy team. He was earlier with the PTI, The Times of India and TV18.

812) Rabi Ray died in Cuttack on March 6, 2017 at the age of 90. He served as the Speaker of Lok Sabha in:

- a) 1996-99
- b) 1992-95
- c) 1989-91*
- d) 1986-88

813) Rabi Ray died in Cuttack on March 6, 2017 at the age of 90. He served as Union Minister in the Cabinet of who among the following Prime Ministers?

- a) Morarji Desai*
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Lal Bahadur Shastri
- d) P. V. Narasimha Rao

Noted socialist leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Rabi Ray died in Cuttack on March 6, 2017 at the age of 90. In 1967, he was elected to the 4th Lok Sabha from Puri constituency in Orissa as candidate of the Samyukta Socialist Party (SSP). In 1974, he was elected to the Rajya Sabha from Orissa and he completed his term in Rajya Sabha in 1980. He was the Union minister of health and family welfare in Morarji Desai Ministry from January 1979 to January 1980. In 1989, he was re-elected to the 9th Lok Sabha from the Kendrapara constituency in Orissa as a Janata Dal candidate. In December 1989, he was unanimously elected as the Speaker of the 9th Lok Sabha and served in the post till July 1991. In 1991, he was re-elected to the 10th Lok Sabha again from Kendrapara. Since 1997, he was associated with a non-political organization, the Lok Shakti Abhiyan.

814) Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar went on a four-day visit to United States in March 2017. Which of the following persons he a) met is not matched correctly?

- a) Wilbur Ross: Secretary of Treasury*
- b) Rex W. Tillerson: Secretary of State
- c) John F. Kelly: Secretary of Homeland Security
- d) Paul Ryan: House of Representatives Speaker

Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar met US Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson in Washington D.C. during his four-day visit in March 2017. Various bilateral issues, including terrorism, Asia-Pacific and Afghanistan, were discussed in the meeting. The Foreign Secretary also held meetings with a number of senior U.S. administration officials including Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Homeland Security John F. Kelly, National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster, House speaker Paul Ryan along with meetings with senior member of the Congress.

815) Mswati-III, who came on an official visit to India in March 2017, is the monarch of which of the following?

- a) Lesotho
- b) Namibia

- c) Swaziland*
- d) Botswana

India President Pranab Mukherjee on March 10, 2017 called upon the King of Swaziland Mswati-III to promote Indian investments in areas of interest of his country. The President received King Mswati-III of Swaziland at Rashtrapati Bhavan and hosted a lunch in his honour.

816) _____ National Oil Company of UAE has signed an agreement to fill up crude oil at Mangalore facility of Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL).

- a) Sharjah
- b) Ajman
- c) Fujairah
- d) Abu Dhabi*

Union Cabinet on March 6, 2017 approved the signing of the Definitive Agreement on Oil Storage and Management between Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) and Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) of UAE. According to the Agreement, the ADNOC will fill up 0.81 MMT of crude oil at ISPRL storage facility at Mangalore, Karnataka.

817) Which ASEAN country expelled the ambassador of North Korea in March 2017?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia*
- c) The Philippines
- d) Singapore
- e) Thailand

Malaysia said on March 4, 2017 that it would expel the North Korean ambassador in a deepening diplomatic row over the assassination of the half-brother of Pyongyang's leader at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. "The ambassador has been declared persona non grata," Malaysia's foreign ministry said in a statement, adding it had demanded but not received an apology over Pyongyang's attack on its investigation of the case. Kim Jong-Nam, 45, was poisoned in February 2017 with VX, a nerve agent so deadly that it is classed as a weapon of mass destruction.

818) Which of the following said in March 2017 that it has entered into a long-term partnership agreement with Volkswagen Group and Skoda for joint development of products?

- a) Force Motors
- b) Ashok Leyland
- c) Tata Motors*
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Tata Motors on March 10, 2017 said it has entered into a long-term partnership agreement with Volkswagen Group and Skoda for joint development of products with the first rollout expected in 2019. The agreement was signed by Guenter Butschek, CEO & MD of Tata Motors, Matthias Muller, CEO of Volkswagen AG, and Bernhard Maier, CEO of Skoda Auto, Tata Motors.

819) Which of the following has lowest bribery rate in the Asia Pacific according to a survey released by Transparency International in March 2017? India has the highest rate according to the survey.

- a) Japan*
- b) China
- c) Vietnam
- d) Sri Lanka

India has got the dubious distinction of having the highest bribery rate in the Asia Pacific, with a survey conducted by international anti-graft rights group Transparency International revealed on March 7, 2017 that more than two-thirds of Indians had to pay 'tea money' or fork out other forms of bribe to get public services. The survey found 69 per cent in India as saying they had to pay a bribe, followed by 65 per cent in Vietnam. China was much lower at 26 per cent while the same for Pakistan was 40 per cent. Japan had the lowest incidence of bribery -- at 0.2 per cent. South Korea also fared well at a mere 3 per cent.

820) Which of the following was chosen as the new sponsor for the Indian cricket team by the BCCI in March 2017?

- a) Oppo*
- b) Xiaomi
- c) Vivo
- d) LG

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on March 7, 2017 named OPPO Mobiles India Private Limited as the new team sponsor for the national team. OPPO's association with BCCI will start from April 2017 for a period of five years. OPPO takes the place of Star India, whose contract runs till March 31.

821) . Which of the following has launched "Peace in the home" programme to curb domestic violence in member countries?

- a) Commonwealth*
- b) G77
- c) IBSA
- d) BRICS

The Commonwealth launched an initiative on March 8, 2017 to help member states tackle domestic violence. The "Peace in the home" programme will include toolkits to help governments across the Commonwealth share details of initiatives that had been particularly successful at dealing with domestic violence. "The Commonwealth initiative will build a coalition of governments, businesses, human rights institutions, civil society and individual citizens to choral our efforts to address domestic violence," Baroness Patricia Scotland, who took over as Commonwealth Secretary General in 2016, said.

822) Which of the following hosted the Annual Devolution Conference organised from March 6 to 9, 2017?

- a) London
- b) Nairobi*
- c) Ottawa
- d) Canberra

Union Minister of State for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arjun Ram Meghwal represented India in the 4th Annual Devolution Conference organised in Nakuru County, Kenya from March 6 to 9, 2017. The objective of the conference also includes sharing the good experience of devolution system and how it can be used to increase good governance and public accountability for social and economic development internationally. The theme of the 2017 Conference is "Devolution – Transforming Lives: Tell Your Story!"

823) Which of the following was observed on March 9, 2017?

- a) World Liver Day
- b) World Polio Day
- c) World Kidney Day*
- d) World Heart Day

World Kidney Day was observed on March 9, 2017. World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the Brussels-based International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF), headquartered in the Netherlands. This year's World Kidney Day theme, "Kidney Disease and Obesity," aims to remind the public how diabetes and high blood pressure are critical risk factors for CKD.

824) Which continent was hit by Cyclone Enawo in March 2017?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa*
- c) Europe
- d) North America

Cyclone Enawo made landfall in the northeast of Madagascar on March 7, 2017 killing at least three people. The storm was expected to move south through the island nation for several days, affecting the capital of Antananarivo.

825) The United States started deploying THAAD anti-ballistic missile defence system on the Korean peninsula to counter threats from North Korea. THAAD stands for _____ High Altitude Area Defence.

- a) Theatre
- b) Tactical
- c) Terminal*
- d) Tertiary

The United States has started to deploy the first elements of its advanced Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-missile system at the Osan Air Base in South Korea. THAAD is designed to protect against threats from North Korea. It's designed to shoot down incoming missiles that threaten civilian populations. (March, 2017)

826) Which SAARC nation observed "National Jute Day" on March 6, 2017?

- a) Nepal
- b) India
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bangladesh*

As part of its continued efforts to revive the golden era of jute, the Bangladeshi government on March 6, 2017 observed "National Jute Day" for the first time in the country.

827) Who among the following was re-elected as the President of the European Council in Brussels in March 2017?

- a) Donald Tusk*
- b) José Manuel Barroso
- c) Mario Draghi
- d) Jean-Claude Juncker

European Union leaders confirmed Donald Tusk of Poland for a second term as Council President on March 10, 2017. Twenty-seven EU leaders voted at a summit in Brussels to give Tusk a new 2.5 year mandate with only Poland voting against.

828) Which country's Constitutional Court upheld impeachment of President Park Geun-hye by the Parliament in March 2017?

- a) Laos
- b) Taiwan
- c) Vietnam
- d) South Korea*

South Korea's Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment of President Park Geun-hye on March 10, 2017, removing her from office over a graft scandal involving big business.

829) George A. Olah died in USA on March 8, 2017 at the age of 89. He won Nobel Prize in which of the following in 1994?

- a) Peace
- b) Literature
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry*

George A. Olah, who won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1994, died at age of 89 in Los Angeles on March 8, 2017.

830) Thomas Starzl died on March 5, 2017 at the age of 90. He is known for performing world's first successful transplant of which of the following in 1967?

- a) Lungs
- b) Heart
- c) Kidney
- d) Liver*

USA's Thomas Starzl, the man who performed the world's first liver transplant died on March 5, 2017 at the age of 90. He carried out the first successful transplant in 1967. Since then, thousands of lives have been saved by the procedure.

831) Who among the following is the former President of Haiti who died at 74 in March 2017?

- a) Rene Preval*
- b) Garry Conille
- c) Robert Harting
- d) Bernard Gousse

Rene Preval, the only democratically elected president of Haiti to win and complete two terms, died at age 74 in Port-at-Prince on March 4, 2017.

832) Who among the following was selected for the Saraswati Samman for 'Hawthan' in March 2017?

- a) Jagdish Pawar
- b) Mahabaleshwar Sail*
- c) Krishna Goswami
- d) Harishankar Naik

833) 'Hawthan' is an award winning novel in which language?

- a) Manipuri
- b) Konkani*
- c) Maithili
- d) Santhali

Eminent Konkani writer Mahabaleshwar Sail has been honoured with the Saraswati Samman 2016 for his novel 'Hawthan'. (March 9, 2017)

834) The Seema Nazareth Award for Excellence in Print Journalism, conferred on Alnoor Peermohamed in March 2017, is given by which of the following business dailies?

- a) Livemint
- b) Businessline
- c) Economic Times
- d) Business Standard*

Prakash Javadekar, the Union minister of Ministry Human Resources Development, on March 6, 2017 presented the Business Standard-Seema Nazareth Award for Excellence in Print Journalism 2016 to Principal Correspondent Alnoor Peermohamed in New Delhi. Peermohammed is 17th recipient of the award, instituted by Business Standard and the Nazareth family in memory of Seema Nazareth, a young Business Standard journalist who died in March 1999.

835) Who among the following actresses won the Harvard Foundation 2017 Artist of the Year Award in March 2017?

- a) Viola Davis*
- b) Meryl Streep
- c) Emma Stone
- d) Natalie Portman

'Fences' actress Viola Davis won the Harvard Foundation 2017 Artist of the Year Award on March 11, 2017.

836) Ethiopia's Fikadu Kebebe Debele (2:09:37) and Alemu Worknesch (2:30:04) won Men's and Women's races at _____ International Marathon on March 6, 2017.

- a) Rabat*
- b) Algiers
- c) Cancun
- d) Marrakesh

Ethiopia's Fikadu Kebebe Debele (2:09:37) and Alemu Worknesch (2:30:04) won Men's and Women's races at Rabat International Marathon in Morocco on March 6, 2017.

- 837)** Who among the following won the Best Actress award at International Film Festival & Awards of Australia in March 2017?
- Priyanka Chopra
 - Radhika Apte
 - Vidya Balan
 - Aishwarya Rai Bachchan*

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who played the character of Sarbjit Singh's sister Dalbir Kaur in the film 'Sarbjit', won the Best Actress award at the International Film Festival and Awards of Australia (IFFAA). (March 9, 2017)

- 838)** Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) cannot lend more than _____ in cash against gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on March 9, 2017.
- Rs 25,000*
 - Rs 50,000
 - Rs 75,000
 - Rs 100,000

Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) cannot lend more than Rs 25,000 in cash against gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on March 9, 2017. The earlier provision for NBFC was that high value loans against gold of Rs 1 lakh and above must only be disbursed by cheque. RBI reduced the amount to Rs 25,000 from the earlier Rs 1 lakh in line with the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

- 839)** Which of the following launched 'Work from Home' policy for its employees in March 2017?
- Punjab National Bank
 - Canara Bank
 - Central Bank of India
 - State Bank of India*

State Bank of India on March 7, 2017 launched a new facility to enable its employees to work from home. On obtaining prior permission, employees have been given the opportunity to work from their home, in case of any emergency. The Board of the bank has recently approved the 'Work from Home' policy to enable its employees to work while at home using mobile devices to address any urgent requirement they may have, that prevents their travelling to work. SBI will be using mobile computing technologies and shall have continuous control over all the enabled devices centrally to manage and secure the data and applications on the mobile devices. Chairperson Arundhati Bhattacharya however, stated that only a few tasks can be performed from home, owing to security reasons.

- 840)** Which of the following has signed an agreement with German KfW Development Bank for USD 274 million (Rs 1,800 crore) loan facility to finance affordable housing segment in the country?
- Punjab National Bank
 - Canara Bank
 - Central Bank of India
 - State Bank of India*

Country's largest lender State Bank of India on March 10, 2017 said it has signed an agreement with German KfW Development Bank for USD 274 million (Rs 1,800 crore) loan facility to finance affordable housing segment in the country.

- 841)** Who among the following was appointed as the new Deputy Governor at the Reserve Bank of India in March 2017?
- B. P. Kanungo*
 - Bharat Narotam Doshi
 - Anjuly Chib Duggal
 - C. N. Jha

B P Kanungo was on March 10, 2017 appointed deputy governor in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for three years.

- 842)** The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect from March 6, 2017. Online filing of trade mark applications will be charged _____ lower fee than physical filings.

- a) 5%
- b) 10%*
- c) 15%
- d) 20%

The Trade Mark Rules, 2017 have come into effect from March 6, 2017. These Rules, which replace the erstwhile Trade Mark Rules 2002, will streamline and simplify the processing of Trade Mark applications. Number of Trade Mark (TM) Forms have been reduced from 74 to 8. To promote e-filing of TM applications, the fee for online filing has been kept at 10% lower than that for physical filing. The fees for Individuals, Start-ups and Small Enterprises have been reduced from that proposed in the draft Rules – i.e. only Rs 4,500 as against Rs 8,000 for e-filing of TM applications proposed at the draft stage.

843) Contributions to the Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK) by corporates are eligible for _____ deduction from the Income Tax payable by them.

- a) 60%
- b) 70%
- c) 80%
- d) 100%*

Finance Secretary Ashok Lavasa, who is also the Chairperson of the Swachh Bharat Kosh (SBK), received a cheque of Rs 25 crores towards the SBK from P.V. Ramesh Babu, CMD of Rural Electric Corporation (REC) Limited as part of REC's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on March 9, 2017. All donations towards SBK are eligible for deduction of 100% from the total Income Tax. The contributions to SBK can also be included by companies towards corporate social responsibility (CSR) under the Companies Act, 2013. Profitable companies have to shell out at least 2 per cent of their three-year annual average net profit toward the listed CSR activities.

844) Ministry of Railways signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) for environmental conservation in March 2017. Who among the following is the Executive Director of UNEP?

- a) John Lyng
- b) Jan Petersen
- c) Erna Solberg
- d) Erik Solheim*

Ministry of Railways on March 9, 2017 signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to formalise the joint cooperation in the area of environmental conservation. Erik Solheim, Executive Director UNEP (and Under Secretary General, UN) from Head office, Nairobi, Kenya was present on the occasion.

845) The government made Aadhaar mandatory for availing crop insurance policies recently. RWBCI stands for _____ Weather-based Crop Insurance.

- a) Reliable
- b) Rejuvenated
- c) Restructured*
- d) Remodified

The government has made Aadhaar mandatory for availing crop insurance policies from the upcoming kharif sowing season. The Agriculture Ministry has issued a directive to rural financial institutes to comply with the new rule from the kharif (summer) season starting April 1. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and Restructured Weather-based Crop Insurance (RWBCI) provides a comprehensive insurance cover against failure of crop. Under these schemes, premium to be paid by farmers are fixed lower. (March 9, 2017)

846) Which of the following hosted the Meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers on March 9-10, 2017?

- a) London*
- b) Nairobi
- c) Ottawa
- d) Canberra

847) Which of the following will host Trade Summit for SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) in Commonwealth in May 2017?

- a) London
- b) Nairobi
- c) Ottawa
- d) New Delhi*

A Meeting of Commonwealth Trade Ministers was organised in London on March 9-10, 2017. Ministers from across the bloc committed to boosting intra-Commonwealth trade in the face of the growing clamour for protectionism globally. The meeting involved round-table discussions that brought businesses and politicians from around 35 Commonwealth member states together in what was the first meeting of trade ministers from the Commonwealth in the past 12 years. Baroness Scotland, Secretary General of the Commonwealth, said that the opportunity to advance trade was huge. India, meanwhile, announced a summit on trade amongst Commonwealth SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises) in May. The meeting, an initiative of the Commonwealth Secretariat, and India's Ministry of Commerce, will take place in New Delhi.

848) . Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the only Indian in latest Hurun Global Self-Made Women Billionaires List. She is the owner of which of the following companies?

- a) Cipla
- b) Biocon*
- c) Shantha Biotech
- d) Bharat Biotech

With a net worth of \$1.9 billion, Biocon's Kiran Mazumdar Shaw is the sole Indian in the self-made women billionaires across the globe and ranks at 36th position out of a total 88, according to the latest Hurun Global Self-Made Women Billionaires List. Only 12 countries managed to produce self-made women billionaires. Chen Lihua, 76, of FuWah, is the most successful businesswoman in the world and tops this list with a net worth of \$7.2 billion. (March 8, 2017)

849) Which of the following installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant in Kerala in March 2017?

- a) JSW Energy
- b) NTPC*
- c) Torrent Power
- d) Reliance Power

State-run NTPC on March 10, 2017 said it has installed India's largest floating solar photovoltaic (PV) plant at Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) at Kayamkulam in Kerala. Such systems are fast emerging as an alternative to conventional ground mounted PV systems which are land intensive. It has various benefits like conserving water through reduction of evaporation, increased generation due to cooling effect on the panels, reduced installation time etc.

850) Which of the following is the new owner of Europe based automobile companies Opel and Vauxhall?

- a) Ford
- b) Volkswagen
- c) Peugeot*
- d) Nissan

General Motors is selling its unprofitable European car business to the French maker of Peugeot, marking the American company's retreat from a major market. With the 2.2 billion euro (USD 2.33 billion) deal announced on March 6, 2017, GM is giving up brands Opel in Germany and Vauxhall in Britain.

851) Which of the following signed MoU with the University of Houston (UH) for augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its ageing oilfields in March 2017?

- a) Indian Oil
- b) Reliance Industries Ltd
- c) BPCL
- d) Oil India Ltd*

Oil India Limited (OIL) has signed an MoU with the University of Houston (UH) for augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its ageing oilfields. The MoU was inked on March 7, 2017 in the presence of Petroleum & Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

852) India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) is an initiative of which American company and India's Department of Science and Technology (DST)?

- a) Boeing
- b) DuPont
- c) IBM
- d) Lockheed Martin*

Tata Trusts has joined hands with Lockheed Martin and Department of Science and Technology (DST) for the second edition of India Innovation Growth Programme (IIGP) which focuses on providing support to startups in the country. Other partners of the programme includes Massachusetts institute of technology (MIT), IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Bombay. The revamped programme was rolled out on March 10, 2017 by Tata Trusts Chairman Ratan N Tata, DST Secretary Ashutosh Sharma and Lockheed Martin's George Standridge at the Festival of Innovation at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

853) Which of the following launched the second edition of its mobile application development challenge 'Appathon' in March 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) ICICI Bank*

Country's largest private sector lender ICICI Bank on March 9, 2017 launched the second edition of its mobile application development challenge. "Through 'ICICI Appathon' season II, we intend to collaborate with innovative technopreneurs. We believe that programmes like these will encourage young developers to create world class banking applications on mobile," its managing director and chief executive Chanda Kochhar said.

854) Which of the following was ranked first in the world in the Airports Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey in the 5-15 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category for 2016?

- a) Bengaluru International Airport
- b) Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi
- c) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA), Mumbai
- d) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Hyderabad*

GMR's Rajiv Gandhi Hyderabad International Airport has secured first position in the world in the prestigious Airports Council International (ACI)-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) survey in the 5-15 million passengers per annum (MPPA) category for the year 2016. (March 6, 2017)

855) Which of the following announced the launch of 'SMB Heroes', a nation-wide programme designed to recognise small and medium businesses (SMBs) that have embraced digital platform to grow their business, in March 2017?

- a) Google*
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft

Google India on March 8, 2017 announced the launch of 'SMB Heroes', a nation-wide programme designed to recognise small and medium businesses (SMBs) that have embraced digital platform to grow their business. SMBs contribute 37 per cent to India's GDP and employ 120 million people. Today, there are only 32 per cent of small businesses in India that have any sort of web presence.

856) Which of the following announced the launch of an electronic virtual assistant (EVA), an artificial intelligence-driven chatbot, for customer services in March 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) HDFC Bank*
- c) Central Bank of India

d) State Bank of India

HDFC Bank on March 6, 2017 announced the launch of an electronic virtual assistant (EVA), an artificial intelligence-driven chatbot, for customer services. Eva is India's first AI-based banking chatbot and can answer millions of customer queries across multiple channels instantly, HDFC Bank said in a statement.

857) Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated ONGC Petro additions Ltd's (OPaL) Rs 30,000-crore plant to the nation in which state on March 7, 2017?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Gujarat*
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated ONGC Petro additions Ltd's (OPaL) Rs 30,000-crore plant to the nation at the Dahej Special Economic Zone at Dahej in Gujarat on March 7, 2017. OPaL is the single largest petrochemical plant in India that has a capacity to produce 14 lakh tonnes of polymers and 5 lakh tonnes of chemicals such as benzene annually. It is a joint venture company promoted by ONGC, GAIL, and GSPC with an investment of Rs 30,000 crore, an official statement by ONGC said.

858) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's longest (1344 m) Cable Bridge on which river in March 2017?

- a) Narmada*
- b) Yamuna
- c) Ganga
- d) Brahmaputra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's longest (1344 m) Cable Bridge on the River Narmada at Bharuch in Gujarat on March 7, 2017.

859) Who among the following Chief Ministers launched a web-based platform called 'Pratibimba' showcasing his government's performance and achievements in March 2017?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) Vijay Rupani
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) Siddaramaiah*

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on March 6, 2017 launched a comprehensive web-based platform showcasing the government's performance and achievements to the citizens. Developed as the Chief Minister's dash board, 'Pratibimba,' which means reflection, will serve as a tool to improve efficiency in governance and allow citizens to track government's progress. Karnataka is the second state in the country after Andhra Pradesh to have such a dash board, Siddaramaiah said after launching Pratibimba at the state secretariat in Bengaluru.

860) The President inaugurated the Centenary Celebrations of Women's Indian Association in which of the following on March 4, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai*
- d) Kochi

The President inaugurated the Centenary Celebrations of Women's Indian Association in Chennai on March 4, 2017.

861) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards for women were announced for who among the following recently?

- a) Social workers
- b) Journalists
- c) Teachers
- d) Weavers*

Textiles Minister Smriti Irani on March 8, 2017 announced the launch of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya National Awards for women weavers and women artisans.

862) India's largest waste-to-energy plant was inaugurated at which of the following on March 10, 2017? The project will use 2,000 metric tonnes of waste every day to generate 24 mega watt of energy.

- a) Kolkata
- b) Hyderabad
- c) New Delhi*
- d) Mumbai

The North Delhi Municipal Corporation launched India's largest waste-to-energy plant at Narela-Bawana on March 10, 2017. Venkaiah Naidu, Union minister for urban development, inaugurated the project at the Civic Centre. The project will use 2,000 metric tonnes of waste every day to generate 24 mega watt of energy. The plant is expected to provide respite from overflowing landfill sites in Delhi as it will incinerate the waste to generate power. The power generated would be sold to distribution companies for a price fixed by electricity regulator.

863) Which of the following was the top ranked country in the latest FIFA rankings issued in March 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) Germany
- d) Argentina*

The Indian football team slipped two places to be at 132nd in the latest FIFA rankings issued on March 9, 2017. Argentina leads the international rankings followed by Brazil, Germany, Chile and Belgium.

864) Which of the following lost 5-match Women's Hockey series with India in Bhopal in March 2017?

- a) Belarus*
- b) Ukraine
- c) Russia
- d) Spain

Indian women dished out a disciplined performance to notch up a 3-1 win over a fighting Belarus to register their fifth consecutive victory to win the five-match Test series 5-0, in Bhopal on March 8, 2017.

865) . Which of the following won the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy organised in Qatar in March 2017?

- a) India
- b) Singapore
- c) Pakistan
- d) Philippines*

The Indian men's Rugby team defeated Pakistan 14-12 to secure the 7th rank at the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy. The two-day championship was held on March 4-5, 2017, at Aspire Rugby Field in Doha, Qatar. Philippines won the Asia Men's Rugby Sevens Trophy

866) Which of the following pairs of states and the party that got the highest vote share in February-March Assembly elections is not matched correctly?

- a) Uttar Pradesh-BJP
- b) Uttarakhand-BJP
- c) Punjab-Congress
- d) Goa-Congress*

- PUNJAB: **Vote shares:** Congress: 38.5%, AAP: 23.7%, SAD: 25.2%, BJP: 5.4%, LIP: 1.2%;
- UTTAR PRADESH: **Vote shares:** BJP: 39.7%, BSP: 22.2%, SP: 21.8%, Congress: 6.2%, Independent: 2.6%
- GOA: **Vote shares:** BJP: 32.5%, Congress: 28.4%, Maharashtratrawadi Gomantak Party: 11.3%, Independent: 11.1%, AAP: 6.3%
- UTTARAKHAND: **Vote Shares:** BJP: 46.5%, Congress: 33.5%, Independent: 10.0%, BSP: 7.0%

• MANIPUR: **Vote shares:** BJP: 36.3%, Congress: 35.1%, NPF: 7.2%, NPEP: 5.1%, Independents: 5.1%

867) How many out of the five states where elections were organised in February-March 2017 have a bicameral legislature?

- a) 0
- b) 1*
- c) 2
- d) 3

Only Uttar Pradesh has both Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

868) Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He won from which constituency?

- a) Patti
- b) Patiala*
- c) Phillaur
- d) Phagwara

869) Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Moga
- b) Lambi*
- c) Majitha
- d) Raikot

870) Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He has become Chief Minister for the _____ time.

- a) First
- b) Second*
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

871) Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He lost from which constituency?

- a) Moga
- b) Lambi*
- c) Majitha
- d) Raikot

The Congress party made a resounding comeback in Punjab after a gap of a decade, with 77 seats in the 117-member Assembly. **Seats** (117): Congress: 77, Aam Aadmi Party: 20, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD): 15, BJP: 3, Lok Insaaf Party: 2
Vote shares: Congress: 38.5%, AAP: 23.7%, SAD: 25.2%, BJP: 5.4%, LIP: 1.2%

Amarinder Singh was sworn-in as the Chief Minister on March 16, 2017. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Punjab Governor VP Singh Badnore at the Punjab Raj Bhawan in Chandigarh. He had won from Patiala Urban but lost from Lambi constituency to Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal. This is the second time that Amarinder, 75, has become Chief Minister of the state. He earlier held the office from 2002 to 2007. He was Member of Lok Sabha from Amritsar from 2014 to November 2016.

872) Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Aligarh
- b) Lucknow West
- c) Govind Nagar
- d) None of the above*

873) Consider the following political parties.

- I. Rashtriya Lok Dal
- II. Apna Dal (Soneylal)
- III. Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party

IV. Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal

Which of the above was an alliance partner of BJP in February-March 2017 Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only*
- c) III and IV only
- d) IV and I only

Results of the Assembly elections in five states were announced by the Election Commission on March 11, 2017. In Uttar Pradesh, the BJP bagged 312 seats on its own and with allies Apna Dal (Soneylal Patel) and Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) their strength goes up to 325 in a House of 403. **Seats** (403): BJP: 312, BSP: 19, SP: 47, Congress: 7, Rashtriya Lok Dal: 1, Apna Dal (Soneylal): 9, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal: 1, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party: 4, Independent: 3 **Vote shares**: BJP: 39.7%, BSP: 22.2%, SP: 21.8%, Congress: 6.2%, Independent: 2.6%. Outgoing Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav is a member of Legislative Council. He did not contest Assembly polls.

874) Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Ponda
- b) Siroda
- c) Bicholim
- d) None of the above*

875) Former Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar was sworn-in as the chief minister of Goa on March 14. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha from which state in 2014?

- a) Goa
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Gujarat
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

The Congress emerged as the single largest party in Goa, relegating the BJP to the second position in Assembly polls which threw up a hung house with both parties hoping to form the new government. The Congress won 17 seats in the 40-member house, while the BJP bagged 13. The Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP), the Goa Forward Party (GFP) and the independents won three seats each, while the NCP bagged one. In the last polls, the BJP had won 21 seats and the Congress nine. Chief minister Laxmikant Parsekar lost from Mandrem constituency by over 7,000 votes. **Seats (40)**: BJP: 13, Congress: 17, NCP: 1, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party: 3, Goa Forward Party: 3, Independent: 3 **Vote shares**: BJP: 32.5%, Congress: 28.4%, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party: 11.3%, Independent: 11.1%, AAP: 6.3%

The Manohar Parrikar government on March 16, 2017 proved its majority on the floor of the Goa Assembly by winning the trust vote with the support of 22 legislators in the 40-member house in Panaji. Parrikar, who resigned as Defence Minister from the central cabinet, was sworn-in as the chief minister along with nine other MLAs by Governor Mridula Sinha on March 14. Parrikar was elected to Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in November 2014.

876) Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Kichha
- b) Gadarpur
- c) Rudrapur
- d) None of the above*

In the results announced on March 11, 2017, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has won with a clear majority in the state with 57 seats in a 70-member Uttarakhand assembly, ousting the Congress led by chief minister Harish Rawat. The Congress bagged 11 seats with the other parties at two. Rawat lost from both the Haridwar (Rural) and Kichcha seats. **Seats (70)**: BJP: 56, Congress: 11, Independent: 2 **Vote Shares**: BJP: 46.5%, Congress: 33.5%, Independent: 10.0%, BSP: 7.0%

877) Which of the following pairs of states and the party that won the most number of seats in February-March Assembly elections is not matched correctly?

- a) Manipur-Congress
- b) Uttar Pradesh-BJP
- c) Uttarakhand-BJP
- d) Goa-BJP*

- PUNJAB: **Seats** (117): Congress: 77, Aam Aadmi Party: 20, Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD): 15, BJP: 3, Lok Insaaf Party: 2
- UTTAR PRADESH: **Seats** (403): BJP: 312, BSP: 19, SP: 47, Congress: 7, Rashtriya Lok Dal: 1, Apna Dal (Soneylal): 9, Nirbal Indian Shoshit Hamara Aam Dal: 1, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party: 4, Independent: 3
- GOA: **Seats (40)**: BJP: 13, Congress: 17, NCP: 1, Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party: 3, Goa Forward Party: 3, Independent: 3
- UTTARAKHAND: **Seats** (70): BJP: 56, Congress: 11, Independent: 2
- MANIPUR: **Seats (60)**: BJP: 21, Congress: 28, Naga Peoples Front (NPF): 4, National People's Party (NPEP): 4, Trinamool Congress: 1, Lok Janshakti Party: 1, Independent: 1

878) Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh won from which constituency in recently held Assembly elections?

- a) Wangoi
- b) Nambol
- c) Oinam
- d) Thoubal*

879) Who among the following was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Manipur on March 15, 2017?

- a) Oinam Lukhoi Singh
- b) Nongthombam Biren Singh*
- c) Thokchom Satyabrata Singh
- d) Kshetrigao Nahakpam Indrajit Singh

Neither the Congress nor the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) reached the 31-seat mark needed to establish a majority in the 60-member Manipur Assembly, in the results announced on March 11, 2017. While the Congress has won in 28 constituencies, the BJP secured a victory in 21. Chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh won from Thoubal constituency.

Seats (60): BJP: 21, Congress: 28, Naga Peoples Front (NPF): 4, National People's Party (NPEP): 4, Trinamool Congress: 1, Lok Janshakti Party: 1, Independent: 1 **Vote shares**: BJP: 36.3%, Congress: 35.1%, NPF: 7.2%, NPEP: 5.1%, Independents: 5.1%

Nongthombam Biren Singh, who had won from Heingang constituency, was on March 15, 2017 sworn in as the Chief Minister of the first-ever BJP-led government in the state. Governor Najma Heptulla administered the oath of office and secrecy to Singh at a function in Raj Bhavan in Imphal.

880) . The share of NOTA (None of the Above) in votes polled was the highest (1.2%) in which state in February-March Assembly elections?

- a) Goa*
- b) Punjab
- c) Manipur
- d) Uttarakhand

881) . The share of NOTA (None of the Above) in votes polled was the lowest (0.5%) in which state in February-March Assembly elections?

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab
- c) Manipur*
- d) Uttarakhand

Goa has come up on top when it comes to voters hitting the NOTA button in the assembly polls held in five states in February-March 2017, closely followed by Uttarakhand. In Goa, 1.2 per cent of the voters chose NOTA (None of the Above), followed by 1 per cent in Uttarakhand. In Uttar Pradesh, where the BJP swept the election, the percentage of voters who opted for NOTA was 0.9 per cent. The figure stood at 0.7 per cent in Punjab while around 0.5 per cent of the people who exercised their voting right in Manipur chose NOTA.

882) Which constituency saw the highest victory margin of 1,50,685 votes in the Assembly polls held in five states in February-March 2017?

- a) Ghaziabad
- b) Muradnagar
- c) Sahibabad*
- d) Hapur

883) Which constituency saw the lowest victory margin of 19 votes in the Assembly polls held in five states in February-March 2017?

- a) Uripok
- b) Sagolband*
- c) Langthabal
- d) Konthoujam

Uttar Pradesh's Sahibabad assembly seat saw the winner with highest victory margin of 1,50,685 votes, while the winning candidate at Manipur's Sagolband seat scraped through with a small margin of 19 votes -- lowest in all 689 seats in five states that went to polls. In Sahibabad, BJP's Sunil Kumar Sharma with 2,62,741 defeated Congress's Amarpal, who polled 1,12,056 votes. In Sagolband, Indian National Congress's candidate Rajkumar Imo Singh, who polled 9,211 votes, defeated BJP's Khwairakpam Loken Singh, who bagged 9,192 votes.

884) The National Health Policy, 2017 envisions increasing life expectancy to:

- a) 69 years
- b) 70 years*
- c) 71 years
- d) 72 years

885) The National Health Policy, 2017 aims at reduction of fertility rate to ____ by 2025.

- a) 1.7
- b) 1.9
- c) 2.1*
- d) 2.3

886) The National Health Policy, 2017 has proposed to increase public health expenditure on health services to ____ of the GDP.

- a) 2.5%*
- b) 3%
- c) 3.5%
- d) 4%

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 15, 2017 approved the National Health Policy, 2017 (NHP, 2017).
- The Policy aims at achieving universal health coverage and delivering quality health care services to all at affordable cost.
- The Policy envisions increasing life expectancy to 70 years from 67.5 years and proposes free diagnostics and drugs at all public hospitals.
- The policy aims at reducing Under-Five Mortality to 23 by 2025 and Maternal Mortality Rate to 100 by 2020.
- It targets at reducing infant mortality rate to 28 by 2019 and neo-natal mortality to 16 and still-birth rate to single digit by 2025.
- The policy also proposes reduction of fertility rate to 2.1 by 2025.
- The policy proposes to increase public health expenditure on health services to 2.5 per cent of the GDP in a time-bound manner from 2 per cent of the GDP as at present.
- The policy advocates extensive deployment of digital tools for improving the efficiency and outcome of the healthcare system and proposes establishment of National Digital Health Authority (NDHA) to regulate, develop and deploy digital health across the continuum of care.

887) The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 was passed by Parliament in March 2017. The government had introduced the amendment bill in response made by heirs of Raja Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan on properties in which state?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Bihar
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

Successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China during partition will have no claim over the properties left behind in India, with Parliament on March 14, 2017 passing a bill to amend a 49-year-old law. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, which amends the Enemy Property Act, 1968, was passed by voice vote in the Lok Sabha, incorporating the amendments made by the Rajya Sabha recently. The government brought the amendment bill in the wake of a claim laid by the heirs of Raja Mohammad Amir Mohammad Khan, known as Raja of Mahmudabad, on his properties spread across Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The matter is before the Supreme Court.

888) Which of the following was the event organised by the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) in New Delhi on March 6-8, 2017?

- a) Asian Security Conference*
- b) BRICS Security Conference
- c) Global Security Conference
- d) SAARC Security Conference

The 19th Asian Security Conference of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) was organised in New Delhi on March 6-8, 2017 on the subject 'Combating Terrorism: Evolving an Asian Response'. The Conference featured an impressive and wide array of speakers from India and fourteen foreign countries.

889) Which of the following was the Partner Country in the Smart Cities Summit was organised in New Delhi from March 16 to 18, 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) China*
- c) France
- d) Sweden

The fourth edition of the Smart Cities Summit was organised in New Delhi from March 16 to 18, 2017. China is the country partner at the summit. Over 1,500 global and national policymakers, financiers and technologists, along with over 25 city and state representatives, participated at the 4th Smart Urbanation: Convention and Expo. The three-day summit was organised by ASAPP Info Global Group and the India-China Economic and Cultural Council in partnership with the Smart Cities Council India.

890) Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Lok Sabha on March 14, 2017. The Bill seeks to amend the Inter State Water Dispute Act, _____.

- a) 1946
- b) 1956*
- c) 1966
- d) 1976

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti introduced Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 in Lok Sabha on March 14, 2017. The Bill proposes a Single Standing Tribunal (with multiple benches) instead of existing practice of setting up multiple tribunals. Introducing the Bill the Minister called it a "Revolutionary step" towards the resolution of Inter- State River Water Disputes. Under the Inter State Water Dispute Act, 1956 which provides the legal framework to address such disputes, a separate Tribunal has to be established for each Inter State River Water Dispute.

891) What was the range of BrahMos Extended Range (BrahMos-ER) missile test-fired successfully on March 10, 2017?

- a) 300 km
- b) 350 km

- c) 400 km
- d) 450 km*

India on March 10, 2017 successfully test-fired the BrahMos missile with an extended range of 450 km. The enhanced version of the supersonic cruise missile was test-fired from the Integrated Test Range off the Odisha coast from the Mobile Autonomous Launcher (MAL). "In a historical first, the formidable missile system once again proved its mettle to precisely hit enemy targets at much higher range than the current range of 290 km, with supersonic speed of 2.8 Mach," said the statement from BrahMos Aerospace. "With the successful test firing of BrahMos Extended Range missile - BrahMos-ER, the Indian Armed Forces will be empowered to knock down enemy targets far beyond 400 km. BrahMos has thus proved its prowess once again as the best supersonic cruise missile system in the world," BrahMos Aerospace CEO Sudhir Mishra said from the launch site.

892) The 32nd Inception Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was celebrated on March 11, 2017. CCTNS is _____ Tracking Network and Systems:

- a) Crime Control
- b) Central Criminal
- c) Crime and Criminal*
- d) Criminal and Control

893) ICJS is _____ Criminal Justice System.

- a) Indian
- b) Intelligent
- c) Indigenous
- d) Interoperable*

Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Archana Ramasundaram was the Chief Guest at the 32nd Inception Day of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), which was celebrated in New Delhi on March 11, 2017. On the occasion, Ramasundaram acknowledged the progress made in CCTNS and expected NCRB to provide the platform for better Police services through CCTNS (Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems) and upcoming Interoperable Criminal Justice System (ICJS).

894) Which among the following Congress leaders was selected as the new Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament in March 2017?

- a) Anand Sharma
- b) P. Chidambaram
- c) Mallikarjun Kharge*
- d) Shashi Tharoor

895) The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament can have a maximum of _____ Members.

- a) 11
- b) 22*
- c) 33
- d) 44

896) Consider the following statements on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament.

- I. A Minister cannot be appointed as Member
 - II. Its Chairman comes from the second largest party in Parliament
 - III. It has equal number of members from Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha
- a) I and II only*
 - b) II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III only

Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge has been nominated as the new chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament. Kharge, who filed the nomination papers on March 14, 2017, will succeed his party colleague K.V. Thomas who is completing three terms in the post. The senior Congress leader will take charge from May 1.

The PAC is formed every year consisting of 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha). None of the member of the committee hold any minister post. The post is always given to the member of a political party which has second largest presence after the ruling party in the Parliament.

PAC's primary role is to examine the audit report of Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) after it is laid in the Parliament. The CAG assists the committee during the course of investigation.

897) Who among the following assumed charge as the Chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK) in March 2017?

- a) Vasantbhai Ahir
- b) Tarachand Chheda
- c) Manhar Valjibhai Zala*
- d) Manilal Jethabhai Vaghela

Former BJP legislator from Gujarat, Manhar Valjibhai Zala, on March 16, 2017 assumed charge as the chairperson of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis (NCSK), which was headless for almost a year. Two other members, Manju Diler from Uttar Pradesh and Dilip Kallu Haathived from Maharashtra, also took charge as members of the NCSK. The NCSK, established in 1994 to deal with the grievances of persons engaged in manual scavenging, has a sanctioned strength of four members and a chairperson.

898) Actor Akshay Kumar has donated Rs 9 lakh each to the families of 12 martyrs of which paramilitary force in March 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF*
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Actor Akshay Kumar has donated Rs 9 lakh each to the families of the 12 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were killed in a Naxal ambush in Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on March 11.

899) Which of the following is the manufacturer of the Su-30MKI fighter jets of the Indian Air Force?

- a) Airbus Industrie
- b) United Aircraft Corporation*
- c) BAE Systems
- d) Boeing Corporation

India and Russia on March 17, 2017 signed two key agreements for long-term maintenance and technical support for Russian-made Su-30MKI fighter jets of the Indian Air Force. Currently, the IAF operates around 230 Su-30MKI fighter jets and according to the agreements, Russian defence majors United Aircraft Corporation and the United Engine Corporation will render technical support and provide maintenance services and spares for the fleet for a period of five years. Along with the work on the programs of licensed production, repair and upgrade of Su and MiG planes, the United Aircraft-Building Corporation is carrying out work jointly with HAL on jointly developing the FGFA (Fifth- Generation Fighting Aircraft).

900) Which of the following will be hosted by Vladivostok in September 2017?

- a) BRICS Economic Forum
- b) Eastern Economic Forum*
- c) Eurasian Economic Forum
- da) European Economic Forum

901) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the ____ International Economic Forum in June 2017 in Russia.

- a) St. Petersburg*
- b) Volgograd
- c) Samara
- d) Moscow

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuri Trutnev on March 17, 2017 held discussions with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on ways to boost economic cooperation including in the energy and diamond processing sectors. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to travel to Russia on June 1, 2017 to attend St Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF). He will also be holding a bilateral Summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Swaraj also thanked Trutnev for inviting India for participation in the Third Eastern Economic Forum to be held in Vladivostok in September 2017.

902) Which of the following hosted the India Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) with Russia as the Partner Country in March 2016?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai*
- d) New Delhi

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Russian Trade and Industry Minister Denis Manturov held a bilateral meeting in Chennai on March 16, 2017 before inauguration of the India Engineering Sourcing Show (IESS) with Russia as the Partner Country in the flagship annual event of EEPC (Engineering Export Promotion Council) India.

903) A Meeting of Health Ministers from WHO SEARO (South-East Asia Region) was held in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017. The focus was on elimination of which of the following?

- a) Leprosy
- b) Measles
- c) Filariasis
- d) Tuberculosis*

The Health Ministers from WHO SEARO (South-East Asia Region) took part in the two-day ministerial meeting towards ending Tuberculosis in the region in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017. Member nations signed a 'Call for Action' for ending TB by 2030. WHO's South-East Asia Region comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

904) Which of the following organised the meeting on "Strengthening Railway Transport Connectivity in South and South West Asia" in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) ECOSOC
- c) UNESCAP*
- d) UNWTO

A two day meeting on "Strengthening Railway Transport Connectivity in South and South West Asia" was organised by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in coordination with Organization for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) and Ministry of Railways, Government of India in New Delhi on March 15-16, 2017.

905) . A 140-member squad of which paramilitary force was flagged off for rendering United Nations (UN) mandated security duties in the Caribbean island of Haiti on March 17, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF*
- d) ITBP

A 140-member squad of paramilitary Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) was on March 17, 2017 flagged off for rendering United Nations (UN) mandated security duties in the Caribbean island of Haiti. The contingent will render civil police duties and assist local police under the umbrella of the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

906) . A Festival of India in which European country is being held from March to October, 2017?

- a) Belarus
- b) Ukraine*
- c) Georgia
- d) Moldova

A Festival of India is being organized in Ukraine from March to October, 2017. The Festival will showcase diverse Indian culture, i.e. classical and folk dance, music, Rangoli Exhibition, Mango and Film Festivals, Seminars on Yoga and Think Tank and Fashion Week in different cities of Ukraine, namely, Kyiv, Odessa, Mykolaiv, Kherson, Lviv, Ivano Frankivsk, Poltava and Ternopil.

907) Which state in the US has decided to observe March 16 as 'Indian American Appreciation Day'?

- a) Iowa
- b) Kansas*
- c) Indiana
- d) Louisiana

The US state of Kansas has recognised March 16 as 'Indian American Appreciation Day' to honour an Indian techie who was killed in February in a racially-motivated hate crime. Srinivas Kuchibhotla, 32, was killed when 51-year-old US Navy veteran Adam Purinton opened fire at him and his friend Alok Madasani at a bar in Olathe on February 22, 2017.

908) Which state in the US has declared April as Sikh Awareness & Appreciation Month?

- a) Connecticut
- b) Colorado
- c) Delaware*
- d) Florida

Delaware State Assembly has passed a resolution to proclaim April as 'Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month', amidst increasing hate crime incidents against Indian-Americans particularly the Sikhs in the US. A resolution in this regard was passed unanimously by both the chambers of the State Assembly - the Senate and the House of Representatives in Dover on March 17, 2017.

909) Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, who came on an official visit to India in March 2017, is the head of court in which of the following?

- a) Iraq
- b) Iran
- c) Jordan*
- d) Lebanon

Dr. Fayez Tarawneh, Chief of The Royal Hashemite Court of Jordan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 10, 2017. Dr. Fayez Tarawneh conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein to Prime Minister.

910) Who among the following is the Executive Director of UN Women?

- a) Siphwe Nyanda
- b) Lindiwe Nonceba Sisulu
- c) Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma
- d) Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka*

911) The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map' in March 2017. In which country's government do women have the highest share (52.9%) of ministerial positions? India is 88th.

- a) Canada
- b) Sweden
- c) Rwanda
- d) Nicaragua*

912) The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map' in March 2017. In which country's Parliament do women have the highest share (61.3%) of seats in the Lower or Single House? India is 148th.

- a) Canada
- b) Sweden
- c) Rwanda*
- d) Slovenia

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women launched the 'Women in Politics 2017 Map', a visual representation of women's political empowerment on the sidelines of the ongoing session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations in New York. UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka launched the data on March 15, 2017.

India ranked 88th out of 186 countries in the list with of 18.5% of women appointed in ministerial positions as of January 1, 2017. The top position is jointly held by Bulgaria, France and Nicaragua where women occupy 52.9% of the ministerial positions.

In the ranking of nations according to number of women elected or appointed to parliaments (as on January 1, 2017), India ranked 148 out of the 193 nations, with only 11.48 per cent women in the Lower House of Parliament and 11 per cent in the Upper House. Rwanda tops the list with 61.3% of seats in Lower House being held by women.

IPU data shows that the global average of women in national parliaments increased just slightly from 22.6 per cent in 2015 to 23.3 per cent in 2016. The number of female Speakers of the House, however, is up to the highest so far, with 53 out of 273 posts.

913) The Commonwealth Day was celebrated the second ____ of March every year.

- a) Monday*
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday
- d) Thursday

914) Who among the following is the Secretary General of Commonwealth?

- a) Gabriela Isler
- b) Vanessa Holland
- c) Patricia Scotland*
- d) Sir Don McKinnon

'A Peace-building Commonwealth' was the theme of the Commonwealth Day that was celebrated on March 13, 2017. The annual day is celebrated on the second Monday in March. Secretary-General Patricia Scotland said that the theme reaffirms the Commonwealth Charter principle that "international peace and security, sustainable economic growth and development and the rule of law are essential to the progress and prosperity of all." 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' was the theme in 2016.

915) Which SAARC country's Parliament adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day?

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

Bangladesh's unanimously adopted a resolution declaring March 25 as Genocide Day, in remembrance of the atrocities carried out by the Pakistani Army in the night of March 25, 1971.

916) World Glaucoma Day was observed on ____, 2017.

- a) March 11
- b) March 12*
- c) March 13
- d) March 14

World Glaucoma Day was observed on March 12, 2017. Glaucoma is an umbrella term encompassing several different eye diseases that damage the eye's optic nerve, the nerve that transfers visual information from the retina to the brain. Damage to the optic nerve can result in the loss of vision (often as blurriness in peripheral vision) and blindness if left untreated. There's no cure for glaucoma, but vision loss and blindness can be prevented if the disease is diagnosed and treated early.

917) Which country's Parliament was in news in March 2017 for recognising a river as a "legal person" in March 2017?

- a) Australia

- b) Canada*
- c) New Zealand
- d) France

A New Zealand river revered by the Maori has been recognised by Parliament as a “legal person”, in a move believed to be a world first. Under legislation passed on March 15, 2017, the Whanganui river has been formally declared a living entity. According to the country’s Attorney-General, the river will have its own legal identity with all the corresponding rights, duties and liabilities of a legal person.

918) Turkey was in news for suspending high-level diplomatic ties with which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Spain
- b) Belgium
- c) Romania
- d) The Netherlands*

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Turkey will not allow the Dutch ambassador to Ankara to return and will suspend high-level ties until The Netherlands meets Turkey’s conditions over holding rallies abroad ahead of a referendum, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said after a cabinet meeting in Ankara on March 13, 2017. Ambassador Kees Cornelis van Rij is currently out of the country, with business being handled by the charge d’affaires.

919) Which African capital was in news for the death of more than 70 people from landslide at a garbage dump in March 2017?

- a) Algiers
- b) Addis Ababa*
- c) Nairobi
- d) Tunis

The death toll from a landslide at Ethiopia’s largest rubbish dump in capital Addis Ababa reached 72 on March 14, 2017 as the country’s parliament declared three days of national mourning. Part of the largest hill at the rubbish dump gave way on March 11, swallowing up a slum that had been built on the trash and burying families alive in their homes. The Koshe landfill, the country’s largest, has for more than 40 years been the main garbage dump for Addis Ababa.

920) Who will host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in 2018?

- a) New Zealand
- b) Canada
- c) South Africa
- d) United Kingdom*

United Kingdom will host the biennial Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) in April 2018. The Commonwealth Summit is held every two years and the 2018 CHOGM will see the UK take over from Malta as chair of the heads of government until 2020. Last time the UK had hosted the CHOGM in 1997. Commonwealth Secretary-General Patricia Scotland made the announcement on March 14, 2017.

921) Pakistan, which launched countrywide census on March 15, 2017, is the _____ most populous country in the world.

- a) Fifth
- b) Sixth*
- c) Seventh
- d) Eighth

Pakistan on March 15, 2017 launched a countrywide census, the first in nearly two decades. Chief Statistician Asif Bajwa inaugurated the process of 6th census. Under the constitution, census should be held every 10 years to determine the exact population and allocation of resources among provinces on the basis number of people. The final outcome of the census would be known by July. Pakistan, with about 200 million people is the sixth most populous country in the world.

922) Which SAARC country capital hosted the Asian Parliamentary Assembly from March 14 to 17, 2017?

- a) Thimphu
- b) Dhaka
- c) Colombo
- d) Islamabad*

923) The Asian Parliamentary Assembly was held from March 14 to 17, 2017. India was represented by Parliamentarians Meenakshi Lekhi, Swapan Dasgupta and _____.

- a) Kumari Selja
- b) Ambika Soni
- c) Anand Sharma
- d) Shashi Tharoor*

The Asian Parliamentary Assembly was organised in Islamabad from March 14 to 17, 2017. India was represented by parliamentarians Shashi Tharoor, Meenakshi Lekhi and Swapan Dasgupta at the event.

924) “Nabajatra” and “Joyjatra” are first _____ launched in Bangladesh in March 2017.

- a) Satellites
- b) Submarines*
- c) Express Trains
- d) Atomic Energy stations

Bangladesh military on March 12, 2017 inducted “Nabajatra” and “Joyjatra”, its first ever submarines. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina officially commissioned the two Chinese submarines. The submarines were handed over to Bangladesh on November 14, 2016.

925) Which of the following is the largest ever diamond unearthed in the world at 3,106 carats?

- a) Cullinan*
- b) Cornwall
- c) Centurion
- d) Clarke

A pastor working in the mines of eastern Sierra Leone has unearthed a 706-carat diamond, the government said in capital Freetown on March 16, 2017. The huge diamond was discovered by Emmanuel Momoh. The President’s Office said that a 706-carat diamond was presented to President Dr Ernest Bai Koroma on March 15. The Cullinan diamond, which was unearthed in South Africa in 1905, is the world’s largest at 3,106 carats uncut. The Cullinan was cut into several gems, including two set into the sceptre and crown of the British Crown Jewels.

926) Derek Walcott died in St. Lucia on March 17, 2017 at the age of 87. He was a winner of Nobel Prize in which field in 1992?

- a) Literature*
- b) Physics
- c) Economics
- d) Chemistry

Nobel literature laureate Derek Walcott died at Gros Islet in St. Lucia on March 17, 2017 at the age of 87. He received the 1992 Nobel Prize in Literature.

927) National Physical Laboratory (NPL)-CSIR dedicated the first “Pristine air-quality monitoring station at _____” to the Nation on March 17, 2017.

- a) Shimla
- b) Chamba
- c) Palampur*
- d) Dalhousie

National Physical Laboratory (NPL)-CSIR dedicated the first “Pristine air-quality monitoring station at Palampur” to the Nation on March 17, 2017. NPL has established an atmospheric monitoring station in the campus of Institute of

Himalayan Bioresource Technology (IHBT) at Palampur (H.P.) at an altitude of 1391 m for generating the base data for atmospheric trace species & properties to serve as reference for comparison of polluted atmosphere in India.

928) Which continent was in news for the discovery of world's first fluorescent frog recently?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) South America*

The world's first fluorescent frog has been discovered in the Amazon basin in Argentina. Scientists at the Bernardino Rivadavia Natural Sciences Museum in Buenos Aires made the discovery by accident. In normal light the frog appears to have a dull, mottled brown-green skin with red dots, but under UV light it glows a bright fluorescent green. The researchers, who published their discovery on March 13, 2017 in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, found that the trait enhanced the brightness of the frog by 19-29 per cent depending on the level of ambient light in its surroundings.

929) Which of the following launched the robot named 'Chintu' in collaboration with Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT), Pune, on March 16, 2017?

- a) Apple
- b) Toshiba
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM*

IBM in collaboration with Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT), Pune, on March 16, 2017 introduced 'Chintu' -- a cognitive assistant powered by IBM Watson that will assist senior citizens in conducting everyday tasks. The students at MIT have been using IBM Watson APIs powered by IBM Bluemix to solve day to day problems.

930) Which of the following will host the 105th session of Indian Science Congress in January 2017?

- a) Jamia Millia Islamia University
- b) Aligarh Muslim University
- c) University of Calcutta
- d) Osmania University*

The 105th session of Indian Science Congress, a gathering of scientific luminaries from countries across the world, will be held at the Hyderabad-based Osmania University (OU) from January 3 to 7, 2017. OU Vice-Chancellor Prof S Ramachandram on March 15, 2017 received a communication from the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) General President Achyuta Samanta in this regard.

931) India's Harsha Vardhan Durugadda was awarded the \$50,000 Rio Tinto ____ Award for his 'Column of Sound' in March 2017.

- a) Music
- b) Poetry
- c) Painting
- d) Sculpture*

New Delhi-based sculptor Harsha Vardhan Durugadda has been awarded the \$50,000 Rio Tinto Sculpture Award for his 'Column of Sound'. The "most generous" award for sculpture in Western Australia, the honour was announced recently at the opening of the 13th annual Sculpture by the Sea in Cottesloe. Now in its 13th year, the 'Sculpture by Sea' exhibition is Perth's largest free to the public event and runs from March 3 to March 20, 2017.

932) Which PSB raised Rs 1,000 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant additional tier-I bonds in March 2017?

- a) Punjab National Bank
- b) Canara Bank
- c) Central Bank of India
- d) Bank of India*

933) India is expected to fully implement Basel III standards of prudential banking by March _____.

- a) 2018
- b) 2019*
- c) 2020
- d) 2021

Bank of India has raised Rs 1,000 crore by issuing Basel III-compliant additional tier-I bonds. "The bank has raised Rs 1,000 crore by issue of Basel III compliant additional tier-I bonds on March 15, 2017," it said in a regulatory filing on March 15, 2017. Bondholders will get a yield of 9.95 per cent per annum. In view of implementation of global standard Basel III Capital Regulations, banks need to improve and strengthen their capital planning processes. The norms are being implemented to mitigate concerns on potential stresses on asset quality and consequential impact on performance and profitability of banks. Being implemented in phases since April 1, 2013, India is expected to fully implement Basel III standards by March 2019. This will align full implementation of Basel III in India closer to the internationally agreed date of January 1, 2019.

934) Which bank had the most number of its staff (64) involved in fraud cases in April-December 2016 as per data disclosed by RBI in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

935) Which bank witnessed most number of frauds (455) in April-December 2016 as per data disclosed by RBI in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank*
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India

936) Which bank witnessed frauds to the tune of Rs 2,236.81 crore, the highest in April-December 2016, as per data disclosed by RBI in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

ICICI Bank topped the list of banks that witnessed most number of frauds during April-December period of 2016 with state-owned SBI taking the second spot, RBI data revealed on March 12, 2017.

During the first nine months of the current fiscal, as many as 455 fraud cases involving Rs 1 lakh and above were detected in ICICI Bank, closely followed by SBI (429), Standard Chartered (244) and HDFC Bank (237). The other banks which reported large number of frauds to the apex bank during the period include Axis Bank (189), Bank of Baroda (176) and Citibank (150).

However, in value terms, frauds involving Rs 2,236.81 crore were reported in SBI, followed by Punjab National Bank (Rs 2,250.34 crore) and Axis Bank (Rs 1,998.49 crore).

The data provided by RBI to the Finance Ministry also revealed the involvement of bank staffs in fraud cases. In the case of SBI, 64 employees were involved in fraud cases, while it was 49 for HDFC Bank and 35 for Axis Bank. In all, 450 employees were involved in fraud cases in different public and private sector banks during April-December 2016, in 3,870 cases involving a total value of Rs 17,750.27 crore.

937) ESAF Small Finance Bank was launched in which state in March 2017?

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

ESAF Small Finance Bank, state's first private sector in micro financing, was launched by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on March 17, 2017.

938) Which of the following announced a one-time farm loan settlement scheme worth Rs 6,000 crore primarily for tractors in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

State Bank of India (SBI) on March 14, 2017 announced a one-time farm loan settlement scheme worth Rs 6,000 crore primarily for tractors. The scheme will result in the bank taking a 40 per cent haircut on outstanding tractor loans as of September 2016.

939) Which of the following announced a new subsidiary firm to manage estate matters in March 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

State Bank of India (SBI) on March 11, 2017 said it has incorporated a wholly-owned subsidiary firm - SBI Infra Management Solutions (SBIIMS) - to take care of its premises and estate related matters. "The primary role of the new entity will be to handle transaction management and advisory services, project management, facility management and implementation of policies and initiatives," SBI said in a statement.

940) The Central Public Sector Enterprises - Exchange Traded Fund (CPSE ETF) comprises stocks of how many public sector companies?

- a) 5
- b) 10*
- c) 15
- d) 20

The third tranche of the government's exchange traded fund (ETF) of top 10 state-owned companies saw bids worth Rs 9,200 crore from investors on March 17, 2017, which is 3.7 times the amount sought to be raised. The Reliance Mutual Fund-managed Central Public Sector Enterprises - Exchange Traded Fund (CPSE ETF) saw all round participation from investors, with retail buyers putting in bids of over Rs 3,500 crore. CPSE-ETF comprises stocks of ONGC Ltd, Coal India Ltd, Indian Oil Corp Ltd, Gail (India) Ltd, Power Finance Corp. Ltd, Rural Electrification Corp Ltd, Container Corp of India Ltd, Bharat Electronics Ltd, Oil India Ltd and Engineers India Ltd.

941) The government launched Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) for developing export linked infrastructure in states in March 2017. What will be the contribution of states in cost of projects?

- a) 10%
- b) 20%
- c) 30%
- d) 50%*

The government on March 15, 2017 launched a new scheme - TIES - for developing export linked infrastructure in states with a view to promote outbound shipments. Launched by Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme (TIES) seeks to bridge the infrastructure gap and provide forward and backward linkages to units engaged in trade activities. The scheme, to be implemented from April 1, would have a budgetary allocation of Rs 600 crore for three years with an annual outlay of Rs 200 crore. The cost of projects under TIES would be equally shared between the Centre and the states.

942) Which of the following hosted the International Vision Zero Conference on Occupational Safety and Health from March 15 to 17, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai

d) New Delhi*

A three-day International Vision Zero Conference on Occupational Safety and Health was organised in New Delhi from March 15 to 17, 2017. It was organized by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Government of India, Ministry of Labour and Employment and German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with International Social Security Association - Manufacturing, Construction and Mining. The Conference was inaugurated by Minister of State (IC) for Labour & Employment Bandaru Dattatreya.

943) India's economic growth is expected to pick up once the effects of cash shortages linked to the currency exchange initiative fade. Which of the following has mentioned this in its 'Global Prospects and Policy Challenges' note released recently?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF*
- c) WTO
- d) ADB

India's economic growth is expected to pick up once the effects of cash shortages linked to the currency exchange initiative fade, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its note titled 'Global Prospects and Policy Challenges'. (March 15, 2017)

944) Which of the following has decided to sell its 24% stake in Lubrizol India to Lubrizol Corporation of USA in March 2017?

- a) Indian Oil*
- b) HPCL
- c) BPCL
- d) Oil India

The Cabinet on March 15, 2017 approved sale of state-owned Indian Oil Corp's (IOC) 24 per cent stake in Lubrizol India Pvt Ltd to Lubrizol Corporation, USA for an undisclosed sum. LIPL, where the US firm holds the remaining 76 per cent stake, is in the lube additives business.

945) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in February 2017?

- a) 2.55%
- b) 3.55%
- c) 4.55%
- d) 6.55%*

946) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for February 2017?

- a) 2.65%
- b) 3.65%*
- c) 4.65%
- d) 5.65%

Wholesale inflation soared to a 39-month high of 6.55 per cent in February and retail inflation inched up to 3.65 per cent due to rise in food and fuel prices, showed the data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on March 14, 2017. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) based inflation in January was at 5.25 per cent, while the consumer inflation stood at 3.17 per cent. The December WPI inflation rate was revised upwards to 3.68 per cent from the previous 3.39 per cent.

947) Five Indians have made it to the World Economic Forum's 100 Young Global Leaders list released on March 15, 2017.

- I. Ambarish Mitra: Swaniti Initiative
- II. Vijay Shekhar Sharma: Paytm
- III. Shruti Shibulal: Tamara Hospitality
- IV. Rwitwika Bhattacharya-Agarwal: Blippar

Which of the above pairs of persons and their ventures is/are matched correctly?

- a) I and II only
- b) II and III only*

- c) III and IV only
- d) IV and I only

948) Journalist Hindol Sengupta is in the World Economic Forum's 100 Young Global Leaders list released on March 15, 2017. He is Editor at large at which business magazine?

- a) Forbes India
- b) Fortune India*
- c) Business India
- d) Business Today

Five Indians, including Paytm Founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Shruti Shibulal, Director, Strategy & Development at The Tamara Hospitality, have made it to the World Economic Forum's 100 Young Global Leaders list released on March 15, 2017. The other individuals who represented India in the list include Ambarish Mitra Founder and CEO Blippar, a mobile phone app business valued at USD 1.5 billion; Hindol Sengupta, Editor at large Fortune India and Rwitwika Bhattacharya-Agarwal Founder and CEO Swaniti Initiative. Each year, the World Economic Forum (WEF) selects 100 young leaders, under the age of 40, who are tackling the world's most complex challenges with innovative approaches.

949) Which is India's Best City to live in the annual Quality of Living Survey by consultancy firm Mercer in February 2017?

- a) Mumbai
- b) Hyderabad*
- c) Delhi
- d) Chennai

950) Which is the Best City to live in the annual Quality of Living Survey by consultancy firm Mercer of 230 cities around the world in February 2017?

- a) Geneva
- b) Vienna*
- c) Berlin
- d) Paris

Consultancy firm Mercer's 19th annual Quality of Living survey was released on March 14, 2017. **Top 10 in the World:** 1. Vienna 2. Zurich 3. Auckland 4. Munich 5. Vancouver 6. Dusseldorf 7. Frankfurt 8. Geneva 9. Copenhagen 10. Basel
Indian cities in the list: Hyderabad: 144, Pune: 145, Bangalore: 146, Mumbai: 154, Kolkata: 160, New Delhi: 161

951) Which of the following is among the two Indian companies in the list of World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute in March 2017?

- a) Wipro*
- b) Infosys
- c) Genpact
- d) Mindtree

Two Indian companies, Tata Steel and Wipro, have been named in the list of world's most ethical companies by American think tank Ethisphere Institute. Ethisphere honours those companies who recognise their role in society to influence and drive positive change in the business community and societies around the world.

952) Which of the following was declared as the "Best Airport in India and Central Asia" by Skytrax in March 2017?

- a) Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru
- b) Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi*
- c) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad

GMR Group-led consortium Delhi International Airport (DIAL) on March 15, 2017 said Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has been declared as the "Best Airport in India and Central Asia" by Skytrax. The announcement was made at the World Airport Awards held at Passenger Terminal Expo in Amsterdam, Netherlands. The Skytrax World Airport Awards are a global benchmark of airport excellence and widely known as the Passengers Choice Awards.

953) Which e-commerce company announced an exclusive partnership with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) to sell Japanese products in India in March 2017?

- a) Flipkart
- b) Snapdeal*
- c) Infibeam
- d) ShopClues

Online marketplace Snapdeal on March 16, 2017 announced its partnership with Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) for an exclusive partnership to showcase products from popular SME brands from Japan on Snapdeal. Customers can now purchase JETRO products across various categories including electronic devices, accessories, kitchenware and personal care directly from Snapdeal.

954) Which of the following has signed up as 'national supporter' of FIFA U-17 World Cup being held in October 2017?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) TVS Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp*
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Two-wheeler manufacturer Hero MotoCorp has signed up as a National Supporter for the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 which will be held across 6 host cities in October 2017. (March 16, 2017)

955) Which Indian digital payments firm launched bill payments service in Canada in March 2017?

- a) Paytm*
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

Online mobile wallet Paytm on March 16, 2017 announced that it has launched bill payments service in Canada. According to the company, users in Canada will now be able to pay for their cell phone, cable, internet, electricity and water bills via the Paytm Canada app.

956) 44. World Consumer Rights day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 15*
- b) March 17
- c) March 19
- d) March 21

World Consumer Rights Day (WCRD) was observed on March 15, 2017. WCRD was inspired by President John F Kennedy, who gave an address to the US congress on 15 March 1962, in which he formally addressed the issue of consumer rights. Theme for World Consumer Rights Day 2017 is 'Building a Digital World Consumers can Trust'.

957) Who among the following has become the first Indian singer to have her wax figure Madame Tussauds?

- a) Asha Bhonsle
- b) Shreya Ghoshal*
- c) Sunidhi Chauhan
- d) Kavita Krishnamurti

Shreya Ghoshal has become the first Indian singer to make it to Madame Tussauds, with her wax figure set to be showcased at the upcoming Delhi wing of the museum. The museum, which will be housed in the iconic Regal Building, also will also have wax statues of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan. (March 15, 2017)

958) Which of the following launched the first ever Mobile Honey Testing Lab in India in March 2017?

- a) Hamdard Laboratories
- b) Marico
- c) Patanjali Ayurved
- d) Dabur*

Dabur India Limited on March 14, 2017 inaugurated the first ever Mobile Honey Testing Lab designed specifically to reduce the adulteration in honey and ensure that purity is maintained. The Mobile Honey Testing Lab was flagged off from Dabur Research and Development Centre in Sahibabad by Sunil Duggal, CEO Dabur India.

959) Which of the following purchased driverless car-technology firm Mobileye for \$15.3 billion in March 2017?

- a) Apple
- b) Toshiba
- c) Microsoft
- d) Intel*

U.S. chipmaker Intel agreed to buy Israeli driverless car-technology firm Mobileye for \$15.3 billion on March 13, 2017, positioning itself for a dominant role in the fast-moving autonomous-driving sector.

960) World Sleep Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 15
- b) March 17*
- c) March 19
- d) March 21

Marking the occasion of World Sleep Day on March 17, 2017, Philips Healthcare India announced plans to extend sleep camps and launch a Centre of Excellence for training doctors on diagnosing sleep disorders in major cities in the country.

961) Which state's Assembly was in news in March 2017 for an MLA completing 50 years as Member?

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

Cutting across party lines, members of the Kerala Assembly in Thiruvananthapuram on March 15, 2017 heaped praise on former Finance Minister and Kerala Congress (M) leader K M Mani (83), who completed 50 consecutive years as member of the house, a distinction unparalleled in the country. He has represented Pala in Kottayam district since its formation in 1965.

962) Which state government introduced 'Pathadisha' mobile app that will enable a commuter to see location of a bus, its next destination and the availability of seats?

- a) Assam
- b) Kerala
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal*

The West Bengal government on March 15, 2017 introduced 'Pathadisha' mobile app and fare smart card in state-run buses. Like Ola and Uber app-based cab service, where a commuter can verify the position of an approaching vehicle, 'pathadisha' will enable a commuter to see location of a bus, its next destination and the availability of seats. The project has World Bank and a Korean Green Growth fund as development partners.

963) Which state announced a cap on ticket rates in cinema halls and multiplexes at Rs 200 in March 2017?

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

The Karnataka government on March 15, 2017 proposed to cap ticket rates in cinema halls and multiplexes at Rs 200. Presenting the 2017-18 Budget in the assembly, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said his government will prescribe Rs 200 as maximum price for tickets in all cinema theatres, including multiplexes, across the state.

964) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) Wang Shixian
- b) Tai Tzu Ying*
- c) Carolina Marin
- d) Nozomi Okuhara

965) Which of the following was the venue of the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) Bristol
- b) London
- c) Liverpool
- d) Birmingham*

966) How many of the five titles – Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles & Mixed Doubles – were won by China at the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) One*
- b) Two
- c) Three
- d) Four

967) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the All England Open Badminton organised in March 2017?

- a) Lee Chong Wei*
- b) Chen Long
- c) Liu Xiaolong
- d) Lin Dan

Top seed Tai Tzu Ying of Chinese Taipei won the Women's Singles title at the All England Open badminton Championship in Birmingham on March 12, 2017. The Men's Singles title went to top seed Lee Chong Wei of Malaysia. The Men's Doubles title went to the Indonesian duo of Marcus Fernaldi Gideon and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo. South Korea's Chang Ye Na and Lee So Hee won the Women's Doubles title. Mixed Doubles title was won by China's Lu Kai and Huang Yaqiong.

968) Which state capital will host the Asian Athletics Championships in July 2017 after Ranchi pulled out recently?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal
- c) Lucknow
- d) Bhubaneswar*

Bhubaneswar will host the Asian Athletics Championships in July after Ranchi made a late pull-out of staging the continental event. This was announced by Odisha Athletics Association President Jagmohan Patnaik on March 14, 2017.

969) Who among the following won the Hero Indian Open Golf title at the DLF golf and country club in Gurgaon in March 2017?

- a) Gaganjeet Bhullar
- b) Anirban Lahiri
- c) Mukesh Kumar
- d) Shiv Shankar Prasad Chawrasia*

SSP Chawrasia became only the second Indian golfer to successfully defend the Hero Indian Open, clinching a seven-stroke win at the redesigned DLF golf and country club in Gurgaon on March 12, 2017.

970) Who among the following Ministers was appointed Vice President of the organising committee of Under-17 FIFA World Cup being hosted by India in October 2017?

- a) Kiren Rijiju
- b) Santosh Gangwar
- c) Babul Supriyo*

d) Ram Kripal Yadav

Singer turned Union minister Babul Supriyo has been appointed Vice President of the 2017 U-17 FIFA World Cup organising committee, All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Praful Patel revealed on March 15, 2017

971) Which industry chamber and the Corps of Signal (Indian Army) organised DEFCOM-2015 in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) FICCI
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII*
- d) PHDCCI

DEFCOM INDIA 2017 was organised in New Delhi on March 23-24, 2017 with the theme 'Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resource for Digital Army'. The two-day event was organised jointly by the Corps of Signals of the Indian Army and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

972) Which of the following celebrated 200 years of its raising on March 16, 2017?

- a) Gorkha Rifles*
- b) Bihar Regiment
- c) Dogra Regiment
- d) Garhwal Rifles

First Battalion of the Ninth Gorkhas was raised by the British in 1817 as the 'Fatehgarh Levy' and it celebrated 200 years of its raising on March 16, 2017 at Secunderabad. Ninth Gorkha Rifles has a unique honour that all its battalions have been awarded the Chief of Army Staff's Citation for exceptional performance in the line of duty.

973) A Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution" was released by the government in March 2017 to mark Golden Jubilee year of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)? Who among the following is the Chairperson of NDDB?

- a) Dilip Rath*
- b) Amrita Patel
- c) S. Ayyappan
- d) Jethabhai P. Patel

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh launched a Coffee Table Book titled "50 Years – The Great Indian Milk Revolution" commemorating National Dairy Development Board's (NDDB) Golden Jubilee year in New Delhi on March 23, 2017. Dilip Rath is the Chairman of NDDB since August 2016. Dr. Varghese Kurien was the first Chairman of NDDB who served from 1965 to 1998.

974) Which of the following is the 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category', announced by the government in March 2017?

- a) Rashtriya Vishwas Yojana
- b) Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana*
- c) Rashtriya Varishtha Yojana
- d) Rashtriya Vayovridha Yojana
- e) Rashtriya Vayoshreshtha Yojana

975) The full form of ALIMCO is ____ Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India.

- a) Application
- b) Adaptive
- c) Artificial*
- d) Assistive

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, a 'Scheme for providing Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens belonging to BPL category' will be launched in District Nellore, Andhra Pradesh on April 1, 2017. Thaawarchand Gehlot, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment said in New Delhi on March 23 that the Physical Aids and Assisted-living Devices for Senior citizens will be distributed and the Scheme will be implemented through Artificial Limbs Manufacturing

Corporation (ALIMCO), (a PSU under M/o SJ&E), which will undertake one year free maintenance of the aids & assisted living devices.

976) The Cabinet approved an amendment to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 regarding training of teachers in March 2017. Which of the following statements about RTE Act are correct?

- I. It went into effect on April 1, 2011
- II. Children of age between 6 and 14 years come under its purview
- III. It reserves 25% of seats for poor children in schools

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III and I only

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22, 2017 approved the amendment to Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. 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. 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. The Act reserves 25 per cent free seats to poor students in government and private unaided schools, except minority institutions.

977) Which state hosted the 3-day international conference on “Universities of the Future: Knowledge, Innovation and Responsibility” in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana*
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

The 3-day international conference on “Universities of the Future: Knowledge, Innovation and Responsibility” concluded in Sonapat, Haryana on March 20, 2017.

978) Which of the following hosted the SRCC Global Millennium Summit in Dubai on March 18, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Dubai*

Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel addressed the SRCC Global Millennium Summit in Dubai on March 18, 2017. He was there as the Chief Guest.

979) The Government launched National Water Quality Sub Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride on March 22, 2017. Which of the following states is affected by presence of Arsenic in drinking water?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal*

980) The Government launched National Water Quality Sub Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride on March 22, 2017. Which of the following states is affected by presence of Fluoride?

- a) Odisha
- b) Rajasthan*
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Assam

The Government on March 22, 2017 launched National Water Quality Sub Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride to provide safe drinking water to about 28,000 affected habitations in the country by March 2021 with an outlay of Rs 25,000 crore. The mission was inaugurated in New Delhi in collaboration with the States. West Bengal is badly affected by the problem

of arsenic. Rajasthan suffers from presence of fluoride in drinking water with serious health hazards. Union Minister for Rural Development, Drinking Water and Sanitation and Panchayati Raj Narendra Singh Tomar said that the dream of 'Har Ghar Jal' cannot be realized without the involvement of the citizens.

981) The World Meteorological Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 23*
- b) March 24
- c) March 25
- d) March 26

982) What was the theme of the World Meteorological Day observed in March 2017?

- a) Climate for You
- b) Understanding Clouds*
- c) Weather and Climate: Engaging Youth
- d) Hotter, Drier, Wetter. Face the Future

World Meteorological Day observed on March 23, 2017. Each year, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), its members and the worldwide meteorological community around the world celebrate the day on March 23rd around a chosen theme. The theme for this year's World Meteorological Day is 'Understanding Clouds'.

983) The World Water Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 22*
- b) March 23
- c) March 24
- d) March 25

984) What was the theme of the World Water Day observed in March 2016?

- a) Saltwater
- b) Rainwater
- c) Freshwater
- d) Wastewater*

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) celebrated the World Water Day 2017 in New Delhi on March 22, 2017. Each year, World Water Day highlights a specific aspect of freshwater. The theme of World Water Day 2017 is "Wastewater". An exhibition "Jal Hai To Kal Hai" was organised to create awareness on conservation of water in New Delhi.

985) International Day of Forests (World Forestry Day) was celebrated on _____, 2017.

- a) March 15
- b) March 17
- c) March 19
- d) March 21*

986) What was the theme of the International Day of Forests (World Forestry Day) observed in March 2017?

- a) Forests & You
- b) Forests & Energy*
- c) Forests & Ecology
- d) Forests & Livelihood

The International Day of Forests was celebrated in New Delhi on March 21, 2017. The day is celebrated on March 21 every year to bring into focus the role of forests in safeguarding the ecological security and livelihood of millions of people all around the world. The theme of this year's celebration is 'Forests & Energy'. It has been chosen by the United Nations to highlight the importance of wood energy in improving people's lives.

987) The World Tuberculosis Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 20
- b) March 21
- c) March 22

d) March 24*

988) The World Tuberculosis Day is held every year to mark the discovery of its cause by which scientist?

- a) Edward Jenner
- b) Louis Pasteur
- c) Robert Koch*
- d) Thomas Wood

The World Tuberculosis Day was observed on March 24, 2017. On this day in 1882, Dr Robert Koch had detected the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus. Koch was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his tuberculosis findings in 1905. This is the second year of the two-year theme, 'Unite to End TB,' with a focus on addressing stigma, discrimination, marginalization, and overcoming barriers to access care. India bears the highest burden of tuberculosis (TB) globally, about 25 percent of all cases.

989) World Oral Health Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 20*
- b) March 21
- c) March 22
- d) March 23

In a bid to improve awareness on oral health care, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Faggan Singh Kulaste launched the National Dental and Oral Information Interactive (IVR) portal in New Delhi on March 20, 2017 on the occasion of World Oral Health Day.

990) The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff was observed by the United Nations on March 25, 2017.

- a) March 23
- b) March 24
- c) March 25*
- d) March 26

The International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff was observed by the United Nations on March 25, 2017. Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the challenges that UN staff face and urged everyone to ensure that they have the safety they need to help those most in need around the globe.

991) The UNESCO-sponsored World Poetry Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) March 19
- b) March 21*
- c) March 23
- d) March 25

21: The World Poetry Day was observed on March 21, 2017. A decision to proclaim 21 March as World Poetry Day was adopted during UNESCO's 30th session held in Paris in 1999. "Poetry is a window onto the breath-taking diversity of humanity", said Irina Bokova, Director General, in her message on World Poetry Day 2017.

992) More than 11,000 NGOs have been banned from receiving foreign funds, the government informed Parliament in March 2017. This has been done under which Act?

- a) Foreign Care Regulation Act
- b) Foreign Currency Reporting Act
- c) Foreign Currency Regulation Act
- d) Foreign Contribution Regulation Act*

As many as 11,319 NGOs were barred from receiving foreign funds as their Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licences had expired with effect from November 1, 2016 and registration of more than 14,000 NGOs was cancelled for violating the law, the Rajya Sabha was informed on March 22, 2017 by Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijju.

993) A 28-member expedition team to Mount Everest of which of the following was flagged off on March 23, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) Army
- c) Navy*
- d) Air Force

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on March 23, 2017 formally flagged off the 28-member expedition team to Mount Everest, which will attempt to summit the peak in May 2017. The members were selected from a pool of 100 personnel from various ships, submarines, aircraft Squadrons and establishments of the Navy.

994) Which of the following has launched “Swasth Uttar Purva: Healthy North East” initiative in March 2017?

- a) Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- b) Centre for Science and Environment
- c) The Energy and Resources Institute
- d) Public Health Foundation of India*

Aiming to improve public health efforts in the North Eastern region of India, the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in collaboration with the Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) launched “Swasth Uttar Purva: Healthy North East” initiative on March 22, 2017. Under the initiative, the PHFI and DoNER will provide technical assistance to the state governments of North East and NGOs for implementation of public health projects and programmes in the region. “The DoNER has provided funds to the PHFI for strengthening the health system in the North East region”, said K. Srinath Reddy, President of PHFI during the launch.

995) Which of the following hosted the nine-day mega cultural event, ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsava’, in March 2017?

- a) Arunachal Pradesh
- b) Meghalaya
- c) Manipur*
- d) Tripura

A nine-day mega cultural event, ‘Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsava’, showcasing traditional folk dance and music was inaugurated in Tawang by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on March 23, 2017. The cultural extravaganza has been organised by the Union Ministry of Culture.

996) The government has decided to dissolve which of the following in March 2017?

- a) National Commission for Women
- b) National Commission for Minorities
- c) National Commission for Schedule Tribes
- d) National Commission for Backward Classes*

The Union Cabinet on March 23, 2017 gave the go ahead for setting up a National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes with constitutional status. The Commission will comprise a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and three other members. The Cabinet also cleared a proposal for dissolving the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and repealing the law under which it was established. NCBC was a statutory body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established on August 14, 1993.

997) Which of the following is the section launched by the Prime Minister on his NaMo app to enable top policy-makers and distinguished analysts to write opinion pieces?

- a) Views
- b) Reflections*
- c) Observations
- d) Perspectives

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched an Op-Ed section on his App to enable top policy-makers and distinguished analysts to write opinion pieces. The addition of the ‘Reflections’ section on the Narendra Modi App marks another effort by the Prime Minister to seek feedback on the current developments.

998) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairperson of Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) for a term of three years in March 2017?

- a) Girish J. Shah
- b) Sunil Mansinghka
- c) Upendra Tripathy
- d) Sharad Singh Negi*

999) The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI) is based at which of the following?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai*
- d) New Delhi

The Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), a statutory advisory body under the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF), will now be permanently chaired by a senior MoEF official, according to a notification issued by the govt. on March 3, 2017. The 22-member Board's three-year term ended February 28 and on March 1, a new Board of 18 members, chaired by Sharad Singh Negi, Special Secretary and Director-General (Forests), MoEF, came into effect. The March 3 notification specifies that for the next 3 years, the Board would be chaired by the Director-General (Forests) for its term. The Chennai-based AWBI was established in 1962 under Section 4 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960. It was started under the stewardship of Late Rukmini Devi Arundale, well known humanitarian.

1000) Which of the following has decided to undertake an archaeological exploration to find out whether the Ram Setu is a natural or man-made phenomenon?

- a) Indian Council of Philosophical Research
- b) Indian Council of Historical Research*
- c) Indian Institute of Advanced Study
- d) Indian Council of Social Science Research

The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is set to undertake an archaeological exploration to find out whether the Ram Setu is a natural or man-made phenomenon. It will undertake the exploration in October and November, before deciding whether a detailed underwater archaeological excavation is required to probe deeper, said ICHR chairman Y. Sudershan Rao in March 2017.

1001) Which of the following hosted the two-day National Conference on Reforms in the Working of Quasi-Judicial Bodies in March 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) Bengaluru*

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the principle of Separation of Powers cannot be strictly applied in any modern Government. He was speaking at the two-day National Conference on Reforms in the Working of Quasi-Judicial Bodies organised in Bengaluru on March 18-19, 2017.

1002) Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the first indigenously built 'Medha' rake on the western corridor of Mumbai on March 18, 2017. These rakes have been manufactured at:

- a) Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, Asansol
- b) Electric Locomotive Factory, Madhepura
- c) Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala
- d) Integral Coach Factory, Perambur*

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on March 18, 2017 flagged off the first indigenously built 'Medha' rake on the western corridor of Mumbai. Two Medha rakes were on a trial mode since last two years and have been designed and built at the Integral Coach Factory in Perambur near Chennai.

1003) Who among the following is the author of 'Gods Own Kitchen' released recently?

- a) Robin Sharma

- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Rashmi Bansal*

1004) Who among the following has been appointed member of high-level group set up by UN Secretary General to provide expertise on and coordinate the global fight against antimicrobial resistance?

- a) Devi Prasad Shetty
- b) Prathap Chandra Reddy
- c) Soumya Swaminathan*
- d) Vishwa Mohan Katoch

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) Director Soumya Swaminathan has been named to a high-level group set up by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to provide expertise on and coordinate the global fight against antimicrobial resistance. Swaminathan, 57, has been named to the ad hoc Interagency Coordination Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, which will be co-chaired by Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed and World Health Organisation Director-General Margaret Chan. (March 19, 2017)

1005) Who amongst the following retired diplomats was appointed Chairperson of New Delhi-based think-tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)?

- a) Shivshankar Menon
- b) Hardeep Singh Puri*
- c) Nirupama Rao
- d) Shyam Saran

Hardeep Singh Puri (65), India's former Ambassador to the UN in New York and Geneva, was on March 21, 2017 appointed as the Chairman of New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS).

1006) . Dr Randeep Guleria was appointed as the new Director of which of the following by the government in March 2017?

- a) AIIMS, Delhi*
- b) PGIMER, Chandigarh
- c) AFMC, Pune
- d) NIMHANS, Bangalore

Dr Randeep Guleria was on March 24, 2017 appointed as the director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. He has been appointed for five years from the date of assumption of charge or till attaining the age of 65 until further orders.

1007) Dev Raj Sikka died on March 18, 2017 at the age of 85. He was a well-known:

- a) Lawyer
- b) Economist
- c) Astronomer
- d) Meteorologist*

Dev Raj Sikka, former director of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, who first proposed a link between the El Nino phenomenon and the Indian monsoon in 1982, died on March 18, 2017 at the age of 85.

1008) Chinu Modi died at the age of 78 in Ahmedabad on March 19, 2017. He was a winner of which of the following awards?

- a) Arjuna Award
- b) Magsaysay Award
- c) National Film Award
- d) Sahitya Akademi Award*

Noted Gujarati poet, novelist, story-writer and critic, Chinu Modi, known by his pen name 'Irshad', passed away at the age of 78 in Ahmedabad on March 19, 2017. Modi had been conferred the Sahitya Akademi Award for the year 2013 for his poetry book "Khara Zaran" in 2014.

1009) . Anil Divan died on March 20, 2017 at the age of 86. He was a well-known:

- a) Lawyer*
- b) Economist
- c) Astronomer
- d) Archaeologist

Senior advocate and noted constitutional expert Anil Divan passed away in New Delhi on March 20, 2017 at the age of 86. Divan, a former president of the Bar Association of India, was associated with several organizations and was one of the founders of NGO Centre for Public Interest Litigation (CPIL), and a member of the Committee on Judicial Accountability, a group of lawyers who work for improved accountability of judges.

1010) Which of the following hosted the second annual All India Management Association (AIMA) India-UAE conference on March 20, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Dubai*

The second annual All India Management Association (AIMA) India-UAE conference was held in Dubai on March 20, 2017 under the auspices of Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and the Ministry of Culture and Knowledge Development. The event was organised under the theme, "Resetting Globalisation: Collaborating in a Fast Changing World".

1011) Who among the following was appointed as the full-time interim Director General of International Solar Alliance in March 2017?

- a) Girish J. Shah
- b) Sunil Mansinghka
- c) Upendra Tripathy*
- d) Sharad Singh Negi

1012) The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched in 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President_____.

- a) Shinzo Abe
- b) Francois Hollande*
- c) Barack Obama
- d) David Cameron

Former New and Renewable Energy Secretary Upendra Tripathy was appointed as the full-time interim Director General of International Solar Alliance. Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy and Mines, and Segolene Royal, Minister for Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs, Government of France, jointly decided to appoint Upendra Tripathy, as the Interim Director General (IDG) of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) on a full-time basis. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) was launched on November 30, 2015 as a coalition of the solar resource rich countries jointly by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande in the presence of the then UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon on the first day of the Paris Climate Conference or CoP21. (March 2017).

1013) Which of the following has invited the Indian Air Force to participate in its multinational exercise 'Blue Flag' to be held later this year?

- a) Israel*
- b) France
- c) Iran
- d) Japan

In tune with India's growing defence ties with Israel, the Indian Air Force will participate in an air combat exercise in the Jewish country later this year. This will be the first time IAF will be part of the multinational exercise 'Blue Flag', known to be one of the biggest in West Asia. (March 23, 2017)

1014) . The two-day Indus Water Commission meeting was held in Islamabad on March 20-21, 2017. Pakistan has objected to India's construction of the 1000 MW Pakul Dul project on which river?

- a) Ravi
- b) Indus
- c) Jhelum
- d) Chenab*

Officials from India and Pakistan discussed problems relating to Indus Basin at the two-day Indus Water Commission meeting held in Islamabad on March 20-21, 2017. During the meeting, Pakistan is said to have highlighted concerns about the three Indian hydro projects being built on the rivers flowing to Pakistan. They are 1000 MW Pakul Dul on Chenab, 120 MW Miyar, located across Miyar Nalla which is a right bank main tributary of River Chenab, and the 43 MW Lower Kalnai hydro project on Lower Kalnai Nalla, a tributary of river Chenab. Pakistan contends that the projects were violating the Indus Water Treaty of 1960, which has come under strain during the current tension between the two sides.

1015) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Anerood Jugnauth of Mauritius who came on an official visit to New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley*
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Radha Mohan Singh
- d) Sushma Swaraj

India and Mauritius on March 18, 2017 held talks on expanding bilateral defence and security cooperation to effectively deal with the threat of terrorism. Ways to explore defence ties figured during talks between Defence Minister Arun Jaitley and his Mauritian counterpart Anerood Jugnauth in New Delhi.

1016) . Who among the following is a former President of France? He met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on March 18, 2017?

- a) Marine Le Pen
- b) Maurice Papon
- c) François Bayrou
- d) Nicolas Sarkozy*

Nicolas Sarkozy, former President of France, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on March 18, 2017.

1017) . Which of the following hosted the meeting of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors on 17-18 March 2017?

- a) Frankfurt
- b) Hamburg
- c) Darmstadt
- e) Baden-Baden*

The meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors was held in Baden-Baden, Germany on 17- 18 March 2017.

1018) The Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved the membership of 13 more countries in March 2017. India is the _____ shareholder in AIIB.

- a) Largest
- b) Third largest
- c) Second largest*
- d) Fourth largest

China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the membership of 13 more countries, Jin Liqun, president of AIIB said in Beijing on March 23, 2017. With 57 founding members, the AIIB which was established in 2015 aims to provide financing to address the daunting infrastructure needs across Asia. With authorised capital of USD 100 billion, China is the largest shareholder with 26.06 per cent voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 per cent followed by Russia 5.93 per cent and Germany with 4.5 per cent.

1019) . Which of the following was world's largest producer of crude oil in December 2016 and January 2017?

- a) Venezuela
- b) Mexico
- c) Russia*
- d) United States

Russia continued to be the world's largest oil producer in January for the second consecutive month, official data showed on March 22, 2017. Russia's daily oil output averaged at about 10.8 million barrels in January, slightly more than 10.5 million barrels in December, according to data released by the Russian Federal State Statistics Service (Rosstat). Saudi Arabia trailed behind in these two months, with its daily output averaging 9.95 million barrels in January.

1020) . Which of the following hosted the Spring Storm 17 military exercise with US Marines in March 2017?

- a) Greece
- b) Albania
- c) Romania*
- d) Hungary

Some 1,200 Romanian and US soldiers took part in military drills at the Capu Midia Firing Range near Constanta off the Black Sea, on March 18, 2017. The Spring Storm 17 exercises aim to increase interoperability of Romanian and US troops in a region where NATO members are uneasy after Russia's interventions in Ukraine.

1021) Which neighbouring country unveiled a new Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit (PERU) in March to create awareness on reconciliation among children?

- a) Nepal
- b) Myanmar
- c) Sri Lanka*
- d) Pakistan

Sri Lanka on March 24, 2017 unveiled a new Peace Education and Reconciliation Unit (PERU) to create awareness on reconciliation among children.

1022) Which of the following hosted the Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on March 17, 2017?

- a) Sydney
- b) Auckland
- c) Ottawa
- d) London*

The Meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) was held in London on March 17, 2017. India was represented by Minister of State for External Affairs MJ Akbar at the CMAG meeting.

1023) Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was released from prison in March 2017. He served as the fourth President of Egypt from 1981 to _____.

- a) 2005
- b) 2007
- c) 2009
- d) 2011*

88-year-old Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's ousted president was on March 24, 2017 freed from a military hospital in Cairo after six years in custody over charges of killing more than 200 protesters during the 2011 Arab Spring uprising that toppled him. Mubarak served as the President of Egypt from 1981 to 2011. Current President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi served as Mubarak's military intelligence chief and led the military's overthrow of his democratically elected successor Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

1024) Jimmy Breslin died aged 88 on March 19, 2016. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album

- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986*
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain
- e) Associated Press reporter who flashed word of the German surrender in Italy at World War II's end

Jimmy Breslin, newspaper columnist who took on the high and mighty and championed the underdog, died at the age of 88 in New York on March 19, 2017. Breslin won a George Polk Award for metropolitan reporting in 1985 and the Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986.

1025) Vera Lynn, who celebrated her 100th birthday in London on March 20, 2017, is:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album*
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain

Renowned World War II singer **Vera Lynn** celebrated her 100th birthday in London on March 20, 2017. Her name has been strongly associated with the world-famous cliffs since she released "The White Cliffs of Dover" in 1942. The singer also celebrated her birthday by releasing a new album, becoming the first person to do so at the age of 100.

1026) George E. Bria died at 101 in New York on March 18, 2017. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Associated Press reporter who flashed word of the German surrender in Italy at World War II's end*

George E. Bria, the Associated Press reporter who flashed word of the German surrender in Italy at World War II's end and went on to become chief U.N. correspondent and a key news editor died in New York on March 18, 2017. He was 101.

1027) Colin Dexter died at died aged 86 in Oxford (UK) on March 21, 2016. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain

Writer **Colin Dexter**, who created music-loving Oxford detective Inspector Morse, died aged 86 in Oxford (UK) on March 21, 2016.

1028) Martin McGuinness died aged 66 on March 21, 2016. He was:

- a) Singer of "The White Cliffs of Dover" album
- b) Novelist who created Oxford detective Inspector Morse*
- c) Journalist who won Pulitzer Prize for commentary in 1986
- d) Northern Ireland's rebel leader who led movement toward reconciliation with Britain*

Martin McGuinness, the Irish Republican Army commander who led his underground, paramilitary movement toward reconciliation with Britain, and was Northern Ireland's deputy first minister for a decade in a power-sharing government, died in Derry, Northern Ireland on March 21, 2017. He was 66.

1029) . Research facilities such as a Hypersonic Wind Tunnel and Shock Tunnel were commissioned at which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Satish Dhawan Space Centre
- b) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- c) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre*
- d) Master Control Facility

ISRO on March 20, 2017 commissioned two major facilities-- a Hypersonic Wind Tunnel and Shock Tunnel-- at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre in Thiruvananthapuram. ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar said commissioning of such

facilities would provide adequate data for design and development of current and future space transportation systems in the country.

1030) India was ranked 87th on a global energy architecture performance index in March 2017. The index is an initiative of which of the following?

- a) World Bank
- b) World Economic Forum*
- c) International Energy Agency
- d) United Nations Environment Programme

India has marginally improved its position to 87th on a global energy architecture performance index, but ranks among the worst for pollution, a survey showed on March 22, 2017. Switzerland topped the annual list released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) and was followed by Norway, Sweden, Denmark and France in the top five. India's rank improved three places from 90th in 2016. Bahrain is ranked the lowest at 127th.

1031) Who among the following won the Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity 2016 in March 2017 for her article on the Haryana government's law barring women without a minimum educational qualification from contesting Panchayat elections?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Tazeen Qureshy
- c) Shreya Ila Anasuya
- d) Anima Pookkunniyl*

1032) Who among the following won the Laadli Media Award for Gender Sensitivity 2016 in March 2017 for her story on conservation efforts by tribal women in an Odisha village?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Tazeen Qureshy*
- c) Shreya Ila Anasuya
- d) Anima Pookkunniyl

The 8th Laadli Media Awards for Gender Sensitivity 2016 (Northern and Eastern Region) were announced at the Chinmaya Mission in Delhi on March 23, 2017. Anima Pookkunniyl, Assistant Editor with BusinessLine, and Shreya Ila Anasuya, a Delhi-based freelance journalist, were awarded this year for their critical gender-sensitive reportage.

Organised by Population First, the Laadli Media Awards are given to recognise efforts by those in the media and advertising industry who work to end gender prejudice. The awards have been given since 2007.

Anima Pookkunniyl's story in the BLink was about Kamlesh Kairi's petition to the Supreme Court against the unjust laws barring women without a minimum educational qualification from fighting Panchayat elections in Haryana.

Ila Anasuya was awarded for her report on Suzette Jordan.

Chitragada Choudhary was awarded the best prize in investigative journalism for her reportage on violence by security forces in Bastar in the Caravan magazine.

Tazeen Qureshy of NDTV.com won the best electronic report award for her story on the conservation efforts by tribal women in an Odisha village.

1033) Who among the following was named winner of the Abel Prize for contributions to mathematical sciences in March 2017?

- a) Yves Meyer*
- b) Mikhail Gromov
- c) Lennart Carleson
- d) John Willard

French mathematician Yves Meyer was on March 21, 2017 awarded the 2017 Abel Prize for his work on wavelets, a mathematical theory with applications in data compression, medical imaging and the detection of gravitational waves. Meyer, 77, will receive 6 million Norwegian kroner (about £600,000) for the prize, which recognises outstanding

contributions to mathematics and is awarded by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. The Abel Prize has been awarded annually since 2003 and is considered by many to be a maths equivalent of the Nobel Prize, which has no prize for mathematics.

1034) The KCK International Award for Excellence in Print Journalism was given by which Hindi newspaper group in March 2017?

- a) Dainik Bhaskar
- b) Rajasthan Patrika*
- c) Dainik Jagran
- d) Amar Ujala

The KCK International Award for Excellence in Print Journalism, given by the Rajasthan Patrika, was presented in New Delhi on March 20, 2017 by the President of India.

1035) Who among the following was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award at the sixth National Photography Awards in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Javed Ahmed Dar
- b) Raghu Rai*
- c) Rajesh Bedi
- d) Bhawan Singh

1036) Who among the following was conferred the Award for Professional Photographer of the Year at the sixth National Photography Awards in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) G. Nagasrinivasu
- b) K. K. Mustafah*
- c) Dipayan Bhar
- d) Ch Narayana Rao

Veteran photographer Raghu Rai was conferred with Lifetime Achievement Award at the 6th National Photography Awards presented by Union Information & Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi on March 22, 2017. Rai began his career in 1965 and was awarded Padma Shri in 1972. Ravinder Kumar won the award for the Amateur Photographer of the Year while K. K. Mustafah received the award for Professional Photographer of the Year.

1037) Who among the following won the inaugural Kuldip Nayar Journalism Award in New Delhi in March 2017?

- a) Rajat Sharma
- b) Ravish Kumar*
- c) Umashankar Singh
- d) Divya Srinivasan

For his contributions in the world of journalism, eminent TV journalist Ravish Kumar of NDTV was on March 19, 2017 honoured with the first Kuldip Nayar journalism award in New Delhi. Veteran journalist Kuldip Nayar joined hands with the Gandhi Peace Foundation to institute the award.

1038) Who among the following won the \$1-million Global Teacher Prize given in Dubai in March 2017?

- a) Rima Khalaf
- b) Hanan Al Hroub
- c) Raduan Nassar
- d) Maggie MacDonnell*

A Canadian school teacher whose teaching philosophy underscores hope and acts of kindness in an isolated corner of Quebec has won a USD 1 million prize in what has become one of the most-coveted and high-profile awards for teaching excellence. Maggie MacDonnell was awarded the annual Global Teacher Prize during a ceremony in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on March 19, 2017.

1039) What is the new upper limit of amount stored in pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) announced by the RBI recently if the customer provides full KYC details to the PPI issuing entity?

- a) Rs. 10,000
- b) Rs. 20,000
- c) Rs. 50,000
- d) Rs. 100,000*

1040) What is the new upper limit of amount stored in pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) announced by the RBI recently if the customer provides minimum KYC details to the PPI issuing entity?

- a) Rs. 10,000
- b) Rs. 20,000*
- c) Rs. 50,000
- d) Rs. 75,000

1041) The maximum value of pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs) for Mass Transit Systems has been limited to:

- a) Rs. 1,000
- b) Rs. 2,000
- c) Rs. 3,000*
- d) Rs. 4,000

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to fix the upper limit of amount stored in pre-paid payment instruments (PPIs), including smart cards and mobile wallets, at Rs 1 lakh in view of growing usage of PPIs for purchase of goods and services. According to the RBI's new draft norms for PPIs, amount in a PPI should not exceed Rs 1 lakh at any point of time if the customer provides full KYC and Rs 20,000 if the customer provides minimum KYC details to the PPI issuing entity. Further, only banks will be permitted to issue open system PPIs after full KYC in addition to semi closed PPIs.

The draft also said that the maximum value of any prepaid payment instrument, where specific limits have not been prescribed, should not exceed Rs 50,000. Also, cash loading to PPIs should be limited to Rs 50,000 per month subject to the overall limit of the PPI.

The RBI norms further said maximum value in prepaid gift instrument should not exceed Rs 20,000 and in case of PPI for Mass Transit Systems it should not be more than Rs 3,000 at any time. PPIs could be loaded/reloaded by cash, by debit to a bank account, by credit and debit cards, and other PPIs.

According to the RBI, entities, seeking approval/ authorisation from the RBI for issuance of PPIs should have a minimum positive net worth of Rs 25 crore. The receipt of fresh applications from banks and non-banks for grant of authorisation to operate a payment system for PPI under Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 was suspended till February 28. (March 21, 2017)

1042) The government announced merger of Bharatiya Mahila Bank with SBI in March 2017. BMB was founded in:

- a) 2010
- b) 2011
- c) 2012
- d) 2013*

The government on March 20, 2017 said it has decided to merge Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with SBI. The BMB, set up in 2013, has 103 branches with its presence in almost all the states.

1043) Mahesh Kumar Jain was promoted as MD and CEO at which public sector bank in March 2017?

- a) IDBI Bank*
- b) Allahabad Bank
- c) Canara Bank
- d) Indian Overseas Bank

1044) Who among the following was appointed as the new MD & CEO of Indian Bank in March 2017?

- a) Melwyn Rego
- b) P.S. Jayakumar
- c) Rakesh Sharma
- d) Kishore Piraji Kharat*

The Government of India has notified the swapping of IDBI Bank Ltd Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Kishor Piraji Kharat with Indian Bank Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer Mahesh Kumar Jain. The notification comes at a time when IDBI Bank has been suffering due to increase in NPAs among other issues. According to a regulatory filing by Indian Bank, the government, through a notification dated March 18, 2017, appointed the MD & CEO of IDBI Bank Limited, Kishor Piraji Kharat, as MD & CEO of Indian Bank, "for the remaining period of his current tenure or until further orders, whichever is earlier".

1045) Which of the following has been provided Rs. 1,100 crore in the Rs. 8,586-crore capital infusion plan for 10 PSBs announced recently?

- a) Central Bank of India
- b) Dena Bank
- c) IDBI Bank
- d) Indian Overseas Bank*

Coming to the support of weak and non-performing public sector banks (PSBs), the Finance Ministry has chalked out a turnaround-linked Rs. 8,586-crore capital infusion plan for 10 PSBs. The 10 banks identified are Allahabad Bank (Rs. 418 crore); Andhra Bank (Rs. 1,100 crore); Bank of India (Rs. 1,500 crore); Bank of Maharashtra (Rs. 300 crore); Central Bank of India (Rs. 100 crore); Dena Bank (Rs. 600 crore); IDBI Bank (Rs. 1,900 crore); Indian Overseas Bank (Rs. 1,100 crore); UCO Bank (Rs. 1,150 crore) and United Bank of India (Rs. 418 crore). To avail themselves of the capital support, the identified PSBs require a tripartite memorandum of understanding with the government, the PSB management and employees of the PSB concerned. (March 20, 2017)

1046) HDFC launched an issue of Rs 2,000 crore (USD 306 million) under its MTN programme in March 2017. MTN refers to:

- a) Major Term Note
- b) Master Term Note
- c) Mature Term Note
- d) Medium Term Note*

Mortgage firm HDFC Ltd on March 24, 2017 raised about USD 504 million (around Rs 3,300 crore) through rupee denominated bonds to fund its business expansion. This is the largest issuance of masala bonds out of India, HDFC Ltd said in a regulatory filing on stock exchanges. Under the Medium Term Note (MTN) programme, HDFC launched an issue of Rs 2,000 crore (USD 306 million) plus a green-shoe option. "The Corporation (HDFC) has closed the masala bonds and raised Rs 3,300 crore," it said. The bond with maturity of 3 years and 1 month carries 7.35 per cent per annum. The bonds are unrated and will be listed on the London Stock Exchange.

1047) The Finance Ministry appointed A. V. Girija Kumar as the Chairman and Managing Director of which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Life Insurance Corporation
- b) New India Assurance
- c) United India Insurance*
- d) National Insurance

The Finance Ministry has approved United India Insurance, Director and General Manager A V Girija Kumar holding additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director with immediate effect. Girija Kumar, who began his career with New India Insurance in 1980, is a direct recruit officer and has 37 years of experience in general insurance industry. "The Ministry of Finance has approved the assignment of additional charge of the post of Chairman and Managing Director to A V Girija Kumar, Director and General Manager", a press release from United India Insurance said. He assumed charge with immediate effect. In 2015, Kumar joined United India Insurance as its General Manager. (March 21, 2017)

1048) Who among the following was appointed as Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator SEBI in March 2017?

- a) Ravindra H. Dholakia
- b) Mukulita Vijaywargiya
- c) Suman Saxena
- d) Madhabi Puri Buch*

Madhabi Puri Buch was on March 21, 2017 appointed as a Whole-Time Member of capital markets regulator SEBI. She is founder-director of Agora Advisory Pvt Ltd and currently at the New Development Bank in Shanghai, China. Buch has been appointed to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) post for a period of three years.

1049) Construction of 1.17 lakh new houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) was sanctioned by the government in March 2017. Under the "Affordable Housing in Partnership with Public & Private Sectors", central assistance at the rate of _____ per house for EWS category is provided.

- a) Rs 50,000
- b) Rs 75,000
- c) Rs 1 lakh
- d) Rs 1.5 lakh*

1050) Which of the following is the leading state in implementation of PMAY (Urban) in the country with the maximum of 2.277 lakh houses sanctioned till March 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu*
- d) Andhra Pradesh

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation on March 21, 2017 approved construction of 1,17,814 affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor in six States at a total cost of Rs.5,773 cr for which central assistance of Rs.1,816 cr has been approved, under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (Urban).

Bihar has been sanctioned 25,221 new houses. Jharkhand has been sanctioned 20,099 new houses while Odisha has got 2,115 new houses. Karnataka has been sanctioned 31,424 houses and Kerala-11,480 houses. Madhya Pradesh has been sanctioned a total of 27,475 new houses. With the recent sanction, MP has so far been sanctioned 2,09,036 houses and is closely behind Tamil Nadu which is leading in implementation of PMAY (Urban) with the maximum of 2,27,700 houses sanctioned.

Under Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY (U), beneficiaries are assisted to build own houses on the land available with them or take up improvement works for increasing living space and other amenities. Under Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) component of PMAY (U), State Government provides the land to house urban poor. Under both these components, central assistance of Rs.1.50 lakh is provided for each beneficiary.

With the approvals on March 21, total number of houses being taken up for construction for the benefit of urban poor under PMAY(Urban) has gone up to 17,60,507 with total project cost of Rs.96,018 cr for which central assistance of Rs.27,714 cr has been approved.

1051) The Union Cabinet on March 22, 2017 approved an increase in the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 5,000 crore to:

- a) Rs. 10,000 crore
- b) Rs. 20,000 crore
- c) Rs. 30,000 crore*
- d) Rs. 40,000 crore

Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22, 2017 approved amendments to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981 to increase the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 30,000 crore and to increase it beyond Rs. 30,000 crore in consultation with RBI, as deemed necessary from time to time. It also approved the transfer of 0.4 per cent equity of RBI in NABARD amounting to Rs. 20 crores to the Government of India.

The proposed amendments in NABARD Act, include, certain other amendments including changes in long title and certain Sections to bring Medium Enterprises and Handlooms in NABARD's mandate.

1052) Which of the following is the Alternate Train Accommodation Scheme for passengers in waiting list launched by Railways in March 2017?

- a) Sahaj

- b) Vikalp*
- c) Pratham
- d) Sankalp

From April 1, waitlisted passengers can avail the opportunity of travelling in premier trains like Rajdhani or Shatabdi even if they have booked tickets in other mail or express trains for the same destination. Widening the scope of availing confirmed berths in trains, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on March 22, 2017 launched the alternate train accommodation scheme -- Vikalp -- to be effective from April 1. As of now, the scheme will be available in online bookings and later extended to counters. Under this scheme, waitlisted passengers can get confirmed berths in the next alternate train if they opt for it while booking their tickets. There would be no extra charges or any refund provided for the difference of fares.

1053) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on March 22, 2017 approved closure of jatropha plantation joint ventures floated by state-owned oil companies. These joint ventures were launched by which state's government?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Chhattisgarh*

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on March 22, 2017 approved closure of jatropha plantation joint ventures floated by state-owned oil companies. The CCEA approved shutting down of CREDA HPCL Biofuel Ltd (CHBL) and IndianOil - Chhattisgarh Renewable Energy Development Agency (CREDA) Biofuels Limited (ICBL). Joint ventures were formed for carrying out energy crop (jatropha) plantation and production of bio-diesel in 2008-09. The CREDA, an arm of Chhattisgarh govt., had provided wasteland to CHBL and ICBL for plantation of jatropha. Due to various constraints such as poor seed yield, limited availability of wasteland, high plantation maintenance cost etc, the project became unviable and jatropha plantation activities were discontinued.

1054) The 'Media and Entertainment Industry Report 2017' report was jointly by FICCI and which consultancy in Mumbai in March 2017?

- a) E&Y
- b) FIS
- c) BCG
- d) KPMG*

The Indian media and entertainment sector is expected to grow at 14 per cent in the next five years but it will be slower in 2017 due to demonetisation and GST related uncertainties, according to the 'Media and Entertainment Industry Report 2017' report released jointly by FICCI and KPMG in Mumbai on March 21, 2017. FICCI M&E Committee Chairman Uday Shankar said building solid infrastructure and continued government support will help the industry reach the potential it holds for employment and creating socio-economic value for the country.

1055) Which of the following will be established by the Centre in all the states to provide market-opportunity to master artisans belonging to Minority communities?

- a) Yuva Hub
- b) Vikas Hub
- c) Hunar Hub*
- d) Tarakki Hub

The Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) & Parliamentary Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said that "Hunar Hub" will be established in all the states to provide market-opportunity to master artisans belonging to Minority communities to preserve and propagate their heritage. A "data bank" of artisans/craftsmen from Minority communities is also being prepared. Naqvi stated it while addressing the conference of Principal Secretaries/Secretaries-In charge of minority welfare in states/UTs to review progress of implementation of Multi-Sectoral Development Programme, scholarships & other schemes of Minority Affairs Ministry in New Delhi, on March 24, 2017.

1056) Fortune released its fourth annual list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in March 2017. Who among the following is the only Indian in the list?

- a) Nita Ambani

- b) Chanda Kochhar
- c) Shikha Sharma
- d) Arundhati Bhattacharya*

1057) Fortune released its fourth annual list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in March 2017. The list has been topped by Theo Epstein. He is in which business?

- a) Films
- b) Sports*
- c) Retailing
- d) Fast food :

Fortune released its fourth annual list of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders on March 23, 2017 which has SBI's Arundhati Bhattacharya in 26th place. Theo Epstein, President of Chicago Cubs, tops the ranks of the greatest global leaders in business, government, philanthropy, and the arts. Chicago Cubs is an American professional baseball team based in Chicago, Illinois. Epstein is followed by Alibaba founder Jack Ma, Pope Francis, Melinda Gates, and Jeff Bezos, the Amazon chief and owner of The Washington Post. Film Director and Screenwriter Ava DuVernay is ranked sixth while President Donald Trump's national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, is seventh. Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen is eighth. Republican Senator John McCain is ninth while German Chancellor Angela Merkel is at the tenth position. Bhattacharya is the only Indian in the list.

1058) Who among the following is the owner of telecom company America Movil? He is the fourth richest person in the world according to Forbes magazine list of the world's richest billionaires in March 2017.

- a) Amancio Ortega
- b) Larry Ellison
- c) Carlos Slim Helu*
- d) Charles Koch

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates once again topped the Forbes magazine list of the world's richest billionaires, the magazine said on March 20, 2017. Gates, whose wealth is estimated at \$86 billion, led the list for the fourth straight year. He was followed by Berkshire Hathaway chief Warren Buffett among the top 10 billionaires. Buffett's wealth was estimated at USD 75.6 billion. Others in the top 10 included Amazon founder Jeff Bezos at number three, Facebook creator Mark Zuckerberg at number five and Oracle co-founder Larry Ellison at number seven. Amancio Ortega of Inditex, which owns Spanish apparel chain Zara, was fourth, Mexican telecom tycoon Carlos Slim of America Movil was sixth, Charles Koch and David Koch of Koch Industries, were eighth and ninth and former New York City mayor and Bloomberg News founder Michael Bloomberg was 10th.

1059) Dilip Shanghvi was named as the third richest Indian after Mukesh Ambani and SP Hinduja & family by Hurun Global Rich List 2017 in March 2017. He is the owner of the following pharmaceutical companies?

- a) Cipla
- b) Alembic
- c) Wockhardt
- d) Sun Pharma*

Beijing-based Hurun Report on March 7 released the Hurun Global Rich List 2017, a ranking of the US dollar billionaires currently found in the world. Wealth calculations are a snapshot of 15 January 2017. This is the sixth year that Hurun Report has released a ranking of the dollar billionaires in the world. Bill Gates, 61, is still the richest man in the world, despite only growing 1% to US\$81bn. In December 2016, he launched a US\$1 billion fund to invest in new forms of clean energy with aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to almost zero.

Hurun Global Rich List 2017: India's Top 10

Rank (Global Rank)	Name	Net worth Rs. Crores (US\$bn)	Company
1 (28)	Mukesh Ambani	175,400 (26)	Reliance
2 (74)	SP Hinduja & family	101,000 (14)	Hinduja Group
3 (74)	Dilip Shanghvi	99,000 (14)	Sun Pharma
4 (97)	Pallonji Mistry	82,700 (12)	Shapoorji Pallonji
5 (97)	Lakshmi N Mittal	81,800 (12)	ArcelorMittal
6 (97)	Shiv Nadar	81,200 (12)	HCL Enterprise

7 (106)	Cyrus Poonawalla	75,400 (11)	Serum Institute of India
8 (135)	Azim Premji	66,300 (9.7)	Wipro
9 (138)	Uday Kotak	49,200 (7.2)	Kotak Mahindra bank
10 (207)	David Reuben	45,600 (6.7)	Global Switch
10 (207)	Simon Reuben	45,600 (6.7)	Global Switch

Hurun Global Rich List 2017: World's Top 10

Rank	Name	Net worth Rs (US\$bn)	Company
1	Bill Gates	551,800 (81)	Microsoft
2	Warren Buffett	531,400 (78)	Berkshire Hathaway
3	Jeff Bezos	490,500 (72)	Amazon
4	Amancio Ortega	470,100 (69)	Inditex (Zara)
5	Mark Zuckerberg	395,100 (58)	Facebook
6	Larry Ellison	327,000 (48)	Oracle
7	Carlos Slim Helu & family	313,400 (46)	America Movil
8	Charles Koch	292,900 (43)	Koch Industries
8	David Koch	292,900 (43)	Koch Industries
10	Michael Bloomberg	286,100 (42)	Bloomberg

1060) What was India's rank among 187 countries in the UNDP Human Development Index released in March 2017?

- a) 131*
- b) 133
- c) 135
- d) 137

1061) The UNDP Human Development Index released in March 2017 has put India into which category?

- a) Very high human development
- b) High human development
- c) Medium human development*
- d) Low human development

1062) Which of the following has topped the UNDP Human Development Index released in March 2017?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway*
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

India slipped down one place from 130 to 131 among the 188 countries ranked in terms of human development, says the 2016 Human Development Report (HDR) released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on March 21, 2017. The report classifies countries into four categories: very high human development, high human development, medium human development and low human development. India's human development index (HDI) value of 0.624 puts it in the "medium human development" category. The world's top three countries in HDI are Norway (0.949), Australia (0.939) and Switzerland (0.939). The HDI is a measure for assessing progress in three basic dimensions of human development: a long and healthy life, access to knowledge, and access to a decent standard of living.

1063) Which is the happiest country in the world in UN's World Happiness Report 2017?

- a) Iceland
- b) Myanmar
- c) Norway*
- d) Canada

1064) What is India's rank among 155 countries in UN's World Happiness Report 2017?

- a) 92nd
- a) 102nd
- a) 112th
- d) 122nd*

1065) . The International Day of Happiness was celebrated on:

- a) March 14
- b) March 16
- c) March 18
- d) March 20*

Norway ranks as the happiest country in the world, according to The World Happiness Report 2017, which ranks 155 countries by their happiness levels. Norway jumped three spots from last year, displacing Denmark, which had held the top spot for three out of the past four years. Rounding out the rest of the top ten in order were Denmark, Iceland, Switzerland, Finland, Netherlands, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden. The report has been published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

India comes in on the 122nd spot, down from 118 in the 2013-2015 report, which maps happiness on the parameters of GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption. The report was released at the United Nations on March 20, 2017 at an event celebrating International Day of Happiness. It is the fifth report to come out since 2012.

The World Happiness Report 2017 looks at trends in the data recording how highly people evaluate their lives on a scale running from 0 to 10. The rankings, which are based on surveys in 155 countries covering the three years 2014-2016, reveal an average score of 5.3 (out of 10).

1066) Which of the following is the most expensive city in the world according to the Worldwide Cost of Living 2017 released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in March 2017?

- a) Oslo
- b) Sydney
- c) Hong Kong
- d) Singapore*

1067) Which of the following is the cheapest city in the world according to the Worldwide Cost of Living 2017 released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) in March 2017?

- a) Lagos
- b) Almaty*
- c) Ulan Bator
- d) Lusaka

Four Indian cities are among the cheapest to live in globally, while Singapore has been ranked as the most expensive for the fourth consecutive year, according to the Worldwide Cost of Living 2017 released by Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) on March 21, 2017. Bangalore (3rd place), Chennai (6th), Mumbai (7th) and New Delhi (10th) have been ranked by EIU among the 10 cheapest cities in the world. Almaty has been ranked as the cheapest city in the world followed by Lagos. Karachi was placed 4th, Algiers (5th), Kiev (8th) and Bucharest (9th) rank.

Singapore retained its title as the world's most expensive city for the fourth consecutive year, while Hong Kong remained second, closely followed by Zurich at the 3rd place. Others in the 10 most expensive list include Tokyo at the 4th position, Osaka (5th), Seoul (6th), Geneva (7th), Paris (8th), New York (9th) and Copenhagen at 10th place.

The Worldwide Cost of Living is a bi-annual (twice yearly) EIU survey that compares more than 400 individual prices across 160 products and services. These include food, drink, clothing, household supplies and personal care items, home rents, transport, utility bills, private schools, domestic help and recreational costs.

1068) Italy has been ranked as the healthiest country on Earth in the _____ Global Health Index of 163 countries released in March 2017.

- a) Lancet
- b) Bloomberg*
- c) World Economic Forum
- d) WHO

Italy has been ranked as the healthiest country on Earth in the Bloomberg Global Health Index of 163 countries. The index, released on March 20, 2017, graded 163 countries based on variables such as life expectancy, causes of death and health risks such as high blood pressure, malnutrition, the availability of clean water and tobacco use. A baby born in Italy can expect to live to be an octogenarian. But 2,800 miles south in Sierra Leone, the average newborn will die by 52. Iceland, Switzerland, Singapore and Australia rounded out the top five most-healthy countries in the index.

1069) Which telecom service provider said in March 2017 that it will merge with Idea Cellular?

- a) Reliance Communications
- b) Tata Teleservices
- c) Reliance Jio Infocomm
- d) Vodafone*

Vodafone India and Idea Cellular on March 20, 2017 agreed to merge their operations to create the country's largest mobile phone operator worth more than USD 23 billion with a 35 per cent market share. The combined entity of Vodafone and Idea Cellular, which are India's number 2 and 3 mobile players, respectively, will overtake Bharti Airtel. The new company will have Kumar Mangalam Birla as Chairman while Vodafone will have the right to appoint chief financial officer. Vittorio Colao, CEO of Vodafone, the world's second-biggest mobile operator by subscribers, said the two companies will continue to operate under their current brands indefinitely, but will eventually work under the same name.

1070) Which of the following launched India's first mobile alerting platform that will deliver weather alerts without internet in March 2017?

- a) Facebook
- b) Google
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM*

In a bid to connect people in areas with lower connectivity and data availability, IBM and The Weather Company, owned by IBM Business, on March 20, 2017 launched the country's first mobile alerting platform that will deliver weather alerts without internet. The technology uses peer-to-peer connections on a "mesh network" to send critical weather alerts to people in remote areas. The technology links other nearby phones to extend the signal to help keep citizens connected and informed.

1071) Which of the following launched mobile payments service in India in March 2017?

- a) LG
- b) Apple
- c) Lenovo
- d) Samsung*

Samsung Electronics on March 22, 2017 announced the launch of its flagship mobile payments service in the country. Apart from allowing users to simply tap and pay on the go using their registered cards, the service, Samsung Pay, has integrated Paytm as well as the government's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) into the application. Samsung Pay provides a mobile payment option built natively on the UPI, a payment system launched by the National Payments Corporation of India.

1072) Which metals company announced a dividend of Rs 27,157 crore in 2016-17, the largest such payout by any company in the country?

- a) MMTC
- b) Tata Steel
- c) Hindustan Zinc*
- d) Hindalco

Vedanta Group firm Hindustan Zinc (HZL) on March 22, 2017 announced a special dividend of Rs 13,985 crore for 2016-17, taking the aggregate amount paid by it for the fiscal to Rs 27,157 crore, the largest such payout by any company in the country. "Together with the golden jubilee dividend paid in April last year and the interim dividend in October 2016, the aggregate dividend being paid by Hindustan Zinc during this financial year will be Rs 27,157 crore, including DDT, which is the largest dividend outflow by any company in India in a single financial year," the company said in a statement. Hindustan Zinc is one of the largest integrated producers of zinc and lead and a leading producer of silver.

1073) Which of the following released a road safety index covering 8 major cities on March 20, 2017?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp
- d) Maruti Suzuki*

Country's largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India on March 20, 2017 released a road safety index, covering eight cities including the national capital and Mumbai. The index, compiled across several categories on the basis of citizen views and ground level surveys, rates cities across the country on road safety on various parameters like road lighting, maintenance and infrastructure. The names of winner cities were announced by Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari.

1074) Which of the following launched an internship initiative called 'Take Two' programme in India to help women professionals resume their career post sabbatical in March 2017?

- a) HSBC*
- b) Citibank
- c) Barclays Bank
- d) Bank of America

HSBC India has launched an internship initiative called 'Take Two' programme to help women professionals resume their career post sabbatical. 'Take Two' programme is aimed at women professionals with at least six years of work experience, who have taken a break from work, HSBC India said in a release issued in Mumbai on March 19, 2017.

1075) Which company's 13 former employees were awarded life sentence by a court in Gurgaon in March 2017 for violence at its factory in Manesar in 2012?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp
- d) Maruti Suzuki*

A Gurgaon court on March 18, 2017 awarded life sentence to 13 former employees of Maruti-Suzuki India Limited, who it had found guilty of murder, in connection with the violence at the automobile giant's Manesar plant in 2012 in which a senior company officer had died. Violence had erupted at the facility in August 2012 over disciplinary action against an employee during which agitated workers went on rampage, torching a part of the factory, setting senior human resource manager Awanish Kumar Dev on fire, and beating up and bludgeoning with rods 100 others.

1076) Which of the following is setting up its first greenfield training facility in Asia in New Delhi? The ground-breaking ceremony was performed on March 17, 2017?

- a) Airbus*
- b) United Aircraft Corporation
- c) BAE Systems
- d) Boeing

Civil Aviation Minister P Ashok Gajapathi Raju performed the ground-breaking for Asia's first greenfield training facility being set up by the European aviation major Airbus in New Delhi on March 17, 2017. The Airbus India Training Centre (AITC) will support India's growing need for Airbus aircraft pilots and maintenance engineers. Airbus has more than 250 aircraft in service in India and over 570 are on order by Indian airlines.

1077) Which telecom service provider said in March 2017 that it will acquire 4G business of Tikona Networks?

- a) Reliance Communications
- b) Tata Teleservices
- c) Reliance Jio Infocomm
- d) Bharti Airtel*

Telecom major Bharti Airtel on March 23, 2017 said it will acquire 4G business of Tikona Networks, including broadband spectrum and 350 sites across 5 circles, for about Rs 1,600 crore.

1078) Which of the following announced 'Digital Payment Security alliance' in association with Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) in March 2017 to create community awareness on safe and secure digital practices?

- a) Facebook
- b) Google*
- c) Microsoft
- d) IBM

Google and Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) on March 23, 2017 announced 'Digital Payment Security alliance' initiative that aims to create community awareness on safe and secure digital practices. Under this initiative, banks, Fintech companies and government will work together to create awareness as users adopt digital and mobile payments. Google, in collaboration with the MeitY also announced "Digital Unlocked" initiative that aims to train one lakh artisans per year across India and enable them to tap into newer markets through improved visibility of their products on internet. The artisans will be trained by National Institute of Electronics and Information technology (NIELIT).

1079) Which of the following has launched Lexus car models in India at prices starting Rs. 55.27 lakh?

- a) Audi
- b) BMW
- c) Toyota*
- d) Mercedes-Benz

Toyota has launched of three Lexus models — RX Hybrid priced at Rs. 1.07 crore, RX F Sport hybrid at Rs. 1.09 crore, and ES 300h hybrid sedan priced at Rs. 55.27 lakh (all ex-showroom prices) in New Delhi on March 24, 2017.

1080) Which of the following announced Rio Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu as brand ambassador for its sports drink Gatorade in March?

- a) Nestle
- b) Danone
- c) PepsiCo*
- d) Coca Cola

Soft drink major PepsiCo has roped in Rio Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu as brand ambassador for its sports drink Gatorade. Gatorade India on March 20, 2017 announced that it has signed Sindhu as its brand ambassador.

1081) "A Handful of Sunshine" is a book authored by who among the following film Directors?

- a) Shoojit Sircar
- b) Rajkumar Hirani
- c) Anurag Kashyap
- d) Vikram Bhatt*

Bollywood director Vikram Bhatt best known for films like "Ghulam" and "1920: Evil Returns", has turned writer with his new book "A Handful of Sunshine". Published by Penguin Random House India, the book will hit stands in April this year. (March 21, 2017).

1082) Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the 21st chief minister of Uttar Pradesh on March 19, 2017. He won Lok Sabha elections from which constituency in 2014?

- a) Maharajganj
- b) Gorakhpur*
- c) Kushi Nagar
- d) Deoria

BJP's five-time Lok Sabha MP from Gorakhpur, Yogi Adityanath was sworn in as the 21st chief minister of Uttar Pradesh by Governor Ram Naik in Lucknow on March 19, 2017, heading a 47-member council of ministers that includes two deputy CMs. Cricketer-turned-politician Mohsin Raza, who was sworn in as a minister of state, is the lone Muslim face in the state government. BJP had not fielded any Muslim candidate in the Assembly polls. The Chief Minister, his two deputies -- BJP state unit chief Keshav Prasad Maurya (47) and party's national vice president Dinesh Sharma (53) -- and Raza (49) are not members of either House of the UP legislature.

1083) . Who among the following was sworn in as Chief Minister of Uttarakhand in March 2017?

- a) Ganesh Joshi
- b) Trivendra Singh Rawat*
- c) Premchand Agrawal
- d) Madan Kaushik

Trivendra Singh Rawat was sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of the fourth BJP-led government in Uttarakhand by Governor K. K. Paul in Dehradun on March 18, 2017. Rawat won from Doiwala constituency by a margin of over 24,000 votes.

1084) Which of the following on March 20, 2017 declared that the rivers Ganga and Yamuna were “living persons”?

- a) Allahabad High Court
- b) Calcutta High Court
- c) Delhi High Court
- d) Uttarakhand High Court*

In a first in the country, on March 20, 2017 the Uttarakhand High Court in Dehradun, declared that the rivers Ganga and Yamuna were “living persons”. On March 15, New Zealand river Whanganui became the first in the world to be granted a legal human status.

1085) Which state announced 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab*
- c) Manipur
- d) Uttarakhand

Punjab cabinet has decided to provide 33 per cent reservation for women in all government jobs. The decision was taken in the first cabinet meeting chaired by Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh at Chandigarh on March 19, 2017. The cabinet also decided to increase representation of women in the Panchayati Raj Institutions and Urban Local Bodies from the present 33 per cent to 50 per cent.

1086) A police station in which state became the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Himachal Pradesh*

Sanjauli police station has become the first police post in the country to be linked with Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS), a nationwide online tracking system. Chief minister Virbhadra Singh inaugurated the system on March 15, 2017. The police posts of Manikaran in Kullu, Solan city and Dada Siba in Kangra were also simultaneously linked to CCTNS.

1087) Which of the following announced in March 2017 that widows in the state will be referred to as “Kalyanis” in all official documents?

- a) Goa
- b) Jharkhand
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

In order to bring in more sensitivity and respect towards widows, the Madhya Pradesh government announced in March 2017 that widows in the state will be referred to as “Kalyanis” in all official documents. In line with the Prime Minister’s call to use the word ‘Divyang’ instead of ‘Viklang’ while referring to a person with physical disabilities, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced that widows in the state will be referred to as “Kalyani’s” in all official documents and welfare related schemes. The state govt has stressed on the point of empowerment of women and also called for the portrayal of widows in a positive light.

1088) Advocate General of which state was chosen for the 'National Law Day award' for his expertise in constitutional law in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Jharkhand*
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Jharkhand Advocate General Vinod Poddar has been chosen for 'National Law Day award' for his expertise in constitutional law, an official release said in Ranchi on March 20, 2017. Poddar will get the award at the International Conference of Jurists function on March 25 in Mumbai. The function is organised by International Council of Jury (ICJ), All India Bar Association (AIBA) and Indian Council of Jurists,.

1089) Ashokamitran aged 86 in Chennai on March 23, 2017. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Arjuna Award
- b) Magsaysay Award
- c) National Film Award
- d) Sahitya Akademi Award*

Prominent Tamil writer and Sahitya Akademi winner Ashokamitran, who powerfully portrayed the lives and struggles of the urban middle-class life in his literary works, died, aged 86, in Chennai on March 23, 2017. He was given the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1996 for his work 'Appavin Snegidhar', a collection of short stories.

1090) Andhra Pradesh Assembly passed a resolution in March 2017 to rename which of the following airports after former Chief Minister Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao?

- a) Cuddapah Airport
- b) Rajahmundry Airport
- c) Tirupati Airport
- d) Vijayawada Airport*

The Andhra Pradesh legislature on March 21, 2017 passed resolutions urging the Union Civil Aviation Ministry to rename Tirupati and Vijayawada airports, after Lord Venkateswara and legendary Telugu actor and former CM Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, respectively. The resolutions to rename both the existing airports were moved, on behalf of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, first in the Legislative Assembly and later in the Legislative Council, and were approved unanimously.

1091) The Government on March 20, 2017 designated 12 Olympians as National Observers. Which of the following is not matched correctly?

- a) Akhil Kumar: Wrestling*
- b) Anju Bobby George: Athletics
- c) Sanjeev Kumar Singh: Archery
- d) Aparna Popat: Badminton

1092) The Government on March 20, 2017 designated 12 Olympians as National Observers. Which of the following is not matched correctly?

- a) Jagbir Singh: Hockey
- b) Khajan Singh: Swimming
- c) Karnam Malleshwari: Archery*
- d) Sushil Kumar: Wrestling

The Government on March 20, 2017 designated 12 Olympians as National Observers to assist the Government, Sports Authority of India, and National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned including Indian Olympic Association in the preparation and implementation of the long term development plan with respect to high priority and priority sports. They are: Athletics: P.T. Usha and Anju Bobby George, Archery: Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Singh, Badminton: Aparna Popat, Boxing: Mary Kom and Akhil Kumar, Hockey: Jagbir Singh, Shooting: Abhinav Bindra, Tennis: Somdev Devvarman, Weightlifting: Karnam Malleshwari, Wrestling: Sushil Kumar, Football: I. M. Vijayan, Swimming: Khajan Singh, Table Tennis: Kamlesh Mehta

1093) Cheteshwar Pujara created a new record for most balls faced by an Indian in a Test innings in March 2017.

Whose record did he break?

- a) Rahul Dravid*
- b) Sachin Tendulkar
- c) Dilip Vengsarkar
- d) Sunil Gavaskar

29-year-old Cheteshwar Pujara broke Rahul Dravid's record during the third test against Australia at Ranchi on March 19 when he faced the most balls by an Indian in a Test innings. Dravid had faced 495 balls during his 270 against Pakistan in 2004. Pujara finished with 202 in 525 balls, a new record for India. The double hundred was his second against Australia and third overall. Len Hutton's 364 off 847 balls against Australia in 1938 is the longest Test innings.

1094) Which state won the Vijay Hazare Trophy in March 2017?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Karnataka
- c) Tamil Nadu*
- d) Gujarat

Dinesh Karthik produced an innings of character before Tamil Nadu's disciplined bowling effort saw them beat Bengal by 37 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final, in New Delhi on March 20, 2017. Karthik (112) was the only significant scorer for the Vijay Shankar-led Tamil Nadu en route to their meagre total of 217 in 47.2 overs as Mohammed Shami bowled with a lot of fire, scalping 4 for 26. Ashok Dinda (3/36) also rattled the top order. But Tamil Nadu bowlers bowled out Manoj Tiwary-captained Bengal for 180 in 45.5 overs. Sudip Chatterjee was the top scorer with 58.

1095) Who among the following was appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup?

- a) Misbah-ul-Haq
- b) Younis Khan
- c) Umar Akmal
- d) Shahid Afridi*

Former Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has been appointed as the ambassador for the fifth edition of the Blind Cricket World Cup. The announcement was made on March 17, 2017 by the Pakistan Blind Cricket Council (PBCC).

1096) Santiago Nieva was appointed as new coach of Indian Men's team in which of the following in March 2017?

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing*
- c) Wrestling
- d) Archery

Argentina's Santiago Nieva will be India's new foreign coach for men boxers, filling a position left vacant by Cuban B I Fernandes in 2014. This was announced by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) President Ajay Singh on March 19, 2017. Nieva was attached with the Swedish men's team until 2016. The 42-year-old represented Argentina during his competitive days.

1097) Vidya Pillai won silver medal in Women's World Championship in which sport in March 2017?

- a) Table tennis
- b) Bridge
- c) Snooker*
- d) Chess

India's Vidya Pillai produced a spirited performance before settling for silver in the World Women Snooker Championship in in Singapore on March 19, 2017. She lost to former World Champion Ng On Yee of Hong Kong.

1098) Who among the following won gold medal for India at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in the double trap event at Acapulco (Mexico) in March 2017?

- a) Jitu Rai
- b) Vijay Kumar
- c) Ankur Mittal*

d) Amanpreet Singh

Ankur Mittal clinched the gold medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in the double trap event at Acapulco (Mexico) in March 2017.

1099) India won its first football match overseas after 11 years by defeating which of the following in a friendly on March 22, 2017?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Cambodia*
- c) Mongolia
- d) Singapore

The Indian football team broke an 11-year-old jinx of not winning a match away from home as they beat lower ranked Cambodia 3-2 in an international friendly in Phnom Penh on March 22, 2017. Playing in their first international friendly this year, India -- currently at 132nd in the FIFA rankings -- were given a tough fight by the Cambodians, who are 41 places below them. The last time India emerged victorious in an away international friendly was way back in 2006, when the team eked out a solitary goal win over Pakistan. Sunil Chhetri (35th minute), Jeje Lalpekhua (49th) and Sandesh Jhingan (52nd) found the target for India while Cambodia scored through Khoun Laboravy (36th) and Chan Vathanaka (62nd).

1100) Which of the following hosted the third World Conference on Environment organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on March 25-26, 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi*

The third World Conference on Environment was organized by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in New Delhi on March 25-26, 2017. The conference had ten technical sessions on various issues like air pollution, water pollution, economics and clean technology, and the role of courts and tribunals

1101) Which of the following is the online film certification system launched by the Information & Broadcasting Ministry in March 2017?

- a) e-cinepath
- b) e-cinepranam
- c) e-cinepratham
- d) e-cinepramaan*

1102) Who among the following retired judges is the Chairperson of the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT)?

- a) Mukul Mudgal
- b) Dalveer Bhandari
- c) Shivaraj V. Patil
- d) Manmohan Sarin*

Information & Broadcasting Minister M Venkaiah Naidu on March 27, 2017 launched the online film certification system, 'e-cinepramaan', with an aim to censor corruption and promote clean cinema. Naidu said the new online certification system of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) will be an important step in making the CBFC office paper less and would enable effective monitoring and real time progress tracking for both CBFC officials and the applicant (producers). The payments made during the process by the producers will go to Bharatkosh portal. Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) Chairperson Justice Manmohan Sarin, Minister of State I&B Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Secretary I&B Ajay Mittal and CBFC CEO Anurag Srivastava were also present during the launch of the e-cinepramaan.

1103) Which of the following states has been totally exempted from the ban on liquor shops along national and state highways by the Supreme Court in March 2017?

- a) Assam
- b) Sikkim*
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur

1104) The Supreme Court in March 2017 modified its order on allowing liquor shops on the either side of national and state highways. For municipal/local bodies with 20,000 or less population falling along the highways the shops should be located at what minimum distance from the highways?

- a) 120 metres
- b) 220 metres*
- c) 320 metres
- d) 420 metres

The Supreme Court on March 31, 2017 said hotels and restaurants falling within 500 metres on either side of the national and state highways cannot serve liquor. The apex court by its December 15, 2016 order had banned the liquor shops within 500 metres on the either side of the national and state highways. However, the court relaxed the ban on the location of liquor shops by reducing it to 220 metres in respect of municipal/local bodies with 20,000 or less population falling along the highways. Besides, the top court exempted Sikkim and Meghalaya from the ban order altogether. The top court order on March 31 came on a batch of applications filed by some state governments and the owners of hotels and restaurants located on the highways seeking modification of the December 15, 2016 order.

1105) Which Article of the Indian Constitution covers 'laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights'?

- a) Article 3
- b) Article 7
- c) Article 11
- d) Article 13*

The Supreme Court on March 30, 2017 fixed the Constitution Bench hearings on a batch of petitions challenging whether triple talaq and polygamy violate the fundamental rights of Muslim women from May 11. The Constitution Bench will examine if these personal law practices are the "fundamental traits" of the minority religion. The Centre has sought the court to re-open the debate as to whether personal laws can be brought under the ambit of Article 13 (laws inconsistent with or in derogation of the fundamental rights) of the Indian Constitution.

1106) The first ship of a new class of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) vessels was commissioned into the Navy on March 28, 2017. It has been built by which of the following?

- a) Goa Shipyard
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers*

The first ship of a new class of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) vessels was commissioned into the Navy on March 28, 2017 by Vice Admiral B K Verma, Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command at Port Blair. The LCU Mark IV ship, named L 51, has been built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata.

1107) The Indian Navy de-inducted TU142M long-range maritime patrol aircraft after its 29 years of service on March 29, 2017. TU refers to which of the following?

- a) Turov
- b) Tupolev*
- c) Tumasov
- d) Turgenev

1108) Which of the following is the Indian naval operation that averted a coup d'état against Maldivian Government in 1988?

- a) Operation Jupiter
- b) Operation Shield
- c) Operation Bolster
- d) Operation Cactus*

The Indian Navy de-inducted TU142M long-range maritime patrol aircraft after its 29 years of service at a special ceremony held on March 29, 2017 at INS Rajali, India's premiere Naval Air Station in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu. The

aircraft was formally de-inducted by Indian Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba. The role of TU142M will now be taken on by the newly inducted P-8I aircraft, which has proven all its systems and has been fully integrated into the operational grid of the Indian Navy. The aircraft saw action during operation 'Cactus' and participated in operational missions off Sri Lanka to provide airborne surveillance. In 1988, in an operation called 'Operation Cactus', India successfully thwarted a coup d'état against Maldivian Government.

1109) The Integrated Automatic _____ Meteorological System (IAAMS) was launched at Rajali Air Station in Tamil Nadu by the Indian Navy on March 28, 2017.

- a) Active
- b) Aviation*
- c) Advanced
- d) Augmented

Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on March 28, 2017 unveiled an integrated aviation meteorological system which is expected to bring accuracy in weather monitoring mechanism in the Indian Navy. The Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS) was launched at Rajali Air Station in Tamil Nadu. The aim of IAAMS is to modernise the meteorological infrastructure of the nine Naval Air Stations (NAS).

1110) The Coast Guard Eastern Region received two new Interceptor Boats C-431 and C-432, costing Rs 23 crore each, in March 2017. These have been built by which private sector company?

- a) Reliance Defence
- b) Godrej & Boyce
- c) Larsen & Toubro*
- d) Tata Advanced Systems

The Coast Guard Eastern Region has received two new Interceptor Boats that would be utilised during the patrol and surveillance of coastal security. The boats, C-431 and C-432, costing Rs 23 crore each, would be manned by 12-member crew, a Coast Guard press release said in Chennai on March 30, 2017. The boats would be based in Chennai and Karaikal. The boats were part of the 36 Interceptor Boats project contract signed Defence Ministry and Larsen & Toubro Shipyard.

1111) The government approved the establishment of the Centre on _____ Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIDRAP) in March 2017. CIDRAP has been promoted by FAO.

- a) Indian
- b) Interactive
- c) Integrated*
- d) Indigenous

1112) National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) is based at:

- a) Mumbai
- b) Hyderabad*
- c) Delhi
- d) Chennai

The government on March 31, 2017 approved the establishment of a unit of the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific at the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Hyderabad, for exchange of best practises with other countries in the areas of rural development. CIDRAP is a regional Inter-Governmental and autonomous institution which came into existence at the initiative of the countries of Asia Pacific region and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations (UN).

1113) Which of the following on March 27, 2017 ruled that 'Sahitya Akademi awardees are not eligible to return their awards'?

- a) Allahabad High Court
- b) Calcutta High Court
- c) Delhi High Court*
- d) Rajasthan High Court

Sahitya Akademi awardees are not eligible to return their awards as they are granted after considerable deliberations, the Delhi High Court noted on March 27, 2017. A bench of Chief Justice G Rohini and Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal said that the executive board of the Akademi in 2015 had resolved that awards once granted cannot be taken back and therefore, there was no need to formulate guidelines against the return of the awards.

1114) What is the representation of women police personnel at all India level as on January 1, 2016 according to the government?

- a) 1.1%
- b) 7.1%*
- c) 17.1%
- d) 27.1%

1115) Which is the first state to have launched Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) scheme in the country? The MPVs act as a link between police and community and help women in distress.

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana*
- c) Gujarat
- d) West Bengal

“As on January 1, 2016, the representation of women police personnel is 7.10 per cent at all India level,” Minister of State for Home Hansraj G Ahir said in a written reply to Lok Sabha on March 28, 2017. He said the Union Home Ministry has also issued advisories in 2009 and 2012 to “all the state governments and Union Territories administrations to increase the strength of women police personnel up to 33 per cent of the total strength”. The Minister said his ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has envisaged engagement of Mahila Police Volunteers (MPV) in states and UTs who will act as a link between police and community and help women in distress. “Haryana has become the first state to operationalise the MPV scheme. It was launched jointly by the Ministry of WCD and Government of Haryana at Karnal on December 14, 2016 for the districts of Karnal and Mahendragarh,” he said.

1116) Predictions on election results by who among the following cannot be published/broadcast by the media, according to an Election Commission advisory issued on March 30, 2017.

- I. Astrologers
 - II. Tarot readers
 - III. Political Analysts
- a) I and II only
 - b) II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) I, II and III*

Predictions by astrologers, tarot readers and political analysts on results cannot be published or broadcast by the media, bypassing the Representation of the People Act provision that bars exit polls during the conduct of elections, according to an Election Commission advisory issued on March 30, 2017. The EC observed that despite its notification prohibiting exit polls from February 4 till March 9 evening, some TV channels aired programmes projecting the number of seats likely to be won by political parties in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

1117) Who among the following sports journalists is the author of ‘A History of Indian Sport Through 100 Artefacts’ released recently?

- a) Ayaz Memon
- b) Alam Srinivas
- c) Rohit Brijnath
- d) Boria Mazumdar*

1118) . ‘Home of the Brave’, a book authored by Nitin A Gokhale and Brig S K Chatterji (Retired), was released on March 28, 2017. The book is on which of the following?

- a) SSB
- b) Rashtriya Rifles*
- c) Assam Rifles
- d) BSF

'Home of the Brave', a book on Rashtriya Rifles (RR) authored by Nitin A Gokhale and Brig S K Chatterji (Retired), was released on March 28, 2017.

1119) Who among the following well-known lyricists is the author of 'Apne Baare Mein (About Myself)' released recently?

- a) Gulzar
- b) Sameer
- c) Ghazal Srinivas
- d) Javed Akhtar*

1120) "The Hit Girl" is the forthcoming autobiography of which veteran actress?

- a) Waheeda Rehman
- b) Sharmila Tagore
- c) Hema Malini
- d) Asha Parekh*

Veteran actress Asha Parekh's autobiography, "The Hit Girl", will be released in April 2017.

1121) Tanushree Pareek became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in which paramilitary force in March 2017?

- a) BSF*
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Tanushree Pareek on March 25, 2017 became the first woman combat officer to be commissioned in the 51-year history of the BSF, India's largest border guarding force. Pareek (25) also led the passing out parade of 67 trainee officers that was reviewed by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh at the Border Security Force camp at Tekanpur in Gwalior district of MP.

1122) Consider the following statements regarding the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 passed by Parliament in March 2017.

- I. A person who attempts suicide shall face charges under the Indian Penal Code
 - II. A person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time
 - III. A person with mental illness will have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health and treatment
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III only

The Parliament has passed the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016 with the Lok Sabha approving it on March 27, 2017. The bill seeks to provide for mental healthcare and services for persons with mental illness and to protect, promote and fulfil the rights of such persons during delivery of healthcare services. The bill also states that a person who attempts suicide shall be presumed to be suffering from mental illness at that time and will not be punished under the Indian Penal Code. A person with mental illness will have the right to confidentiality in respect of his mental health, mental healthcare, treatment and physical healthcare. Under the bill, a child under the age of three years will not be separated from his or her mother, if the mother is receiving care, treatment or rehabilitation at a mental health establishment. The bill also provides for a penalty and imprisonment in case of violation of its provisions. Replying to a debate on the bill, Health Minister J P Nadda described the legislation as progressive and patient centric.

1123) T. R. Andhyarujina passed away in Mumbai at 84 on March 28, 2017. He was well-known for expertise in which field?

- a) Law*
- b) Aviation
- c) Medicine

d) Economics

Eminent jurist and senior advocate T R Andhyarujina passed away in Mumbai on March 28, 2017. Andhyarujina, 84, who also served as Solicitor General during 1996-98, was part of the team of constitutional law expert H M Seervai in his initial days as a lawyer and witnessed from close-quarters the history-defining hearings in the 'The Kesavananda Bharati Case'. Seervai had appeared for the Kerala government in the famous Kesavananda Bharati case. The apex court had laid down the doctrine of "basic structure of the Constitution" and held that the executive cannot amend the Constitution in a way which may tamper with its "basic structure".

1124) Arun Sarma passed away on March 27, 2017 in New Delhi at the age of 87. He was a well-known:

- a) Scientist
- b) Playwright*
- c) Diplomat
- d) Painter

Renowned Assamese playwright and litterateur Arun Sarma passed away on March 27, 2017 in New Delhi at the age of 87 years. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2010 in recognition of his contributions to Assamese literature. He had the rare distinction of having won the Sangeet Natak Akademi award in 2003 for his contributions to drama and the Sahitya Akademi award in 1998 for literature for the novel 'Ashirbadar Rong'.

1125) Justice C S Karnan on March 31, 2017 appeared in the Supreme Court in the contempt case against him. He is serving at which of the following?

- a) Delhi High Court
- b) Madras High Court
- c) Patna High Court
- d) Calcutta High Court*

Embattled Calcutta High Court judge Justice C S Karnan on March 31, 2017 appeared in the Supreme Court in the contempt case against him, a first in Indian judicial history, and sought restoration of his powers as a condition for his re-appearance, but the plea was rejected. A defiant Justice Karnan told the court he would not appear before it again even if he was arrested and put in jail. A seven-judge bench headed by Chief Justice J S Khehar, granted him four weeks to respond to the contempt notice while refusing to restore his judicial and administrative powers as a serving High Court judge.

1126) Consider the following:

- I. Film (F) visa
- II. Intern (I) visa
- III. Sports (S) visa

Which of the above is/are among the new visas introduced by the government from April 1, 2017?

- a) I and II only*
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

1127) The government launched new visa regime from April 1, 2017. The window for application under e-visa scheme has been increased to how many days?

- a) 60 days
- b) 90 days
- c) 120 days*
- d) 150 days

1128) The government launched new visa regime from April 1, 2017. The duration of stay on e-visa has been increased to how many days?

- a) 60 days
- b) 90 days*
- c) 120 days
- d) 150 days

1129) E-visa facility has been extended to nationals of 161 countries for entry through 24 airports and three seaports: Cochin, Goa and _____ from April 1, 2017.

- a) Kollam
- b) Mundra
- c) Mumbai
- d) Mangalore*

1130) The government launched new visa regime from April 1, 2017. Nationals of how many countries are now covered under the e-visa facility?

- a) 91
- b) 121
- c) 141
- d) 161*

The government has further liberalised its visa regime aimed at bringing more tourists and business travellers to the country. The new changes approved by the cabinet will be rolled out from April 1, 2017. Following are the major changes announced:

- With effect from April 1, e-visa has been sub-divided into 3 categories -- e-tourist visa, e-business visa and e-medical visa. Till now, e-visa was only for tourists
- E-visa facility has been extended to nationals of 161 countries for entry through 24 airports (earlier granted through 16 airports) and three seaports: Cochin, Goa and Mangalore.
- The window for application under e-visa scheme has been increased from 30 days to 120 days and duration of stay on e-visa has been increased from 30 days to 60 days with double entry on e-tourist and e-business visa and triple entry on e-medical visa.
- The multiple-entry tourist and business visas for a period of 5 years will now be available to nationals of most of the countries. Upon urgent requests, business visa and medical visa will be granted within 48 hours of application.
- A new category of visa titled intern (I) visa has been rolled out with effect from March 1, 2017 to a foreigner intending to pursue internship in Indian companies, educational institutions and NGOs. The period of visa is restricted to the duration of internship programme or one year, whichever is less.
- Another new category of visa, titled film (F) visa has also been introduced with maximum duration of one year with multiple entry facility.
- The minimum salary limit of for grant of employment visa, which is presently US \$ 25,000 per annum, has also been modified. This will facilitate foreign nationals engaged as teaching faculty by the central higher educational institutions.

1131) Who among the following was appointed as the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN offices in Geneva in March 2017?

- a) Vishnu Prakash
- b) Smita Purushottam
- c) Ruchira Kamboj
- d) Rajiv Kumar Chander*

Rajiv Kumar Chander, a 1983 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was on March 30, 2017 appointed the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN offices in Geneva.

1132) 33. Which neighbouring country conferred the title of honorary general on Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on March 29, 2017?

- a) Nepal*

- b) Bhutan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Myanmar

Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat was on March 29, 2017 conferred the title of honorary general of the Nepal Army by Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu.

1133) The government has created a project development fund (PDF) to facilitate Indian investment in CMLV. CMLV is a group of countries on which continent?

- a) Asia*
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) North America

The government on March 29, 2017 said it has created a project development fund (PDF) to facilitate Indian investment in four countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam (CLMV). "The government has created a PDF for CLMV countries to facilitate Indian investment and broaden manufacturing base of Indian companies in the region," Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

1134) Which of the following hosted the third Meeting of the G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) on March 28-29, 2017?

- a) Patna
- b) Ranchi
- c) Varanasi*
- d) New Delhi

The third Meeting of the G-20 Framework Working Group (FWG) was organised at Varanasi by the Finance Ministry and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 28-29, 2017. Participants at the Meeting discussed the current state of the global economy as well as G-20 agenda on Inclusive Growth among others. The G-20 FWG is one of the core Working Groups of G-20 and deliberates on matters related to global economy. India co-chairs this group with Canada.

1135) Indian Parliament will assist which African nation in the capacity building of its Parliamentary officials and lawmakers? An announcement to this effect was made by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan on March 27, 2017.

- a) Lesotho
- b) Namibia*
- c) Swaziland
- d) Botswana

Indian Parliament will assist Namibia in the capacity building of its Parliamentary officials and lawmakers, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan said on March 27, 2017. She stated this while receiving Speaker of Namibian National Assembly Peter H Katjavivi and her delegation of MPs in the Parliament House in New Delhi. The Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) conducts regular training programmes for Parliamentary staff from various countries.

1136) Which of the following US cities hosted the 'Make in India -The Inside Story' conference on March 24-25, 2017?

- a) Houston*
- b) Washington
- c) Chicago
- d) New York

A first-ever conference was held in Houston (USA) bringing together various constituencies that have an interest in India and discussing the latest developments and the best practices of doing business in India. The two-day Houston India Conference was hosted by Asia Society Texas Center on March 24-25, 2017. The theme of the Conference is 'Make in India: The Inside Story'.

1137) Nicola Sturgeon is the leading politician in which constituent of United Kingdom?

- a) England

- b) Northern Ireland
- c) Scotland*
- d) Wales

The Scottish government on March 31, 2017 formally asked British Prime Minister Theresa May for a second referendum on independence, deepening a constitutional crisis sparked by the Brexit vote. First Minister Nicola Sturgeon, leader of the ruling Scottish National Party, wrote a letter to May telling her that Scotland did not want to leave Europe's single market, two days after Britain launched the process of leaving the European Union. "The people of Scotland must have the right to choose our own future," Sturgeon, leader of the ruling Scottish National Party, said in the letter.

1138) Which of the following launched 'Operation Hit Back' to flush out militants from their hideouts across the country in March 2017?

- a) Iraq
- b) Colombia
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Bangladesh*

Bangladesh on March 30, 2017 launched 'Operation Hit Back' to flush out militants from their hideouts as the army intensified its crackdown on Islamist terrorists by conducting multiple raids across the country. This operation was launched after the chief of neo-JMB, a terror outfit linked to the country's worst attack in Dhaka, was killed along with three terrorists in 'Operation Twilight' in Sylhet.

1139) Which European country was accepted as 29th member of NATO by the US Senate in March 2017?

- a) Kosovo
- b) Moldova
- c) Serbia
- d) Montenegro*

The US Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve Montenegro as NATO's 29th member in Washington on March 28, 2017.

1140) The Unity for Security Forum was organised by the Interpol Foundation for a Safer World on March 28-30, 2017 at which of the following places?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Abu Dhabi*

1141) . Who among the following is the Secretary General of Interpol?

- a) Marcel Sicot
- b) Jürgen Stock*
- c) Jean Népote
- d) André Bossard
- e) Raymond Kendall

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has pledged a contribution of \$54 million to the Interpol Foundation for a Safer World to support seven projects designed to combat global crime and terrorism. The first Unity for Security Forum was held in Abu Dhabi in partnership with the UAE government from March 28 to 30, 2017. Interpol Secretary-General Jurgen Stock said the contribution comes at a time when the world policing body is being encouraged to play a larger role in improving global security. The forum brought together ministers, senior government officials, and representatives from the private sector, to collectively discuss and address common issues and identify their responsibilities in combating future security threats. The seven Interpol projects focus on counter-terrorism, cybercrime, cultural heritage, vulnerable communities, vehicle crime, drugs and illicit goods.

1142) Which continent was affected by Cyclone Debbie in March 2017?

- a) Asia
- b) Africa
- c) Europe
- d) Australia*

Thousands of people including tourists were evacuated on March 27, 2017 as northeast Australia braced for a powerful cyclone packing destructive winds, with warnings of major structural damage and surging tides. Cyclone Debbie has been forming off the coast of Queensland state over recent days.

1143) Which of the following was observed on March 27, 2017?

- a) World Dance Day
- b) World Poetry Day
- c) World Music Day
- d) World Theatre Day*
- e) World Short Story Day

The World Theatre Day was celebrated on March 27, 2017. Created in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI), the day is designed to draw attention to the power of the stage. It is celebrated annually on the 27th March by ITI Centres and the international theatre community. Various national and international theatre events are organized to mark this occasion

1144) Who among the following elected as the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in March 2017?

- a) Matthew Cheung
- b) Carrie Lam*
- c) Sarah Liao
- d) Michael Suen

1145) Hong Kong became a part of China in which year?

- a) 1967
- b) 1977
- c) 1987
- d) 1997*

China-backed bureaucrat Carrie Lam was on March 26, 2017 elected as Hong Kong's first woman Chief Executive. Lam, 59, won 777 votes from the 1,194-member Election Committee. In Hong Kong, chief executive is not chosen by public vote, but by a committee dominated by pro- Beijing electors. Hong Kong merged with Chinese mainland in 1997 under the 'one country two systems' principle worked out between Britain and China. The principle grants certain degree of autonomy from Beijing to Hong Kong which is officially called the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

1146) Who among the following was appointed as the new Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) in March 2017?

- a) Mark Sanford
- b) Frank Keating
- c) Carroll Campbell
- d) David Beasley*

Former South Carolina Governor David Beasley was on March 28, 2017 appointed as the new Executive Director of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), the largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

1147) Four teams of ISRO have joined the 36th scientific mission to Antarctica, organised by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR). Which of the following is matched correctly?

- a) Space Applications Centre: Ahmedabad
- b) National Remote Sensing Centre: Hyderabad
- c) Indian Institute of Remote Sensing: Dehradun
- d) All the above*

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), on March 22, 2017 said it has joined the 36th scientific mission to Antarctica, organised by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR). This year, four teams from ISRO—one team from Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad and one team each from the National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Dehradun and the Space Physics Laboratory (SPL), Thiruvananthapuram—are participating.

1148) NISAR is a joint project of NASA and India's ISRO. 'R' in NISAR refers to:

- a) Rapid
- b) Radar*
- c) Resource
- d) Regional

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) are jointly working on the development of Dual Frequency (L and S band) Synthetic Aperture Radar Imaging Satellite named as NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR). (March 29, 2017)

1149) Who among the following created a new record for the most spacewalks by a woman in March 2017?

- a) Nicole Stott
- b) Peggy Whitson*
- c) Sandra Magnus
- d) Eileen Collins

American astronaut Peggy Whitson made history when she floated outside the International Space Station on March 30, 2017, breaking the record for the most spacewalks by a woman. Whitson, 57, made her eighth career spacewalk, surpassing the record of seven previously held by American Sunita Williams.

1150) Which browser was created by Mozilla?

- a) Safari
- b) Chrome
- c) Navigator
- d) Firefox*

A Mumbai-based initiative to offer affordable rural broadband services has won Mozilla's Equal Rating Innovation Challenge, the non-profit organisation behind the open source browser Firefox said. In its bid to both bridge the digital divide and empower unconnected communities, 'Project Gram Marg Solution for Rural Broadband' has created a technology that utilises unused white space on the TV spectrum to backhaul data from village wifi clusters to provide broadband access. The win entitles Project Gram Marg to \$125,000 (Rs 82 lakh) in funding, Mozilla said at an event in Brussels on March 29, 2017.

1151) Dr B C Roy National Awards for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 were presented at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on March 28, 2017. Dr B C Roy was:

- a) Founder of AIIMS
- b) Former Mayor of Kolkata
- c) Former Speaker of Lok Sabha
- d) Former Chief Minister of West Bengal*

President Pranab Mukherjee on March 28, 2017 honoured the Director of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, Randeep Guleria along with 48 other doctors, with national awards for excellence in the field of medicine. The Dr B C Roy National Awards for the year 2014, 2015 and 2016 were presented at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The B.C. Roy Awards were instituted by the Medical Council of India in 1976 in memory of renowned physician and former West Bengal Chief Minister Bidhan Chandra Roy. Doctor Roy was honoured with the highest civilian honour of Bharat Ratna in 1961.

1152) Who among the following was selected the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2017?

- a) Anil Sutar
- b) Susanta Roy
- c) Himmat Shah
- d) Sitaram Swain*

Odisha-based installation artist Sitaram Swain has been chosen as the Glenfiddich's Emerging Artist of the Year 2017. The sixth recipient of the honour, Swain will represent India at the Glenfiddich Artists in Residence (AiR) programme where he will spend three months at the Glenfiddich Distillery in Scotland with seven artists from around the world. The

artist will be also awarded Rs 10 lakh, which includes an international allowance of Rs 1,20,000 per month and a work allowance of Rs 500,000, besides being given a solo show at Bestcollegeart.Com Gallery in New Delhi. (March 28, 2017)

1153) . Who among the following Chief Ministers was given the 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016' by Jain Swetambhar Terapanth Dharma Sangh Anuvrata Mahasamiti in March 2017?

- a) Nitish Kumar*
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Manohar Lal Khattar
- d) Vasundhara Raje

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar was on March 28, 2017 bestowed with the 'Anuvrata Puraskar 2016' for implementing total prohibition in the state. The Chief Minister was bestowed with the award by prominent Jain priest Acharya Mahashraman in Patna. The Anuvrata Puruskar was given by Jain Swetambhar Terapanth Dharma Sangh Anuvrata Mahasamiti.

1154) The Reserve Bank of India on March 30, 2017 decided to continue its measures to promote digital transactions. Merchant discount rate (MDR) for transactions up to Rs. 1,000 has been capped at:

- a) 0.25%*
- b) 0.50%
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%

1155) The Reserve Bank of India on March 30, 2017 decided to continue its measures to promote digital transactions. Merchant discount rate (MDR) for transactions above Rs. 1,000 and up to Rs. 2,000 has been capped at:

- a) 0.25%
- b) 0.50%*
- c) 0.75%
- d) 1%

The Reserve Bank of India on March 30, 2017 said its mid-December 2016 'special measures' on rationalisation of merchant discount rate (MDR) for transactions up to Rs. 2,000 will continue. The instructions were issued to facilitate wider acceptance of debit card payments. The measures, whereby MDR for transactions up to Rs. 1,000, and above Rs. 1,000 and up to Rs. 2,000 were capped at 0.25 per cent and 0.50 per cent, respectively, of the transaction value, were effective from January 1, 2017 till March 31, 2017. The RBI said it will continue with the measures till the issuance of final instructions on MDR for debit card transactions. MDR is the commission charged by the acquirer bank to the merchant (trader/service provider).

1156) The Finance Ministry on March 31, 2017 notified the interest rates for different small savings schemes for the quarter ending June 2017. The highest rate is available on which of the following?

- a) Kisan Vikas Patra
- b) Public Provident Fund
- c) 5-year recurring deposit
- d) Sukanya Samriddhi Account*

1157) . The Finance Ministry on March 31, 2017 notified the interest rates for different small savings schemes for the quarter ending June 2017. Which of the following has remained unchanged?

- a) Kisan Vikas Patra
- b) Public Provident Fund
- c) 5-year recurring deposit
- d) Post Office Savings Account*

The government on March 31, 2017 lowered the interest rate on small savings schemes by 0.1% for April 1-June 30 period. Accordingly, interest rates for small savings schemes are to be notified on quarterly basis. For the April-June quarter, the interest rate on **Public Provident Fund (PPF)** has been reduced to 7.9% from the earlier 8%. Interest rate on **Kisan Vikas Patra** has been reduced to 7.6% (which will mature in 113 months) from the earlier 7.7% (with maturity in 112 months). The **Sukanya Samriddhi Account Yojana** interest rate has been reduced to 8.4% from the earlier 8.5%. The interest rates on **five-year Recurring Deposit (7.2%)**, **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (8.4%)**, **Monthly Income**

Scheme and National Savings Certificate (7.9%) have also been reduced by 0.1% each. Only the interest on **Post Office Savings Account** deposits has remained unchanged at 4%.

1158) Which of the following will receive Euro 200 million loan from the European Investment Bank (EIB) to fund solar power projects? The approval was announced in March.

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved Rs 1,400 crore (EUR 200 million) loan to State Bank of India to fund solar power projects. The long-term loan will support total investment of EUR 650 million in five different large-scale photo-voltaic solar power projects, EIB said in a statement. This will contribute to India's National Solar mission and reduce dependence on fossil fuel power generation. The 20-year long-term EIB loan will support individual projects. This funding will be in addition to financing from Indian banks and project promoters. Owned by the 28 member states of the European Union, EIB is the world's largest international public bank. (March 31, 2017)

1159) Which of the following is the credit card introduced by SBI Cards in March 2017 for its customers, including Jan Dhan account holders, throughout the country?

- a) SBI Card Vikas
- b) SBI Card Yuva
- c) SBI Card Mudra
- d) SBI Card Unnati*

SBI Card on March 30, 2017 announced the launch of a credit card, 'SBI Card Unnati', targeted at all State Bank of India (SBI) customers, including Jan Dhan account holders, throughout the country. To encourage adoption of credit cards and facilitate expansion in the reach of digital payments, the SBI Card Unnati will be offered free, at zero annual fees for four years.

1160) Who among the following took charge as whole-time Member in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) on March 31, 2017?

- a) Ravindra Puranik
- b) Pradeep Subramanian
- c) Makrand Saxena
- d) Navrang Saini*

Navrang Saini on March 31, 2017 has taken charge as a Whole Time Member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). He would look after Registration & Monitoring wing at the board.

1161) The Finance Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament on March 30, 2017. Which of the following statements is/are correct in this regard?

- I. The ceiling on corporate donations to political parties has been increased
 - II. Aadhaar has been made compulsory for filing income tax returns
 - III. Cash transactions have been limited to Rs. 2 lakh
- a) I and II only
 - b) II only
 - c) II and III only*
 - d) III only

The Finance Bill 2017 was passed by Parliament on March 30, 2017 with the Lok Sabha rejecting the amendments proposed by the Rajya Sabha. With this, the tax proposals in the Budget and the reform measures introduced later in Lok Sabha as amendments to the Finance Bill including merger of tribunals, a Rs. 2 lakh cap on cash transactions and mandatory use of Aadhaar for filing income tax returns from 1 July will become law. An amendment to Companies Act has **removed** the cap on company donations. Earlier political funding by companies could not exceed 7.5% of net profits for previous three financial years.

1162) CBDT launched a one-page simplified income-tax return form for individuals having income up to Rs 50 lakh I March 2017. What has it been named?

- a) Sahaj*
- b) Saral
- c) Swayam
- d) Sulabh

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has notified income-tax return forms (ITR forms), including a one-page simplified ITR Form-1 (Sahaj), which can be used by individuals having income up to Rs 50 lakh. This initiative will benefit more than two crore taxpayers, who will be eligible to file their return of income in this simplified form. (March 31, 2017)

1163) What was India's external debt at end-December 2016 as per data disclosed by the Government on March 31, 2017?

- a) \$156.1 billion
- b) \$256.1 billion
- c) \$356.1 billion
- d) \$456.1 billion*

1164) Consider the following statements on India's external debt at end-December 2016.

- I. Long-term debt was higher than short-term debt
- II. Government (Sovereign) debt was higher than non-Government debt
- III. US dollar denominated debt was more than half of total debt

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) I and II only
- b) II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only*

According to the data released by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) of the Finance Ministry on March 31, 2017, India's External Debt position at end-December 2016 is as follows:

- India's external debt stock fell by US\$ 29.0 billion (6.0 per cent) to US\$ 456.1 billion, at end-December 2016 over the level at end-March 2016.
- At end-December 2016, long-term external debt accounted for 81.6 per cent of India's total external debt, while the remaining 18.4 per cent was short-term debt.
- The shares of Government (Sovereign) and non-Government debt in the total external debt were 19.6 per cent and 80.4 per cent respectively, at end-December 2016.
- The share of US dollar denominated debt was 54.7 per cent of the total external debt at end-December 2016, followed by the Indian rupee (31.1 per cent), SDR (5.9 per cent), Japanese yen (4.4 per cent), Euro (2.7 per cent), Pound Sterling (0.7 per cent) and Others (0.5 per cent).

1165) Five airlines won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) on March 30, 2017. The maximum fare on flight on these routes is capped at _____ for one-hour flights for 50% of the seats.

- a) Rs. 2000
- b) Rs. 2500*
- c) Rs. 3000
- d) Rs. 3500

1166) Five airlines won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) on March 30, 2017. Which of the following got the maximum number of routes?

- a) SpiceJet
- b) Air Deccan
- c) Air Odisha Aviation*
- d) Airline Allied Services

Five airlines on March 30, 2017 won bids to operate on 128 routes connecting 70 airports of which 31 are unserved under the regional connectivity scheme UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik). Fares for 50% of the seats are capped at Rs 2,500 for one-hour flights on these routes.

Air Odisha Aviation got maximum number of 50 routes followed by Air Deccan (34) and Turbo Megha Airways (18). The AI subsidiary Airline Allied Services would operate on 15 routes while SpiceJet won bids for 11 routes. The first flight under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is expected to start in April 2017.

Under UDAN, the operators would be extended viability gap funding -- for which money is partly raised through a levy of up to Rs 8,500 on flights operating in major routes like Delhi and Mumbai. Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha said criteria for selecting the winning bidders was based on the level of viability gap funding each of them sought per seat.

The scheme also provides for various benefits including no airport charges and three-year exclusivity on the routes. Airports Authority of India (AAI) is the implementing agency for UDAN.

1167) The government allowed unrestricted exports of all certified organic agricultural products from March 31, 2017.

10. APEDA is Agricultural and _____ Food Products Export Development Authority

- a) Primary
- b) Preserved
- c) Precooked
- d) Processed*
- e) Pasteurised

The government on March 31, 2017 allowed unrestricted exports of all certified organic agricultural products, a move that would help in boosting shipments. However, the government said in view of acute shortage in the country, the quantitative ceiling on shipments of organic pulses and lentils will continue. But the ceiling was enhanced from 10,000 tonnes to 50,000 tonnes. All organic products exports are certified by Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) under the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP). India's export of organic goods have increased from USD 12.4 million in 2002-03 to USD 298 million in 2015-16. India mainly exports organic wheat, non-basmati rice and sugar.

1168) India's relationship with the International Energy Agency (IEA) was elevated from Partnership Status to Association Status in March 2017. Where is the IEA based?

- a) Doha
- b) Riyadh
- c) Berlin
- d) Paris*

1169) India's relationship with the International Energy Agency (IEA) was elevated from Partnership Status to Association Status in March 2017. Who among the following is the Executive Director of IEA?

- a) Fatih Birol*
- b) Paul Simons
- c) Claude Mandil
- d) Nobuo Tanaka

The Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan met Dr Fatih Birol, Executive Director of International Energy Agency (IEA) on March 30, 2017. Dr Birol was on visit to India to jointly announce the Activation of 'Association Status' of India with IEA. During the meeting, Pradhan welcomed the elevation of India's relationship with IEA from Partnership Status (2013) to Association Status. IEA is a Paris based autonomous organisation established in 1974. It's mandate is to work towards ensuring reliable, affordable and clean energy mainly for its 29 member countries by coordinating collective response to major disruptions in oil supply through release of oil stocks into the global markets.

1170) . The stamping of passengers' hand baggage at seven major airports will end from April 1. The airports covered are Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Ahmedabad and _____.

- a) Patna
- b) Jaipur
- c) Cochin*
- d) Lucknow

1171) Which paramilitary force is in charge of security at airports in India?

- a) BSF

- b) CRPF
- c) CISF*
- d) ITBP

Stamping of passengers' hand baggage at seven major airports, including Delhi and Mumbai, will be done away with from April 1, the CISF said on March 30, 2017. The other airports that will begin the new procedure from the morning of April 1 include the ones in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Cochin and Ahmedabad. "The procedure of stamping and putting tags on the hand baggage of passengers will be dispensed with from April 1 at seven airports. We have put in place the required security systems that will help us in ushering in this passenger- friendly move," CISF Director General O P Singh said.

1172) . Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) in March 2017?

- a) Punita Krishnan
- b) Najib Shah
- c) Vanaja N. Sarna*
- d) Ram Tirath

Senior bureaucrat Vanaja N Sarna was on March 30, 2017 appointed as Chairperson of Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC).

1173) R K Bahuguna was appointed as the Vice Chairman of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) in March 2017. He is the CMD of which of the following CPSEs?

- a) MMTC*
- b) ONGC
- c) NTPC
- d) BHEL

The apex body of central public sector units SCOPE on March 28, 2017 said Ved Prakash has been elected as its new chairman. Prakash is also CMD of government-run trading firm MMTC Ltd. R K Bahuguna has been elected as Vice Chairman of Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE). The new executive board of SCOPE will assume office from April 1.

1174) Vehicles sold after March 31, 2017 must comply with which of the following emission norms?

- a) Bharat Stage-II
- b) Bharat Stage-III
- c) Bharat Stage-IV*
- d) Bharat Stage-V

In a blow to automobile firms, the Supreme Court on March 29, 2017 banned sale and registration of vehicles, which are not BS-IV (Bharat Stage-IV) compliant, in India from April 1 when the new emission norms come into force. "All the vehicle registering authorities under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 are prohibited for registering such vehicles on and from April 1, 2017 that do not meet BS-IV emission standards, except on proof that such a vehicle has already been sold on or before March 31, 2017", the court said.

1175) What was India's position in terms of overall air passenger traffic (domestic + international) in 2016 according to Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) in March 2017?

- a) Second
- b) Third
- c) Fourth*
- d) Fifth

1176) What was India's position in terms of domestic passenger traffic in 2016 according to Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) in March 2017?

- a) Second
- b) Third*
- c) Fourth

d) Fifth

India has become the third largest aviation market in terms of domestic passenger traffic, Sydney-based aviation think-tank Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation (CAPA) said in its latest report on March 26, 2017. India's domestic air passenger traffic stood at 100 million in 2016 and was behind only the US (719 million) and China (436 million). India enjoyed the fourth position in terms of overall air passenger traffic (both domestic and international) along with the UK. Japan, which flew 141 million passengers in 2016, was ahead of India whose total air passenger traffic was 131 million. United States with 815 million passengers in 2016 enjoyed the top position, followed by China with 490 million.

1177) The government has decided to rename Central Board of Excise and Customs as which of the following?

- a) Central Board of Indian Taxes and Customs
- b) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs*
- c) Central Board of Implied Taxes and Customs
- d) Central Board of Indigenous Taxes and Customs
- e) Central Board of International Taxes and Customs

The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) will be reorganised for the implementation of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime and will be renamed the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) following Parliamentary approval. "Reorganisation of the field formations of CBEC for the implementation of GST has been approved by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. The existing formations of Central Excise and Service Tax under the CBEC have been re-organised to implement and enforce the provisions of the proposed GST Laws," the Finance Ministry said on March 25, 2017.

1178) How much has the government raised through disinvestment in 2016-17?

- a) Rs. 16,247 crore
- b) Rs. 26,247 crore
- c) Rs. 36,247 crore
- d) Rs. 46,247 crore*

1179) SUUTI is _____ Undertaking of Unit Trust of India.

- a) Senior
- b) Specified*
- c) Securities
- d) Systematic

The government has raised a record Rs 46,247 crore through disinvestment. With this, the disinvestment proceeds of 2016-17 has exceeded the revised estimates (RE) of Rs 45,500 crore set in 2017-18 Budget. Record achievement of Rs 46,247 crore include Rs 35,468 crore from CPSE disinvestment and Rs 10,779 crore from strategic disinvestment and SUUTI's investment. SUUTI is Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India.

1180) Which of the following is not among the eight industries that comprise Core Sector?

- a) Coal
- b) Crude oil
- c) Cement
- d) Engineering goods*

The growth of eight core sectors slipped to over one-year low of 1 per cent in February mainly due to decline in output of crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers and cement. The growth rate of eight infrastructure sectors of coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity was 9.4 per cent in February 2016. The core sectors, which contribute 38 per cent to the total industrial production, expanded 4.4 per cent in April-February this fiscal compared to 3.5 per cent growth in the same period previous financial year, according to the data released by the commerce and industry ministry on March 31, 2017. However, coal and steel recorded positive growth while the output of crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers and cement contracted during the month under review.

1181) Siddhartha Lal won the CEO of the Year award at the Business Standard Annual Awards in March 2017. He is the CEO of:

- a) Hindustan Motors
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Maruti Suzuki
- d) Eicher Motors*

1182) Y C Deveshwar was presented the Lifetime Achievement award at the Business Standard Annual Awards in March 2017. He is the non-executive chairman of:

- a) Exide
- b) L&T
- c) HCL
- d) ITC*

1183) Sanjit 'Bunker' won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award at the Business Standard Annual Awards in March 2017. He is associated with which NGO?

- a) Deepalaya
- b) Akshara Network
- c) Barefoot College*
- d) Lok Biradari Prakalp

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the Business Standard Annual Awards in Mumbai on March 25, 2017.

- IndiGo won the Company of the Year award
- Siddhartha Lal of Eicher Motors won the CEO of the Year award.
- Y C Deveshwar, non-executive chairman of ITC, was presented the Lifetime Achievement award.
- The Banker of the Year award went to HDFC Bank MD & CEO Aditya Puri.
- Maruti Suzuki received the Star MNC of the Year award.
- NTPC got the Star PSU of the Year award.
- Dr Lal PathLabs is the winner of Star SME of the Year award.
- Freshdesk was selected as Start-Up of the Year.
- Sanjit 'Bunker' Roy of Barefoot College won the Social Entrepreneur of the Year award.
- Axis Bank won the Socially Aware Corporate of the Year award.
- The Social Enterprise of the Year was given to Pratham Education Foundation, one of the biggest non-government interventions in India's education sector, which reaches close to six million students across the country today.
- ISRO received the Innovative Organisation of the Year award.

1184) Who among the following bankers is the only Indian company executive in the list of world's 30 best chief executive officers (CEO), published by American financial magazine Barron's in March 2017?

- a) Aditya Puri*
- b) Uday Kotak
- c) Rana Kapoor
- d) Shikha Sharma

1185) Shantanu Narayen is the CEO of which of the following?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) MasterCard
- d) Adobe*

HDFC Bank Managing Director Aditya Puri's name has featured in the list of world's 30 best chief executive officers (CEO), published by American financial magazine Barron's on March 25, 2017. Indian-origin CEOs in the list are Satya Nadella (Microsoft CEO) and Shantanu Narayen (Adobe Systems CEO).

1186) Which of the following launched EasySix vaccine for protection against six diseases— diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, hepatitis B and polio – in March 2017?

- a) Piramal Life Sciences
- b) Biocon
- c) Serum Institute of India
- d) Panacea Biotec*

Drug firm Panacea Biotec on March 29, 2017 announced launch of EasySix, a liquid hexavalent combination vaccine indicated for immunisation of newborn babies against common preventable diseases: diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, meningitis, hepatitis B and polio.

1187) Which mobile phone company introduced Bixby smart voice assistant along with its latest series of smartphones launched in March 2017?

- a) LG
- b) Apple
- c) Lenovo
- d) Samsung*

South Korean giant Samsung on March 29, 2017 launched its flagship device, Galaxy S8. The device comes in two variants with different screen sizes -- the 5.8-inch Galaxy S8 and 6.2-inch Galaxy S8 Plus. Samsung also revealed Bixby, a smart voice assistant to rival Apple's Siri and Google's Assistant.

1188) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) attached assets worth Rs 263 crore of which of the following media groups in March 2017 over bank loan defaults?

- a) Indian Express
- b) Hindustan Times
- c) Malayala Manorama
- d) Deccan Chronicle*

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached assets worth Rs 263 crore, including land and bank accounts of the Hyderabad-based Deccan Chronicle group, in connection with a money laundering case related to a bank fraud. (March 28, 2017)

1189) Which of the following MNCs lost a trademark case on genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds to India's Nuziveedu Seeds Limited in March 2017?

- a) Cargill
- b) Monsanto*
- c) DuPont
- d) Syngenta

The Delhi High Court on March 28, 2017 dismissed Monsanto Technology LLC's trademark infringement suit against Nuziveedu Seeds Limited, after concluding that the American biotechnological company's termination of a sub-licensing agreement with the Indian seed manufacturer was illegal and arbitrary. The sub-licensing agreement allowed Nuziveedu Seeds to use the company's genetically modified hybrid cotton seed technology. The court ruled that the agreement still continued to be in force and binding on both parties. The decision now allows Nuziveedu to continue to use Monsanto's Bollgard and Bollgard II trademarks.

1190) Who among the following Indian businesspersons has been inducted on the International Advisory Board of global think-tank Atlantic Council in March 2017?

- a) Kumar Mangalam Birla
- b) Anil Ambani*
- c) Sunil Bharti Mittal
- d) Subhash Chandra

Reliance Group Chairman Anil Ambani has been inducted on the International Advisory Board of global think-tank Atlantic Council that has among its members former US National Security Advisor Zbigniew K. Brzezinski and former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, the company said on March 28, 2017. The Atlantic Council is a foreign policy think-tank headquartered in Washington, DC. Among the 10 regional and thematic centres, the Atlantic Council's South Asia Centre manages sustainable and innovative programmes that are focused on fostering development and cooperation.

1191) Who among the following sportswomen was named brand ambassador of Panasonic Batteries in March 2017?

- a) Sakshi Malik
- b) Sania Mirza
- c) Mary Kom
- d) P. V. Sindhu*

P V Sindhu, currently ranked world number 6, has been roped in as the brand ambassador of Panasonic Energy India, manufacturer and supplier of dry cell batteries and lighting products. The 21-year-old badminton player has been signed in for Panasonic's Battery division for the next three years. (March 28, 2017)

1192) Food regulator FSSAI tied up with which of the following in March 2017 to train 50,000 street food vendors over the next three years under its 'Clean Street Food' campaign?

- a) Dominos
- b) Vadilal
- c) PepsiCo
- d) Coca Cola*

Food regulator FSSAI on March 27, 2017 tied up with Coca-Cola India to train 50,000 street food vendors over the next three years under its 'Clean Street Food' campaign. FSSAI CEO Pawan Agarwal said many companies are coming forward to participate under the initiative.

1193) Which of the following became the first state in the country to make cow slaughter punishable with life term in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat*
- d) Maharashtra

Punishment to those found guilty of cow slaughter in Gujarat has been enhanced to life term under a more stringent law passed by the state Assembly in Gandhinagar on March 31, 2017. With the passing of the amendment Bill, Gujarat becomes the first state in the country to make cow slaughter punishable with life term. Cow slaughter has also been made a non-bailable offence. The Gujarat Animal Preservation (Amendment) Bill approved by the Legislative Assembly also has a provision for ten-year imprisonment for transportation, storage or sale of beef.

1194) The Indu Mills land in Mumbai has been handed over to the Maharashtra government by the Centre for building a memorial for who among the following?

- a) Jyotiba Phule
- b) Veer Savarkar
- c) Jaiprakash Narayan
- d) Babasaheb Ambedkar*
- e) Bal Gangadhar Tilak

Decks have been cleared for the construction of memorial of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar near Chaityabhoomi in central Mumbai with the 12 acres of Indu Mill land being formally transferred to the state government on March 25, 2017. The transfer documents were handed over to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis by Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani and Union Minister of State for Social Justice Ramdas Athawale at the Vidhan Bhavan in Mumbai.

1195) . Which of the following became the first state in the country to conclude a loan agreement with the Shanghai-based New Development Bank in March 2017?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

India on March 30, 2017 signed the first loan agreement with the Shanghai-based New Development Bank for USD 350 million for development and upgradation of road project in Madhya Pradesh. The project is to be implemented over 5 years. The agreement was signed between Government of India and the Shanghai-based New Development Bank (NDB) and this is the first loan agreement for NDB assisted project in India. The objective of the project is upgradation of major district roads in MP to improve connectivity of the interior areas of the state with the national and state highway networks.

1196) Which state has built the most number of houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched in June 2015?

- a) Goa

- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat*
- d) Maharashtra

Gujarat is far ahead of other States in construction of affordable houses for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) launched by the Prime Minister on June 25, 2015. In Gujarat, 25,873 houses have so far been built for the benefit of urban poor accounting for 32% of the total 82,048 such houses built under PMAY (Urban) in 30 States and Union Territories. According to the written information furnished by Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation M. Venkaiah Naidu in Rajya Sabha on March 30, 2017, Gujarat is followed by Rajasthan with 10,805 houses constructed so far (13.17% of total).

1197) Which of the following announced free power connections for all below poverty line (BPL) households in the state in March 2017?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

All below poverty line (BPL) households in the urban and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh will get free power connection while homes above poverty line (APL) will be given 100 per cent financing option with easy EMIs. (March 27, 2017) These electricity connections would be given without any discrimination on caste or religious lines and would be based on the latest Socio-Economic Census data, it said.

1198) Which of the following became the first tiger reserve in the country to officially introduce a mascot — Bhoorsingh the Barasingha (swamp deer) — in March 2017?

- a) Kanha Tiger Reserve*
- b) Panna Tiger Reserve
- c) Satpura Tiger Reserve
- d) Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve

Kanha has become the first tiger reserve in India to officially introduce a mascot — Bhoorsingh the Barasingha — to present the hard ground swamp deer as the spirit of the reserve and spread awareness to save it from possible extinction. Barasingha, or swamp deer, is the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The Kanha tiger reserve, spread over Mandla and Balaghat districts, is the only place in the world where the species exists. (March 29, 2017)

1199) Which of the following hosted the five-day-long Namami Brahmaputra river festival in April 2017?

- a) Tripura
- b) West Bengal
- c) Arunachal Pradesh
- d) Assam*

President Pranab Mukherjee on March 31, 2017 inaugurated the five-day-long Namami Brahmaputra river festival at Guwahati in Assam. The five-day-long river festival is being organised across 21 districts of Assam through which the mighty Brahmaputra river passes.

1200) Consider the following regarding India-Australia test series that concluded on March 28, 2017.

- I. Most runs in the Series: Steve Smith
- II. Most wickets in the Series: Ravichandran Ashwin
- III. Man of the Series: Ravindra Jadeja

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II only
- d) I and III only*

1201) Which trophy was given to the winner of India-Australia Test Series in March 2017?

- a) Chappell-Mankad Trophy

- b) Bradman-Hazare Trophy
- c) Border-Gavaskar Trophy*
- d) Ganguly-Taylor Trophy

India defeated Australia by eight wickets in the fourth and final cricket Test to claim the four-match series 2-1 at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium in Dharamsala on March 28, 2017. India got the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for winning the series. Ravindra Jadeja was declared Player of the match as well as Player of the series. Most runs in the series were scored by Australian captain Steve Smith (499) while Jadeja was the highest wicket taker with 25 wickets.

1202) Who among the following has won the ICC Test Championship mace and a cash award of \$1 million for finishing as top-ranked test side for the season ending April 1, 2017?

- a) India*
- b) Pakistan
- c) Australia
- d) England

India on March 28, 2017 retained the ICC Test Championship mace and also won a cash award of USD one million for holding on to the top position in the Test Team rankings on the annual April 1 cut-off date. South Africa ended second while Australia was third. The side to finish second will get USD 500,000 while the side finishing third will receive USD 200,000. The fourth-placed team, which is England, will get USD 100,000.

1203) Who among the following won the National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy in the final played at Bambolim in March 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Punjab
- d) West Bengal*

West Bengal on March 26, 2017 lifted the Santosh Trophy for the 32nd time after Manvir Singh struck in the 119th minute for a 1-0 win over Goa at Bambolim, extending their domination in the premier domestic football tournament.

1204) STAIRS founder and Secretary General Siddhartha Upadhyay was appointed member of the governing body of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) in March 2017. STAIRS is:

- a) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Reward through Sports
- b) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Renewal through Sports
- c) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Revolution through Sports
- d) Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Recognition through Sports*

Society for Transformation, Inclusion and Recognition through Sports (STAIRS) founder and Secretary General Siddhartha Upadhyay has been appointed member of the governing body of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Sport Minister Vijay Goel met Upadhyay in New Delhi on March 27, 2017 to discuss about bringing more transparency in sports.

1205) Who among the following was named the Asian Player of the Year 2016 by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) in March 2017?

- a) Nikkin Thimmaiah
- b) S.V Sunil*
- c) Kothajit Singh
- d) Surender Kumar

Indian forward S.V Sunil has been named the Asian Player of the Year 2016 in the senior men's category by the Asian Hockey Federation (AHF). Meanwhile, dragflicker Harmanpreet Singh has been named the Asian Promising Player of the Year 2016 in the junior men's category. The awards were announced by the AHF in Muscat (Oman) on March 31, 2017. Also Hockey India Chief Executive Officer Elena Norman was awarded with the Diploma of Merit by the AHF.

1206) Which of the following will host the 2018 Hockey World Cup?

- a) Odisha*
- b) Rajasthan

- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on March 27, 2017 announced that Odisha will host the men's hockey World League Final 2017 and World Cup 2018, at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar. The World League Final 2017 will be held from December 1 to 10 and the World Cup 2018 will be played from November 28 to December 16, 2018. The state government will spend around Rs 75 crore for organising the two mega hockey events.

1207) Who among the following won the Women's Team title at the Federation Cup Basketball championship in Coimbatore in March 2017?

- a) Railways
- b) Chhattisgarh*
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Kerala

Defending Champions ONGC, Dehradun, retained the trophy for the third consecutive time by defeating arch rivals and last year runners IOB, Chennai 55-52 in the men's category of the 31st Federation Cup Basket Ball championship in Coimbatore on March 26, 2017. In the women's category Chhattisgarh emerged champions by defeating Southern Railways 77-67.

1208) Who among the following raced for Force India at the season-opening Formula One Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne on March 26, 2017?

- a) Lewis Hamilton
- b) Sebastian Vettel
- c) Valtteri Bottas
- d) Sergio Perez*

Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany won the season-opening Formula One Australian Grand Prix at the Albert Park street circuit in Melbourne on March 26, 2017 followed by Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes) of Britain and Finland's Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes) in second and third places respectively. Force India drivers Sergio Perez of Mexico and Esteban Ocon of France finished seventh and tenth respectively.

1209) 23-year old Srinath Narayanan of Chennai is known for which sport?

- a) Table tennis
- b) Bridge
- c) Snooker
- d) Chess*

Chennai's Srinath Narayanan is set to become India's 46th Grandmaster after he defeated Spanish GM David Anton Guijarro at the Sharjah Masters 2017 chess tournament in March 2017.

1210) Which of the following is the top ranked University in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by HRD Ministry in April 2017?

- a) Jadavpur University
- b) University of Hyderabad
- c) Banaras Hindu University
- d) Indian Institute of Science Bangalore*

1211) Which of the following is the top in Engineering in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by HRD Ministry in April 2017?

- a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras*
- c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- d) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

1212) 4. Which of the following is the top in Management in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) released by HRD Ministry in April 2017?

- a) Indian Institute of Management Bangalore
- b) Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
- c) Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
- d) Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad*

The results of the second edition of the domestic ranking under the **National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)** were announced by Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi on April 3, 2017. The NIRF outlines a methodology to rank institutions across the country.

The ranking parameters broadly cover: Teaching, Learning and Resources; Research and Professional Practices; Graduation Outcomes; Outreach and Inclusivity; and Perception. The ranking was released under six categories. The toppers are – **Overall:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; **Colleges:** Miranda House, Delhi; **Universities:** Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; **Management:** IIM-Ahmedabad; **Engineering:** IIT-Madras; **Pharmacy:** Jamia Hamdard University. Due to non-representative participation in some of the domains (like Architecture, Law, Medical etc.) no rankings were announced this year.

1213) Which of the following are the surface-to-air missiles being acquired from Rafael Advance Defense Systems for naval warships? The deal to purchase was cleared by Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in April 2017.

- a) Barak*
- b) Goliath
- c) Javelin
- d) Trojan

1214) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 'Expendable Bathythermograph Systems' for the Navy in April 2017 from which of the following? It is a small device that detects changes in water temperature.

- a) Israel
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Russia
- d) United States*

The government on April 3, 2017 approved procurement of a fresh batch of Barak surface-to-air missiles for naval warships. A meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Arun Jaitley, approved capital acquisition proposals totalling over Rs 860 crore, including for the purchase of Barak missiles. The missiles will be procured under 'Buy Global' category from Rafael Advance Defense Systems Limited of Israel for around Rs 500 crore. The DAC also cleared procurement of 'Expendable Bathythermograph Systems', a small torpedo-shaped device that holds a temperature sensor and a transducer to detect changes in water temperature, for Indian Navy which will be acquired from the US.

1215) What was the theme of the World Health Day observed on April 7, 2017?

- a) From Farm to Plate, Make Food Safe
- b) Ageing and Health
- c) Non-communicable Diseases
- d) Depression: Let's Talk*

The World Health Day was observed on April 7, 2017 with "Depression: let's talk" as the theme.

1216) Who among the following is the author of 'Matoshree' released recently?

- a) Sushma Swaraj
- b) Sumitra Mahajan*
- c) Maneka Gandhi
- d) Vasundhara Raje

1217) Commanding officer Chetan Cheeta was discharged from AIIMS, Delhi after being in coma since getting injured in gun battle with terrorists in Kashmir on February 2017. He is from which of the following?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF*
- c) Rashtriya Rifles
- d) ITBP

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) officer Chetan Cheetah was discharged from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) I New Delhi on April 5, 2017. The CRPF commanding officer was in coma for two months after being hit by at least nine bullets during a gun battle with the terrorists in Kashmir's Bandipora on February 14.

1218) Acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away on April 3, 2017 at the age of 84. She belonged to which Gharana of classical music?

- a) Mewati
- b) Kirana
- c) Jaipur-Atrauli*
- d) Banaras

1219) Which of the following was not an award won by acclaimed Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar who passed away on April 3, 2017 at the age of 84?

- a) Padma Shri*
- b) Padma Bhushan
- c) Padma Vibhushan
- d) Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship

Renowned Hindustani classical vocalist Kishori Amonkar passed away in Mumbai on April 3, 2017. She was 84. Born on April 10, 1932, Amonkar was recognised as one of the foremost singers in the Hindustani tradition and as an innovative exponent of the Jaipur-Atrauli gharana. Her mother was the well-known vocalist Mogubai Kurdikar. Amonkar received several national awards and civilian honours, including the Padma Bhushan, in 1987, and Padma Vibhushan in 2002. She was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for 1985 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship for 2009. In 2016, she was one of seven recipients of the M.S. Subbulakshmi Award for classical music.

1220) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Malaysia? He came on a visit to India in April 2017?

- a) Anwar Ibrahim
- b) Najib Abdul Razak*
- c) Mahathir Mohamad
- d) Abdul Razak Hussein

1221) . Which of the following will conduct training programmes on behalf of the Human Resource Development, Malaysia? MoU to this effect was signed during the visit of Malaysian PM to India in April 2017?

- a) Xavier Labour Relations Institute
- b) Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi
- c) Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
- d) Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad*

1222) Which of the following is the currency of Malaysia?

- a) Rupiah
- b) Ringgit*
- c) Riel
- d) Kyat

India and Malaysia on April 1, 2017 inked seven pacts, including an air services agreement and a mutual recognition of educational qualifications of the two nations. The pacts were exchanged in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Malaysian counterpart Najib Abdul Razak in New Delhi. A pact was also inked wherein Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad will carry out training and other capacity building programmes on behalf of the Human Resource Development, Malaysia.

1223) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Greg Clark of United Kingdom who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Piyush Goyal*
- d) Sushma Swaraj

1224) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Philip Hammond of United Kingdom who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Piyush Goyal
- d) Urjit Patel*

India and the UK on April 4, 2017 decided to contribute 120 million pound each to a fund to finance clean energy projects in New Delhi. The Green Growth Equity Fund will be a sub-fund of National Infrastructure and Investment Fund (NIIF). Finance Minister Arun Jaitley held the ninth India-UK UK-India Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) with visiting UK Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond. In the first India-UK 'Energy for Growth' Dialogue in New Delhi on April 7, 2017, Power and Renewable Energy Minister Piyush Goyal and UK's Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Greg Clark agreed on priority areas for further collaboration in the energy sector.

1225) Which of the following will host the UK India Clean Energy Research Institute (UKICERI) as per an announcement made in April 2017?

- a) Indian Institute of Technology Delhi
- b) Indian Institute of Technology Madras
- c) Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
- d) Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur*

IIT-Kharagpur will lead a UK-India joint virtual centre in clean energy in partnership with a consortium to develop solutions for integration of renewable energy into Indian and UK power grid. The multi-institutional centre at IIT-KGP, which is named UK India Clean Energy Research Institute (UKICERI), will work towards technological innovations on a range of issues related to power network, storage and Solar PV systems, a spokesman of the Institute said on April 7, 2017.

1226) Indian embassy in which African nation organised the 'Women of Substance' reception on April 2, 2017 to honour ten women for bringing about social and economic change?

- a) Algeria
- b) Morocco
- c) Chad
- d) Egypt*

MP and AI Azhar scholar Amna Nosseir, who took commendable steps to amend the anti-blasphemy law, and nine other distinguished women were honoured by the Indian Embassy in Egypt at the 'Women of Substance' reception held at India House in Cairo on April 2, 2017. The event was part of India by the Nile Festival, which is a celebration of Indian music, dance, theatre, visual arts, food and wellbeing.

1227) . What is the joint military exercise between India and Mongolia held in Mizoram in April 2017 named?

- a) Key Resolve
- b) Peninsular Drill
- c) Austere Challenge
- d) Nomadic Elephant*

A 14-day India-Mongolia military training exercise began on April 5, 2017 at Vairengte in Mizoram. 'Exercise Nomadic Elephant - XII', it is aimed at training troops in counter-insurgency operations. It will continue till April 18.

1228) . Who among the following inaugurated a Yoga Club at the Japanese Parliament on April 5, 2017?

- a) Dalai Lama
- b) Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev
- c) Sri Sri Ravi Shankar*
- d) Baba Ramdev

Art of Living's Sri Sri Ravi Shankar inaugurated a Yoga Club at the Japanese Parliament by Ravi Shankar in Tokyo on April 5, 2017.

1229) Which of the following hosted the meeting of Finance Minister of the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) in April 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi*

India and six other South Asian countries on April 3, 2017 pledged to improve intra-regional connectivity to boost trade and tourism. Finance Ministers of India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Myanmar met in New Delhi to reshape the South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) and came out with a vision to guide the sub-region's development.

1230) Who among the following is the President of Bangladesh?

- a) Shaukat Ali
- b) Hanif Basit
- c) Abdul Hamid*
- d) Shaukat Siddiqui

Indian Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat called on Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid in Dhaka on April 1, 2017. Earlier, Gen Rawat met his Bangladesh counterpart Gen Abu Belal Muhammad Shafiul Huq at the Army Headquarters.

1231) Which of the following hosted the 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union from April 1 to 5, 2017?

- a) Colombo
- b) New Delhi
- c) Dhaka*
- d) Islamabad

1232) The Inter-Parliamentary Union was set up in 1889. It is headquartered at which of the following places?

- a) Berne
- b) Basel
- c) Zurich
- d) Geneva*

A delegation of Indian MPs led by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan attended the 136th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union organised in Dhaka from April 1 to 5, 2017. The Inter-Parliamentary Union was established in 1889 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The Union is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

1233) 31. Who among the following was appointed as India's new Ambassador to Germany in April 2017?

- a) Vishnu Prakash
- b) Smita Purushottam
- c) Ruchira Kamboj
- d) Mukta Dutta Tomar*

Mukta Dutta Tomar was on April 7, 2017 appointed as new India's Ambassador to Germany.

1234) Who among the following is the King by Thailand? He signed new Constitution in April 2017?

- a) Maha Adulyadej
- b) Maha Vajiravudh
- c) Maha Prajadhipok
- d) Maha Vajiralongkorn*

Thailand's king signed a new military-backed constitution in Bangkok on April 6, 2017 that puts the country on the path to polls after three years of junta rule. King Maha Vajiralongkorn, who ascended the throne following the October death of his widely revered father Bhumibol Adulyadej, signed the document in a televised ceremony in Bangkok.

1235) The US government announced cutting off USD 32.5 million funding to which of the following UN organisations in April 2017?

- a) FAO
- b) UNFPA*
- c) WHO
- d) UNHCR

The Trump administration is cutting off US funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) over concerns about abortion. The State Department has determined that the UN agency falls under the “Kemp-Kasten amendment.” The amendment affects organizations that support or participate in coercive abortion programs or involuntary sterilization. The State Department says USD 32.5 million in funding will instead be shifted to a US Agency for International Development account for family planning and reproductive health. (April 4, 2017)

1236) Which province of China is affected by “religious extremism”? Wearing veils or growing “abnormal” beards was banned there from April 2017.

- a) Fujian
- b) Hunan
- c) Sichuan
- d) Xinjiang*

China on April 1, 2017 banned wearing veils or growing “abnormal” beards in Xinjiang as part of a major crackdown aimed at curbing “religious extremism” in the restive Uygur Muslim majority province. China blames separatist East Turkistan Islamic Movement (ETIM), an Al Qaeda affiliated group, for the spate of violent attacks in and out of the province.

1237) Which of the following will become world’s first country to allow sale of recreational marijuana in pharmacies from July 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) El Salvador
- d) Uruguay*

Uruguay will become the first country in the world to allow recreational marijuana to be sold in pharmacies, starting in July, the office of President Tabare Vazquez said in capital Montevideo on April 6, 2017.

1238) . Which of the following announced an end to ‘Euphrates Shield’ military operation in Syria in March 2017?

- a) Jordan
- b) Israel
- c) Iran
- d) Turkey*

Turkey has ended the “Euphrates Shield” military operation it launched in Syria, Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on March 29, 2017.

1239) Which city in Russia was in news for explosion in subway train that killed 10 people on April 3, 2017?

- a) St. Petersburg*
- b) Volgograd
- c) Samara
- d) Moscow

At least 10 people were killed and 50 others injured on April 3, 2017 when an explosion ripped through a subway train in St Petersburg in Russia.

1240) Which of the following was launched by Israel to counter medium-range missiles in April 2017?

- a) David’s Axe
- b) David’s Sling*
- c) David’s Arrow

d) David's Trident

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched a joint US-Israeli missile interceptor in Jerusalem on April 2, 2017. David's Sling, meant to counter medium-range missiles, officially became operational at the ceremony, the military said. It marks the completion of the multi-tier system that includes the Arrow, designed to intercept long-range ballistic missiles in the stratosphere with an eye on Iran, and Iron Dome, which defends against short-range rockets from Gaza.

1241) Which of the following is the multinational military drill for peacekeeping organised in Nepal in March-April 2017?

- a) Exercise Shanti Pahal III
- b) Exercise Shanti Prayas III*
- c) Exercise Shanti Abhyas III
- d) Exercise Shanti Parinam III

Exercise Shanti Prayas III, a multinational military drill for peacekeeping, concluded at Panchkhal in Nepal on April 3, 2017. The Exercise Shanti Prayas III is the latest in a continuing series of exercises in the Asia-Pacific region designed to promote regio

I peace and security and enhance the peacekeeping capabilities and capacity of nations participating in the Global Peace Operations Initiative (GPOI), according to the Nepal Army. As many 1,024 army personnel from 28 countries had taken part in the 15-day exercise, hosted by Nepal Army and United States Pacific Command.

1242) 4 Who among the following is the President of Colombia? The country was in news for deaths of more than 250 people due to heavy floods in April 2017?

- a) Alvaro Uribe
- b) Jose Mujica
- c) Borge Brende
- d) Juan Manuel Santos*

At least 250 people died and hundreds went missing in Colombia after heavy rain flooded the city of Mocoa the capital of Putumayo province in the country's southwest on April 2, 2017. President Juan Manuel Santos declared a state of emergency in the region and flew in to oversee the rescue effort.

1243) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Norway? The country was in news in April 2017 for normalising diplomatic ties with China after a gap of more than six years?

- a) John Lyng
- b) Jan Petersen
- c) Erna Solberg*
- d) Sylvia Brustad

Norway's Prime Minister Erna Solberg visited China in April 2017 as part of a restoration of full contacts between the two countries more than six years after Beijing froze Oslo out over the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to an imprisoned Chinese dissident. Following a welcoming ceremony in Beijing on April 7, 2017, Solberg was told by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang that her visit symbolised the normalisation of the China-Norwegian relationship. In 2010, Norway's Nobel committee awarded Liu Xiaobo the peace prize, infuriating China.

1244) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Ecuador in April 2017?

- a) Anna Alban
- b) Jose Mujica
- c) Lenin Moreno*
- d) Ollanta Humala

Ruling party candidate Lenin Moreno was declared the winner of Ecuador's presidential runoff in capital Quito on April 3, 2017, providing continuity to outgoing President Rafael Correa's "Citizens' Revolution".

1245) Who among the following was elected as the new President of Serbia April 2017?

- a) Saša Janković
- b) Miroslav Parović
- c) Luka Maksimović

d) Aleksandar Vučić*

1246) Which of the following is the currency of Serbia?

- a) Serbian dinar*
- b) Serbian peso
- c) Serbian dirham
- d) Serbian dollar

Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic was elected new president of Serbia in the first round of voting, according to results announced in capital Belgrade in April 2017. Vucic won 55% of vote. He replaces Tomislav Nikolić.

1247) 45. Who among the following Chief Ministers was selected as 'Transformative Chief Minister' by the US India Business Council recently?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) Vijay Rupani
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu*

The US India Business Council has selected Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for award of 'Transformative Chief Minister'. Naidu would receive the award at second annual West Coast summit which to be held in California on May 8.

1248) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review April 6, 2017.

- I. Repo rate: 6.25%
- II. Reverse Repo Rate: 5.75%
- III. Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I and III only*

1249) Consider the following after RBI's bi-monthly monetary policy review on April 6, 2017.

- I. Bank Rate: 6.75%
- II. Cash Reserve Ratio: 4%
- III. Statutory Liquidity Ratio: 20.25%

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) I and III only

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on April 6, 2017 kept the repo rate unchanged but raised the reverse repo rate by 25 basis points to narrow the corridor in which overnight money moves. Following the policy, the repo rate, at which banks borrow from the RBI, remained at 6.25%, and the reverse repo rate, at which banks lend to the central bank, was revised to 6% from 5.75%. **Policy Rates** – Policy Repo Rate: 6.25%, Reverse Repo Rate: 6.00%, Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.50%, Bank Rate: 6.50%. **Reserve Ratios**: CRR: 4%, SLR: 20.50%.

1250) The Reserve Bank on April 6, 2017 decided to allow banks to invest in which of the following?

- I. Chit Funds
- II. Real Estate Investment Trust
- III. Infrastructure Investment Trusts

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) I and III only

The Reserve Bank on April 6, 2017 decided to allow banks to invest in Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), a move that will help revive the cash-starved infrastructure sector. Banks are allowed to invest in equity-linked mutual funds, venture capital funds (VCFs) and equities to the extent of 20 per cent of their Net Owned Fund (NOF). "It is proposed to allow banks to invest in REITs and InvITs within this umbrella limit. Detailed guidelines will be issued by May-end 2017," the RBI said in its first bi-monthly monetary policy for 2017-18.

1251) 49. The government of Uttar Pradesh announced waiver of crop loans up to what amount in April 2017?

- a) Rs. 25,000
- b) Rs. 50,000
- c) Rs. 1 lakh*
- d) Rs. 1.5 lakh

1252) The government of Uttar Pradesh has decided to issue which of the following for financing waiver of crop loans in April 2017?

- a) Kisan Bachat Bonds
- b) Kisan Sewa Bonds
- c) Kisan Unnati Bonds
- d) Kisan Rahat Bonds*

Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel on April 6, 2017 cautioned that loan waiver schemes "engender moral hazard", undermining honest credit culture and impairing incentives for borrowers to repay bank loans. The comment comes against the backdrop of recent decision by the UP government to waive Rs 36,000 crore in farm loans and increasing demand from politicians for similar concessions in other parts of the country. Recently, the newly formed government in Uttar Pradesh, in its first Cabinet meeting, decided to waive crop loans up to Rs 1 lakh, totalling a staggering Rs 36,359 crore. The move will benefit over 2.15 crore farmers, besides 7 lakh others who had secured loans which turned into non-performing assets (NPAs). The Yogi Adityanath cabinet decided to float Kisan Rahat Bonds for raising Rs 36,359 crore required for waiving loans of small and marginal farmers who form 92.5 per cent of the total 2.30 lakh farmers in the state.

1253) Which was the Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Janatha Garage
- b) Sathamam Bhavati*
- c) Appatlo Okadundevadu
- d) Soggade Chinni Nayana

1254) Which was the Best Feature Film at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Sairat
- b) Kasaav*
- c) Ventilator
- d) Dashakriya

1255) Who among the following won the Best Director award at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Rajeev Patil
- b) Sanjay Soorkar
- c) Mahesh Kothare
- d) Rajesh Mapuskar*

1256) Who among the following won the Indira Gandhi Award for the Best Debut Film of a Director at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Anjan Dutta
- b) Srijit Mukherjee
- c) Mainak Bhaumik
- d) Deep Choudhary*

1257) . Which of the following won the Nargis Dutt award for the Best Feature Film on National Integration at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Kothanodi
- b) Tomar Premot Pori
- c) Dikchow Bonot Palash*
- d) Doordarshan Eti Jantra

1258) . Which of the following was the Best Film on Social Issues at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Pink*
- b) Airlift
- c) Dangal
- d) Dear Zindagi

1259) “Dhanak” was the Best Children’s Film at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017. Who among the following is its Director?

- a) Abhishek Chaubey
- b) Anurag Kashyap
- c) Dibakar Banerjee
- d) Nagesh Kukunoor*

1260) Who among the following was the Best Actress at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Asin
- b) Surabhi*
- c) Karthika
- d) Shailini

1261) Which of the following awards and winners at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017 is/are matched correctly?

- I. Best Male Playback Singer – Sundharayyar
- II. Best Female Playback singer – Iman Chakraborty
- III. Best Music Direction for Songs – M. Jayachandran

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II and III only
- d) II and III only

1262) Which of the following awards and winners at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017 is/are matched correctly?

- I. Best Film Critic award: G. Dhananjayan
- II. Best Book on Cinema award: Doddahulluru Rukkoji
- III. Special Mention Award: K.P. Jayashankar and Anjali Monteiro

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only*

1263) 11. Which award was won by Tirru (Thirunavukarasu) at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017

- a) Best Cinematography*
- b) Best Choreography
- c) Best Editing
- d) Best Production Design

1264) Who among the following is not among the three winners of the Best Child Artiste award at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Adhish Praveen
- b) Nur Islam

- c) Saimul Alam
d) Gaurav Menon*

1265) Who among the following was the Best Actor at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Akshay Kumar*
b) Amitabh Bachchan
c) Salman Khan
d) Shah Rukh Khan

1266) Which of the following won the Most Film Friendly State Award at the 64th National Film Awards in April 2017?

- a) Goa
b) Bihar
c) Rajasthan
d) Uttar Pradesh*

The 64th National Film Awards 2016 were announced on April 7, 2017

- Best Feature Film: "Kasaav" (Marathi)
- Best Popular Film providing Wholesome Entertainment: "Sathamnam Bhavathi" (Telugu)
- Nargis Dutt award for the Best Feature Film on National Integration: "Dikchow Banat Palaax" (Assamese)
- Indira Gandhi Award for the Best Debut Film of a Director: "Alifa" (Bengali) by Deep Choudhary.
- Best Film on Social Issues: "Pink" produced by Shoojit Sircar
- Best Children's Film: "Dhanak" produced by Nagesh Kukunoor
- Best Animation Film: "Mahayodha Rama"
- Best Film for Environment Conservation/Preservation: "Loktak Lairembee"
- Best Direction: Rajesh Mapuskar for Ventilator (Marathi)
- Best Actor: Akshay Kumar for Rustom (Hindi)
- Best Actress: Surabhi for Minnaminungu-The Firefly (Malayalam)
- Best Supporting Actress: Zaira Wasim for "Dangal"
- Best Supporting Actor: Manoj Joshi for "Dashakriya" (Marathi)
- Best Child Artist: Adhish Praveen, Nur Islam, Saimul Alam and Manohara K.
- Best Special Effects: "Shivaay"
- Best Editing: "Ventilator" (Marathi)
- Best Adapted Screenplay: "Dashakriya" (Marathi)
- Best Original Screenplay: "Maheshinte Prathikooram" (Malayalam)
- Best Dialogues: "Peli Chuplu" (Telugu)
- Best Production Design: "24" (Tamil)
- Best Costume Designer: Sachin for "Cycle" (Marathi)
- Best Male Playback Singer: Sundharayyar for the song 'Jasmine E' in "Joker" (Tamil)
- Best Female Playback Singer: Iman Chakraborty for the song 'Tumi Jaake' in "Praktan" (Bengali)
- Best Music Direction: Babu Padmanabha for "Allama" (Kannada)
- Best Lyrics: Vairamuthu won for Entha Pakkam from the "Dharma Durai" (Tamil) and Anupam Roy for 'Tumi Jaake Bhalo Basha' from "Praktan" (Bengali)
- Best Sound Designer: Jayadevan for movie "Kaadu Pookunna Neram" (Malayalam)
- Best Choreography: Raju Sundaram for "Janatha Garage" (Telugu)
- Best Cinematography: Tirru (Thirunavukarasu) for "24" (Tamil)
- Most Film Friendly State Award: Uttar Pradesh
- Special Mention Award for Film Policy: Jharkhand
- Best Film Critic award: G. Dhananjayan
- Special Mention Award: K.P. Jayashankar and Anjali Monteiro for the book 'A fly in the Curry'
- Best Book on Cinema award: 'Lata-Sur Gatha' by Yatindra Mishra

1267) The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a Rail Development Authority (RDA) in Approval 2017. It will have an initial corpus of:

- a) Rs. 10 crore*
b) Rs. 50 crore

- c) Rs. 100 crore
- d) Rs. 250 crore

The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, on April 5, 2017 approved the establishment of a Rail Development Authority (RDA), an independent regulatory body, to determine tariffs. The regulator will act within the parameters of Railway Act, 1989 and will not only determine tariffs but also ensure fair play and level playing field for all stakeholder investments in the railway sector. The RDA, which will have four members including the Chairman, has also been mandated to set up efficiency and performance standards, and can engage experts from relevant areas. The Chairman and the members will have a term of 5 years. The New Delhi-based independent regulator will be set up with an initial corpus of Rs 50 crore.

1268) What is the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) growth forecast for the Indian economy in 2017-18 in April 2017?

- a) 6.5 per cent
- b) 6.8 per cent
- c) 7.1 per cent
- d) 7.4 per cent*

India is expected to grow at an accelerated pace of 7.4 per cent in 2017-18, which will continue to be the fastest-growing major economy in the world, ahead of China, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said on April 6, 2017 in its flagship publication Asian Development Outlook (ADO). On the back of reforms initiatives being taken by the government, India's growth rate will improve further to 7.6 per cent in 2018-19.

1269) Consider the following pairs of persons in National Board for Electric Mobility (NBEM) and their organisations?

- I. Vikram Kirloskar: Tata Motors
- II. Vinod Dasari: Ashok Leyland
- III. Pawan Goenka: Mahindra & Mahindra

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III and I only

1270) Consider the following pairs of persons in two-wheeler industry and their organisations?

- I. Sudarshan Venu: TVS Motors
- II. Hero MotoCorp: Pawan Munjal
- III. Annamalai Hemalatha: Ampere Vehicles

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III*

The Centre on April 3, 2017 constituted NBEM to promote electric mobility and manufacturing of electric (& hybrid) vehicles and their components. The proposals for launch of the National Mission for Electric Mobility and setting up of a National Board for Electric Mobility (NBEM) and National Council for Electric Mobility were approved in 2011. The NBEM will be chaired by the Secretary of Department of Heavy Industry, will comprise of senior bureaucrats as members. It will also have six nominated members of eminence and expertise from the automobile industry, academia and research & development. These include Vikram Kirloskar, CMD, Kirloskar Systems Ltd; Vinod Dasari, MD, Ashok Leyland; Pawan Goenka, MD, Mahindra and Mahindra; Annamalai Hemalatha, MD, Ampere Vehicles Ltd and Sudarshan Venu, Joint MD, TVS Motors.

1271) The National Maritime Day was observed on April 5, 2017 to mark the journey of _____, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, to the United Kingdom in 1919.

- a) SS Victory
- b) SS Pioneer
- c) SS Loyalty*
- d) SS Majesty

1272) The National Maritime Day was observed on April 5, 2017. India has 12 major ports. Which was the last one to be declared Major Port in 1999?

- a) Kochi
- b) Ennore*
- c) Kandla
- d) New Mangalore

The Indian Maritime Day was observed on April 5, 2017. April 5 marks the National Maritime Day of India. On this day in 1919 navigation history was created when SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, journeyed to the United Kingdom. The National Maritime Day was first celebrated on 5th April, 1964. Major Ports are autonomous bodies, managed by Board of Trustees under the overall control of the Central Government through the Ministry of Shipping. The 12 Major Ports are: Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Kandla, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, V O Chidambaranar (formerly Tuticorin), New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Ennore. Ennore in Tamil Nadu was declared as the 12th Major Port in 1999.

1273) Managing Directors of which real estate company were arrested by Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police in April 2017 for duping flat buyers?

- a) DLF
- b) HCC
- c) Unitech*
- d) GMR

Construction major Unitech's managing directors Sanjay Chandra and Ajay Chandra were arrested on April 1, 2017 by the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police. The Chandras have been accused of allegedly duping buyers who had booked flats in his Greater Noida residential project to the tune of Rs 35 crore. The buyers alleged that Unitech failed to complete the project on time and also did not refund the money along with the interest.

1274) 22. The World Autism Awareness Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 2*
- b) April 3
- c) April 4
- d) April 5

World Autism Awareness Day was observed on April 2, 2017. Theme for 2017: "Toward Autonomy and Self-Determination"

1275) The Textile Ministry launched powerloom development scheme 'PowerTex India' from which district of Maharashtra on April 1, 2017?

- a) Aurangabad
- b) Buldhana
- c) Bhiwandi
- d) Baramati*

Union Textile Minister Smriti Irani on April 1, 2017 announced that the government has increased subsidy by 30 per cent for upgradation of powerloom sector and for the benefit of small weavers. Irani launched PowerTex India, a comprehensive powerloom development scheme in Bhiwandi district of Maharashtra.

1276) Who among the following was appointed as new Country Director of India by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in April 2017?

- a) Kikuo Iwata
- b) Hiroshi Tanaka
- c) Masayoshi Son
- d) Kenichi Yokoyama*

Kenichi Yokoyama has taken over as the new Country Director of India Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). He replaces M Teresa Kho. (April 4, 2017)

1277) Which of the following was India's most expensive office location property consultant CBRE's report released in April 2017?

- a) Khan Market, Delhi
- b) Connaught Place, Delhi*
- c) Nariman Point, Mumbai
- d) Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai

1278) Which of the following was world's most expensive office location property consultant CBRE's report released in April 2017?

- a) Pudong, Shanghai
- b) West End, London
- c) Hong Kong, Central*
- d) Finance Street, Beijing

The Central Business District (CBD) of Connaught Place in Delhi is the world's 9th most expensive office location with annual prime rent of USD 105.71 per sq ft at the end of 2016, said property consultant CBRE in its Global Prime Office Rents report on April 3, 2017. Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) is at 19th position while the central business district (CBD) of Nariman Point is at 30th place in the list. With annual prime rent of USD 264.27 per sq ft, Hong Kong (Central) is the world's most expensive office Market. Beijing (Finance Street) and Hong Kong (Kowloon) are placed at 2nd and 3rd positions, respectively. Beijing (CBD) is ranked 4th in the list, followed by London (West End), New York (Midtown Manhattan), Tokyo (Marunouchi/Otemachi), Shanghai (Pudong).

1279) Which of the following has ranked India 40th out of 136 countries on Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index in April 2017?

- a) WEF*
- b) WTO
- c) UNCTAD
- d) UNESCO

India has jumped 12 places to 40th rank globally in travel and tourism competitiveness list by World Economic Forum said in its Global Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017 on April 6, 2017. It ranks 136 countries across 14 dimensions, revealing how well countries deliver sustainable economic and societal benefits through their travel and tourism sector. In the global ranking Spain, France and Germany were ranked at the top three positions, making them the most tourism friendly economies.

1280) India was ranked ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses by which of the following in April 2017?

- a) EY*
- b) IMF
- c) ADB
- d) PwC

India ranks ninth among 41 countries in bribery and corrupt practices in businesses, according to the findings of the EY Europe, Middle East, India and Africa (EMEIA) Fraud Survey 2017. Nearly 78 per cent respondents queried in India said that bribery and corrupt practices happen widely in businesses. India ranks behind Ukraine, Cyprus, Greece, Slovenia, Croatia, Kenya, South Africa and Hungary, in the perception survey.

1281) Who among the following is the founder of eBay?

- a) Larry Page
- b) Sergey Brin
- c) Eric Schmidt
- d) Pierre Omidyar*

eBay founder Pierre Omidyar's philanthropic foundation pledged on April 5, 2017 to donate USD 100 million over three years to support "independent media and investigative journalism" worldwide, while tackling "misinformation and hate speech."

1282) 30. Which digital payments firm launched deferred payment facility 'LazyPay' in April 2017?

- a) Paytm
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayU*

Digital payments platform PayU India on April 5, 2017 launched 'LazyPay' that allows a deferred payment option to users who transact digitally for amounts ranging between Rs 500-2,500.

1283) Which of the following launched digital initiative 811 in March 2017 that would enable new account opening in just five minutes using only income tax PAN and Aadhaar number?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Kotak Mahindra Bank*

Kotak Mahindra Bank launched its latest digital initiative christened 811 on March 29, 2017. It would also enable new account opening in just five minutes using only income tax PAN and Aadhaar number. Uday Kotak, VC & MD, Kotak Bank, said that the name 811 was derived from the date the govt. started its demonetisation process, November 8.

1284) . S. N. Subrahmanyan was appointed as the new CEO and MD of which of the following from July 2017?

- a) TCS
- b) RIL
- c) ITC
- d) L&T*

Engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro Ltd's board on April 7, 2017 approved the appointment of S N Subrahmanyan as the new chief executive officer and managing director from July 2017. Group's current Executive Chairman A N Naik is expected to continue as non-executive chairman from October 2017 for another three years.

1285) Raman Roy was appointed NASSCOM Chairman for 2017-18 in April 2017. He is the CEO of which of the following IT companies?

- a) Polaris
- b) Mindtree
- c) Cognizant
- d) Quattro Global Services*

IT industry body NASSCOM on April 5, 2017 appointed Quattro Global Services CMD Raman Roy its Chairman for 2017-18. R Chandrashekhar is the President of NASSCOM.

1286) Who among the following is associated with the invention of the World Wide Web at CERN in the 1980s?

- a) Vinton Cerf
- b) Dennis Gabor
- c) Douglas Engelbart
- d) Tim Berners-Lee*

Sir Tim Berners-Lee (61), who invented the World Wide Web, is this year's recipient of the AM Turing Award, computing's version of the Nobel Prize. The honour comes with a USD 1 million prize funded by Google. The award was announced by the Association for Computing Machinery on April 4, 2017.

1287) 35. 'Chenani-Nashri Tunnel' was inaugurated in J&K by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 2, 2017. Consider the following statements.

- I. It is on National Highway 44
- II. Chenani is in Udhampur district
- III. Nashri is in Ramban district

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 2, 2017 inaugurated the country's longest road tunnel that links Kashmir Valley with Jammu by an all-weather route on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH 44). The 9.28 km long 'Chenani-Nashri Tunnel', built by the National Highways Authority of India, was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister in Chenani in presence of Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra and Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti. The tunnel links Chenani in Udhampur district with Nashri in Ramban district. The tunnel reduces the distance between Jammu and Srinagar by 30 km.

1288) Which state started levying 10% surcharge on stamp duty for the "conservation and propagation of cow and its progeny" from April 1?

- a) Bihar
- b) Rajasthan*
- c) Jharkhand
- d) Uttar Pradesh

The government in Rajasthan has started imposing 10% surcharge on stamp duty for the "conservation and propagation of cow and its progeny" from April 1.

1289) Which of the following became the first state in the country to pass a law to protect journalists from attacks in April 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat
- d) Maharashtra*

Both Houses of the state legislature on April 7, 2017 passed the landmark Maharashtra Mediapersons and Media Institutions Bill to protect journalists from attacks. Maharashtra is the first state to pass such a law. There have been 175 attacks on journalists in the last one decade. Introducing the Bill, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said, "To effectively curb the occurrences of such incidents in the state and to protect mediapersons and property of mediapersons and institutions, the state government has considered enacting a special law."

1290) Which state created Guinness World Record for maximum people hugging trees simultaneously in March 2017?

- a) Odisha
- b) Assam
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Kerala*

The 'Ente Maram, Ente Jeevan' initiative jointly organised by Asianet News and the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanical Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has set a new Guinness World Record for the maximum people hugging trees simultaneously. The event, held in March 22, 2017 on the JNTBGRI premises at Palode, saw 4,620 people hugging trees to mark International Day of Forests. 'Ente Maram, Ente Jeevan' broke the existing record of the largest tree hug set by Tata Chem DAV Public School, Mithapur, Gujarat, in December 2016, where 1,316 people had participated.

1291) Which of the following has become the second state after Gujarat to have launched Gunotsav programme to improve quality of school education in the state?

- a) Odisha
- b) Assam*
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Jharkhand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 6, 2017 complimented the Assam government for starting Gunotsav, a programme to improve quality of school education in the state. He said, Gunotsav is a great initiative to gauge the quality of learning and teachers and students will greatly benefit from it. Gunotsav is a quality improvement programme where external

evaluators are deputed to the schools for conducting external evaluation of students. Originally a Gujarat government initiative, Gunotsav has been adopted by Sarbananda Sonowal led government in Assam.

1292) 40. Which paramilitary force had escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago?

- a) SSB
- b) Rashtriya Rifles
- c) Assam Rifles*
- d) BSF

The Assam Rifles on April 4, 2017 felicitated its veteran, Naren Chandra Das, who escorted the Dalai Lama during his escape from Tibet nearly 60 years ago at the force's headquarter in Shillong. 76 year-old Das is the only surviving jawan among the eight Assam Rifles men who escorted the Tibetan spiritual leader in 1959.

1293) Who among the following was named as Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World in April 2017?

- a) Ben Stokes
- b) Virat Kohli*
- c) Steve Smith
- d) Younis Khan

1294) 42. Who among the following was named as Wisden's Leading Woman Cricketer in the World in April 2017?

- a) Stafanie Taylor
- b) Suzie Bates
- c) Rachel Priest
- d) Ellyse Perry*

Indian captain Virat Kohli was on April 5, 2017 named Wisden's Leading Cricketer in the World for 2016. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack honours: **Leading Cricketer in the World:** Virat Kohli; **Leading Woman Cricketer in the World:** Ellyse Perry ; **Five Cricketers of the Year:** Misbah-ul-Haq, Younis Khan, Ben Duckett, Toby Roland-Jones, Chris Woakes.

1295) Which country was ranked No: 1 in the FIFA world rankings in April 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil*
- c) Argentina
- d) Germany

Brazil's national football team on April 6, 2017 regained the top spot in the FIFA world rankings for the first time since 2010. The top 10 of the FIFA world rankings are as follows: 1. Brazil 2. Argentina 3. Germany 4. Chile 5. Colombia 6. France 7. Belgium 8. Portugal 9. Switzerland 10. Spain (Madrid)

1296) Cyrus Poncha is India's well-known coach in which of the following sports?

- a) Golf
- b) Snooker
- c) Squash*
- d) Badminton

Long-serving national squash coach Cyrus Poncha has been chosen to receive the 2016 Asian Squash Federation 'Coach of the Year' award. He is the only Indian in this year's list of awards, players and officials together, announced in Chennai on April 3, 2017.

1297) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the India Open Super Series badminton championship in New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Parupalli Kashyap
- b) Sameer Verma
- c) Kento Momota
- d) Viktor Axelsen*

1298) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the India Open Super Series badminton championship in New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Carolina Marin
- c) Yihan Wang
- d) P. V. Sindhu*

Rio Olympics silver medallist PV Sindhu beat reigning Olympic champion Carolina Marin of Spain 21-19, 21-16 to lift her maiden India Open Super Series title at the Sirifort Sports Complex in New Delhi on April 2, 2017. Viktor Axelsen of Denmark clinched the men's singles title beating Chinese Taipei's Tien Chen Chou 21-13, 21-10.

1299) Which of the following seats where Assembly bypolls were held in April 2017 and their winners is matched correctly?

- a) Dholpur: BJP
- b) Rajouri Garden: BJP
- c) Bandhavgarh: BJP
- d) All the above*

1300) Which of the following seats where Assembly bypolls were held in April 2017 and their winners is matched correctly?

- a) Dhemaji: BJP*
- b) Ater: BJP
- c) Nanjangud: BJP
- d) Littipara: BJP

In the Assembly bypoll results in 8 states announced on April 13, 2017, BJP won 5 seats out of 10 while Congress got 3 seats, one seat each went to Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and Trinamool Congress. The bypoll Elections were held on April 9. **RAJASTHAN:** The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's Shobha Rani Kushavah won the Dholpur seat. **DELHI:** BJP's Manjinder Singh Sirsa won the Rajouri Garden seat. **MADHYA PRADESH:** Ater seat was won by Hemant Katara of Congress while Bandhavgarh seat was won by the BJP's Shivnarayan Singh. **HIMACHAL PRADESH:** BJP candidate Anil Dhiman won the Bhoranj seat in Hamirpur district. **ASSAM:** BJP candidate Ranaj Pegu won Dhemaji seat. **KARNATAKA:** Congress retained the Gundlupet as well as Nanjangud seat. In Nanjangud, ruling party candidate K. Keshavamurthy won while in Gundlupet, Mohan Kumari Uruf alias Geetha won. **WEST BENGAL:** Ruling TMC won the Kanthi Dakshin seat in Purba Medinipur district. Its candidate Chandrima Bhattacharya won. **JHARKHAND:** Jharkhand Mukti Morcha's (JMM) Simon Marandi won Littipara seat.

1301) A web portal and mobile application 'Bharat ke Veer' was launched for which paramilitary force by the Home Minister in April 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF*
- c) CISF
- d) ITBP

Home Minister Rajnath Singh on April 9, 2017 inaugurated the web portal and mobile application 'Bharat ke Veer' of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in New Delhi. The portal is an IT based platform, with an objective to enable willing donors to contribute towards the family of a brave-heart who sacrificed his life in line of duty. The amount so donated will be credited to the account of 'Next of Kin' of those soldiers. This website is technically supported by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and powered by State Bank of India.

1302) Which paramilitary force celebrated its Valour Day on April 9, 2017?

- a) BSF
- b) CRPF
- c) CISF*
- d) ITBP

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) celebrated its Valour Day on April 9, 2017. The day is celebrated in remembrance of an act of unparalleled bravery displayed by a small contingent of CRPF personnel, pitted against a full-fledged infantry brigade of Pakistani Army, trying to overrun their post, at Sardar Post, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat, on April 9, 1965. They not only defeated the Pakistani brigade but also killed 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured 4 of them alive. The CRPF successfully defended the post till the arrival of reinforcements. The saga of valour of Sardar Post is a rich source of inspiration to the officers and men of CRPF and befittingly 9th April is observed as the Valour Day”.

1303) 5. Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) is used in the treatment of which of the following?

- a) Stroke
- b) Swine flu
- c) Leprosy
- d) AIDS*

Parliament on April 11, 2017 gave its nod to a crucial bill to ensure equal rights to the people affected by HIV and AIDS in getting treatment, admissions in educational institutions and jobs. Terming the unanimous passage of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2017 in the Lok Sabha as “historic”, Health Minister J P Nadda said the government “stands committed for free treatment of HIV patients.” The bill was passed by Rajya Sabha on March 21. The Bill ensures that no HIV test, medical treatment or research will be conducted on a person without his informed consent. No person shall be compelled to disclose his HIV status except with his informed consent, and if required, by a court order. Health Minister J P Nadda asserted that India runs second largest Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) programme in the world and AIDS related deaths have declined to 54 per cent.

1304) The government on April 10, 2017 launched a dedicated website allowing the public to download close to 3,000 maps prepared by the Survey General of India (SGI). Which of the following is the website for download?

- a) <http://soidisha.uk.gov.in>
- b) <http://soidesh.uk.gov.in>
- c) <http://soibharat.uk.gov.in>
- d) <http://soinakshe.uk.gov.in>*

1305) The government on April 10, 2017 launched a dedicated website allowing the public to download close to 3,000 maps prepared by the Survey General of India (SGI). People having Aadhaar number can download a maximum of how many maps on a day?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3*
- d) 4

1306) Survey General of India (SGI) completed how many years of its foundation in 2017?

- a) 100
- b) 150
- c) 200
- d) 250*

1307) 9. Who among the following is the Surveyor General of India?

- a) Prithvish Nag
- b) Vinay Kant Nagar
- c) Swarna Subba Rao*
- d) Chandra Prakash Mehta

The government on April 10, 2017 launched a dedicated website allowing the public the access to download 3,000 maps prepared by the Survey General of India (SGI) but made Aadhaar mandatory for the purpose. Using Aadhaar number, a person can download three maps every day from the portal (<http://soinakshe.Uk.Gov.In/>). The SGI completed 250 years on April 10.

Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Science and Technology, said the motto behind making Aadhaar mandatory for using this service was to make it available "only to Indians". Aadhaar number is a proof of identity and not that of citizenship. Swarna Subba Rao, Surveyor General of India, was also present on the occasion.

The SGI has the mandate of making maps and cartographic documents for the country and has a rich collection of over 5,000 maps. While it made 3,000 maps open to public for download, 1700 will be available for downloading soon. The remaining maps are awaiting clearance. Under the National Map Policy 2005, it had become necessary to make non-defence maps accessible for public.

1308) What is MOOC in context of online distance education programmes launched by the government?

- a) Mentor Open Online Courses
- b) Master Open Online Courses
- c) Mobile Open Online Courses
- d) Massive Open Online Courses*

1309) What is the bouquet of 32 direct-to-home (DTH) educational channels launched by the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry called?

- a) Swayam Prayas
- b) Swayam Prabha*
- c) Swayam Pratham
- d) Swayam Parinam

Indira Gandhi National Open University, which has been pioneer in distance education, has now entered the digital education sphere and launched 11 free Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC). An announcement in this regard was made by Minister of State for HRD, Mahendra Nath Pandey, during the 30th convocation ceremony of the university. In 2016, the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry had launched a bouquet of 32 direct-to-home (DTH) educational channels, called 'Swayam Prabha', to broadcast programmes for school and university students. The contents of these channels are prepared by the IIT professors and other subject experts. Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) is a system aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web.

1310) Budget session of Parliament ended on April 12, 2017. Which of the following statements is/are correct?

- I. As many as 18 bills were passed by both the houses during the session
 - II. Productivity of Rajya Sabha was above 100%
 - III. Productivity of Lok Sabha was below 100%
- a) I only*
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) I and III only

The Budget Session of Parliament has been one of the most productive sessions in its history, Union Minister Ananth Kumar said on April 12, adding that as many as 18 bills were passed by both the houses during the session. The productivity of Lok Sabha during the Budget Session was 114 per cent while that of Rajya Sabha was 92 per cent. As many as 23 bills were passed in the Lower House and 14 legislations in the Upper House, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said. While in both houses 18 bills were passed, he said. The Budget Session started from January 31 and came to a close on April 12, 2017.

1311) Which party launched a website 'Quest for Equity' on the 126th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar on April 14, 2017?

- a) BSP
- b) CPI-M
- c) SP
- d) Congress*

On the 126th birth anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar, Congress on April 14, 2017 launched a website 'Quest for Equity', that hosts his work and provides a platform for data, research and legislation on issues related to Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).

1312) Coastal Security exercise Sagar Kavach was organised by which state along with the Indian Navy and Coast Guard in April 2017?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Goa*
- d) Kerala

'Sagar Kavach', a comprehensive Coastal Security exercise will be held in Goa on April 20 and 21 to test the preparedness of various agencies and stakeholders along the state's coastline. This was stated in a government press release said in Panaji on April 13, 2017. Several agencies like Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Goa Police, Goa Coastal Security Intelligence Agencies, Mormugao Port Trust (MPT), Ports Administration Department, CISF and Customs will be taking part in the exercise.

1313) Which of the following has been charged with damaging Yamuna floodplain area during the 'World Culture Festival' organised in March 2016 nu NGT in April 2017?

- a) Sahaj Yog
- b) Art of Living*
- c) Chinmay Mission
- d) Patanjali Yogpeeth

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) appointed Committee of Experts has found Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's Art of Living (AOL) foundation responsible for destroying the entire Yamuna floodplain area used by the foundation for its event during the 'World Culture Festival' earlier in March 2016. The expert panel has told the NGT that the rehabilitation of Yamuna floodplains destroyed by AOL's 'World Culture Festival' will cost Rs. 13.29 crores and take almost 10 years. (April 12, 2017)

1314) President released the book "The Flaming Tresses of Draupadi" in New Delhi on April 8, 2017. Who among the following Congress leaders is the author?

- a) Kapil Sibal
- b) Shashi Tharoor
- c) Jairam Ramesh
- d) M. Veerappa Moily*

1315) An eight volume biography of Mahatma Gandhi was relaunched by the government on April 10, 2017. Who among the following is the author?

- a) Suniti Ashok Deshpande
- b) Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar*
- c) Kashinath Trimbak Telang
- d) Purushottam Shivaram Rege

Three old and seminal publications on Mahatma Gandhi were on April 10, 2017 relaunched by the government in New Delhi in a "restored" format to mark 100 years of the Satyagraha. The publications are — Gandhi in Champaran by Dinanath Gopal Tendulkar, originally published by the Publication Division in 1957, Romain Rolland and Gandhi Correspondence (1976) and an eight-volume biography of Gandhi by Tendulkar and brought out in 1951.

1316) The government has decided to ban which foreign media group from all National Parks and Sanctuaries for portraying a negative, malicious and sensational image of India's conservation success story?

- a) BBC*
- b) National Geographic
- c) Bertelsmann
- d) Conde Nast

The government has decided to ban BBC from all National Parks and Sanctuaries for portraying a negative, malicious and sensational image of India's conservation success story. The documentary called "dark secrets" talks about the menace of poaching for the wildlife and showed flooded grassland of Kaziranga National Park in Assam. The ban has been imposed with immediate effect where BBC cannot make documentaries and film news reports in the country. The

order was given by the ministry on April 10, 2017 and has extended this ban from tiger reserves to all the national parks and sanctuaries across the nation.

1317) Which of the following is the autobiography of Bangladesh's founder Sheikh Mujibur Rahman? Its Hindi translation was released in New Delhi on April 8, 2017?

- a) Revolution's Memoirs
- b) Independence Memoirs
- c) Plain Memoirs
- d) Unfinished Memoirs*

1318) Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, known as founding father of Bangladesh, was the country's first:

- a) President*
- b) Prime Minister
- c) Army Chief
- d) Supreme Court Chief Justice

Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina on April 8, 2017 jointly released the Hindi translation of "Unfinished Memoirs", the autobiography of Bangladesh's founder and Sheikh Hasina's father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Timeline:

- Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the first President of Bangladesh from 11 April 1971 to 12 January 1972.
- Tajuddin Ahmad served as the first Prime Minister from 11 April 1971 to 12 January 1972.
- Rahman served as President for the second time from 25 January 1975 to 15 August 1975 when he was assassinated.
- Rahman served as the second Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 12 January 1972 to 24 January 1975.

1319) . Which of the following is not a member of the Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA)? It ended the ban on Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad on April 7, 2017.

- a) Jet Airways
- b) SpiceJet
- c) IndiGo
- d) Vistara*

The Federation of Indian Airlines (FIA) members on April 8, 2017 said it has restored the flying privileges to Shiv Sena MP Ravindra Gaikwad after they were satisfied with the latter's statement. The development comes a day after the Shiv Sena MP tendered an apology to the Civil Aviation Minister, expressing regret over the incident. The Shiv Sena MP had allegedly thrashed an Air India staffer with his slipper over a sitting arrangement. On March 24, a day after the incident at the Delhi airport, Air India had barred Gaikwad from flying with it. Following suit, the FIA had also imposed a ban on him. Jet Airways, SpiceJet, GoAir and IndiGo are part of the grouping. When FIA had imposed a flying ban on Gaikwad, two non-member carriers -- Vistara and Air Asia -- had said they were with the industry on the issue.

1320) Girish Chandra Saxena, who died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90, headed of which of the following in 1980s?

- a) Central Bureau of Investigation
- b) National Investigation Agency
- c) Research & Analysis Wing*
- d) Enforcement Directorate

1321) Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90. He had served as Advisor to who among the following Prime Ministers?

- a) H. D. Deve Gowda
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Rajiv Gandhi*
- d) Chandrashekhar

1322) . Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90. Which civilian honour was conferred on him?

- a) Padma Shri
- b) Padma Bhushan*
- c) Padma Vibhushan

d) Bharat Ratna

1323) Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017 at the age of 90. He served as Governor of which of the following border states twice?

- a) Rajasthan
- b) Assam
- c) Punjab
- d) Jammu & Kashmir*

1324) All 329 on board Vancouver–Delhi Air India flight were killed in a bombing over Atlantic Ocean. The worst terrorist attack in Indian aviation history happened in which year?

- a) 1970
- b) 1975
- c) 1980
- d) 1985*

Former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Girish Chandra Saxena died on April 14, 2017. He was 90. Saxena had served as the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir during the worst years of insurgency and as chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) through the troubled years that began with the storming of the Golden Temple in 1984.

Born in 1928, Saxena grew up in Agra and studied at the Government College, Allahabad, and Queen's Intermediate College before going on to earn a master's degree in history from the University of Allahabad in 1946.

He was among the first generation of post-Independence IPS officers and served in several Uttar Pradesh districts before joining RAW in 1969. Formed the previous year as a result of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's dissatisfaction with the Intelligence Bureau's conduct of external intelligence in the lead-up to the 1962 China-India war, RAW's early recruits were handpicked by the legendary spymaster RN Kao.

Under Saxena, RAW is known to have supplied Canadian police with the warning of a threat to Air India jets by Khalistani extremists who were plotting to place "time-delay devices in the aircraft or registered baggage". An Air India flight operating on the Vancouver–Toronto–Montreal–London–Delhi route was destroyed by a bomb at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 m) on June 23, 1985. The Boeing 747-237B serving the flight was known as "Emperor Kanishka". It crashed into the Atlantic Ocean while in Irish airspace. It was the first bombing of a 747 jumbo jet. A total of 329 people were killed, including 268 Canadian citizens, 27 British citizens and 24 Indian citizens.

Along with his successors, S E Joshi and A K Verma, Saxena was among the RAW chiefs who played a key role in the operations of CIT-X, a covert-action unit which acted against Pakistan's backing of Khalistani terrorists by staging retaliatory actions in Pakistan.

Following his retirement in 1986, he served as advisor to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi until 1988.

In May 1990, when insurgency and street violence led to the collapse of the political system and administration in Jammu and Kashmir, Saxena was appointed the Governor there. He served for three years, replacing the controversial Jagmohan, and is credited with having played a key role in restoring a modicum of order in the functioning of the state apparatus.

Saxena served again as Jammu and Kashmir Governor in 1998, this time overseeing a political government. During this tenure, he is said to have played a key role in enhancing the capacity of the police, seeing it as critical to effectively combating terrorism.

In May 2000, Saxena was appointed to head a task force on intelligence service reform, along with former Foreign Secretary K Raghunath, former Intelligence Bureau chief M.K. Narayanan, former Special Secretary, Home, P.P. Shrivastava, former RAW Additional Secretary B. Raman, and R. Narasimha of the National Institute of Advanced Studies. The report called on India's intelligence establishment to take "an honest and in-depth stock of its present intelligence effort and capabilities" and called for wide-ranging enhancement of capacities and infrastructure. Only part of the report has been implemented even today.

1325) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated the trial run of second Maitree Express train through a video link from New Delhi on April 8, 2017. Which of the following cities is the starting point of its journey in Bangladesh that ends in Kolkata?

- a) Chittagong
- b) Khulna*
- c) Narayanganj
- d) Sylhet

Nine years after the inauguration of the Maitree (friendship) Express passenger train service between Kolkata and Dhaka, the first Khulna-Kolkata train chugged in to the Petrapole Railway station on the India-Bangladesh border on April 8, 2017. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his visiting Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, inaugurated the trial run through a video link from New Delhi. The Maitree Express II set off from Khulna at 8.15 a.m. and entered India through Benapole from the Bangladesh side. The 176-km journey that ends in Kolkata includes 96 km on the Bangladesh side. Regular passenger train services are expected to begin from July. The passenger train service between Dhaka and Kolkata Maitree Express - was launched on April 14, 2008.

1326) Which of the following states does not share border with Bangladesh?

- a) Assam
- b) West Bengal
- c) Tripura
- d) Manipur*

Bangladesh and India share a 4,096-kilometer-long international border, the fifth-longest land border in the world, including 262 km in Assam, 856 km in Tripura, 180 km in Mizoram, 443 km in Meghalaya, and 2,217 km in West Bengal.

1327) BIFPCL is a 50:50 joint venture between India's NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), 'F' in BIFPL stands for:

- a) Fair
- b) Federal
- c) Freedom
- d) Friendship*

PSU NTPC's joint venture BIFPCL (Bangladesh India Friendship Power Company Ltd.) on April 10, 2017 tied up funds to the tune of \$1.6 billion to set up 1,320 mw Maitree Super Thermal Power Project in Bangladesh. NTPC said in a BSE filing on April 11, 2017. BIFPCL is a 50:50 joint venture company between NTPC and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for setting up this coal-fired thermal power plant.

1328) A Pakistan military court sentenced Kulbhushan Jadhav to death in April 2017. He had served in which of the following in India?

- a) BSF
- b) Army
- c) Navy*
- d) Air Force

A Pakistan military court has sentenced Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav to death after he was convicted of "espionage and sabotage activities", prompting New Delhi to warn Islamabad that it is a case of "premeditated murder". The award of the death sentence to the 46-year-old former naval officer at a court-martial was confirmed by Pakistan's army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on April 10, 2017 after the Field General Court Martial (FGCM) found him guilty of "all the charges". India had acknowledged that Jadhav had served with the navy but denied that he has any connection with the government.

1329) India was 31st among 32 countries ranked in the health system transparency index released in April 2017. The index is a creation of which of the following?

- a) EY
- b) IMF
- c) WHO

d) KPMG*

India has been placed second from bottom in a health system transparency index, released by KPMG on April 13, 2017, which also highlighted that the country is still “woefully” short in terms of healthcare infrastructure. Among 32 countries analysed in the report, India was only better than China. Four Nordic nations - Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway - stood at the top of the transparency rankings.

1330) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Sir Michael Fallon of United Kingdom who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley*
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Defence ministers and their respective delegations from the United Kingdom and India on April 13, 2017 agreed that both nations faced evolving threats and challenges in the 21st century, and agreed to maintain their close interaction. UK Secretary of State for Defence Sir Michael Fallon and his Indian counterpart Arun Jaitley issued a joint statement after their talks in New Delhi. The ministers agreed to further strengthen their naval and maritime interactions, including enhanced Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) through the bilateral technical agreement to exchange information to track terrorist and pirate vessels, a key deliverable of the DISP (Defence and International Security Partnership).

1331) Which of the following has decided to develop Advanced Hawk jet trainer jointly with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)?

- a) Boeing
- b) Dassault
- c) BAE Systems*
- d) Bombardier

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on April 13, 2017 welcomed the UK's interest in manufacturing in India as evidenced through recent announcements including the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Bharat Dynamics Ltd. and Thales UK on technology transfer opportunities for missile systems and efforts to develop an Advanced Hawk jet trainer jointly by the BAE Systems and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

1332) 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and which of the following was observed on April 13, 2017?

- a) United States
- b) France
- c) China
- d) Russia*

Russian President Vladimir Putin on April 13, 2017 greeted President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the occasion of 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Russia. The then USSR established diplomatic relations with India on April 13, 1947, which was yet to gain independence then.

1333) Which of the following has set up a Nanobiotechnology Centre in Gurgaon in tie up with Deakin University of Australia?

- a) Tata Institute of Social Sciences
- b) Centre for Science and Environment
- c) The Energy and Resources Institute*
- d) Indian Agricultural Research Institute

Australia's Education and Training Minister Simon Birmingham awarded a three-year tuition fee waiver scholarship to 11 Indian students worth AUD 1.1 million, on April 11, 2017, while leading a high-level delegation visit to the TERI-Deakin Nanobiotechnology Centre (TDNBC) in Gurgaon. The TERI Deakin Nanobiotechnology Centre was inaugurated by the Indian and Australian Prime Ministers – Narendra Modi and Malcolm Turnbull – on April 10, 2017.

1334) Government's Indian Academy of Highway Engineers has tied up with which of the following in April 2017 to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS)?

- a) Sydney University
- b) Victoria University
- c) Melbourne University
- d) University of New South Wales*

1335) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Australia? He came in an official visit to India in April 2017.

- a) Malcolm Turnbull*
- b) Julia Gillard
- c) John Howard
- d) Kevin Rudd

In line with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highway's vision to influence and adopt global innovation into the transportation sector, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Ministry through the Indian Academy of Highway Engineers and University of New South Wales (UNSW) on April 10, 2017 to set up a Centre for Advanced Transportation Technology and Systems (CATTS).

1336) India-Australia _____ Partnership (ISAP) was launched during the visit of Australian Prime Minister to India in April 2017.

- a) Steel
- b) Sport*
- c) Science
- d) Security

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on April 12, 2017 said that Victoria University and University of Canberra will assist India to establish a 'National Sports University' on the lines of the Australian Institute of Sport. The assurance by Turnbull came at the launch of the India-Australia Sport Partnership (IASP) jointly with Indian Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Vijay Goel in the presence of cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar in Mumbai.

1337) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Alain Vidalies of France who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Suresh Prabhu*

The French Minister of State for Transport, Marine Affairs and Fisheries Alain Vidalies signed an agreement with Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on April 13, 2017 in New Delhi for collaboration in areas such as high-speed and semi-high speed rail, modernisation of current operations and infrastructure, station renovation and operations, suburban trains and safety systems, operations and security, said an official release.

1338) . Which of the following hosted the 24th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change on April 10-11, 2017?

- a) Brasilia
- b) Beijing*
- c) Pretoria
- d) Moscow

The 24th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in Beijing, China on 10 and 11 April 2017. BASIC countries comprising Brazil, South Africa, India and China said that the global effort against climate change is an irreversible process that cannot be postponed and welcomed the early entry into force of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

1339) Which of the following was the victim of Islamic State group's bombings in Egypt that killed at least 45 people on April 9, 2017?

- a) Coptic Church*

- b) Anglican Church
- c) Catholic Church
- d) The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Egypt declared a three-month state of emergency and ordered the military special forces to protect key infrastructure after the Islamic State group triggered powerful bombs at two minority Coptic Christian churches, killing at least 45 people on April 9, 2017. The deadliest attacks on Coptic Christians in recent times on Palm Sunday, forced President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi to make a brief appearance on television, when he announced the state of emergency for three months. The Islamic State group claimed the bombings.

1340) The first-ever freight train from Britain to China started its 12,000 km long journey on April 10, 2017 along a modern-day "Silk Road" trade route. Which is the only other Asian country on its route?

- a) Kazakhstan*
- b) Kyrgyzstan
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Turkmenistan

The first-ever freight train from Britain to China started its mammoth journey from Stanford-Le-Hope (UK) on April 10, 2017 along a modern-day "Silk Road" trade route. The 32-container train, around 600 metres long, left the London Gateway container port laden with cargo, bound for Yiwu on the east coast of China. The train will cover 12,000-kilometre in its 18-day journey. It will go through the Channel Tunnel before travelling across France, Belgium, Germany, Poland, Belarus, Russia and Kazakhstan before heading into China.

The first train from China to Britain arrived on January 18, 2017, filled with clothes and other retail goods, and the April 10, 2017 departure was the first journey in the other direction. The rail route is cheaper than air freight and faster than sea freight, offering logistics companies a new middle option.

1341) A Gurdwara in which of the following places entered the Guinness Book of Records for hosting breakfast for people of 101 nationalities on April 13, 2017?

- a) Vancouver
- b) Doha
- c) Dubai*
- d) Abu Dhabi

On the auspicious day of Baisakhi, the Gurdwara in Dubai on April 13, 2017 entered the Guinness Book of Records for hosting Breakfast for people of 101 nationalities. Officially called "Breakfast for Diversity", the occasion exemplified the spirit of charity, religious and cultural tolerance amongst people of various nationalities and faith.

1342) International Day of Human Space Flight was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 12*
- b) April 13
- c) April 14
- d) April 15

The United Nations on April 12, 2017 commemorated the International Day of Human Space Flight to celebrate the 56th anniversary of the first human space flight, which ushered in the beginning of the space era for mankind. The International Day commemorates the historic space flight that Yuri Gagarin, a Soviet citizen, took on 12 April, 1961, and which opened the way for space exploration for the benefit of all of Earth's inhabitants.

1343) The United Nations General Assembly has designated ____ as International Day for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises.

- a) April 27
- b) May 27
- c) June 27*
- d) July 27

Recognizing the importance of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises in achieving the new global development goals, the United Nations General Assembly on April 6, 2017 designated 27 June as International Day for those actors. At least 35 ISIS terrorists killed in US bombing in Afghanistan

1344) . As many as 35 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Afghanistan in a US attack on their tunnel and cave network with 21,600-pound GPS-guided bomb on April 14, 2017. MOAB, which is commonly known as the Mother of All Bombs, refers to which of the following?

- a) Molten Ordnance Air Blast
- b) Modern Ordnance Air Blast
- c) Managed Ordnance Air Blast
- d) Massive Ordnance Air Blast*

1345) As many as 35 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Afghanistan in a US attack on their tunnel and cave network with the largest non-nuclear bomb on April 14, 2017. Which province?

- a) Punjshir
- b) Ghazni
- c) Bamiyan
- d) Nangarhar*

As many as 35 Islamic State terrorists were killed in Afghanistan after the United States military attacked their tunnel and cave network with a GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB) bomb on April 14, 2017. Massive Ordnance Air Blast is commonly known as the Mother of All Bombs and is considered as the largest non-nuclear bomb. The 21,600-pound munition was dropped on a tunnel and cave network managed by the terrorists in Nangarhar province.

1346) Which of the following is the first-ever military exercise between Nepal and China that was organised in April 2017?

- a) Lhotse Friendship-2017
- b) Manaslu Friendship-2017
- c) Sagarmatha Friendship-2017*
- d) Kangchenjunga Friendship-2017

Nepal and China will hold the first-ever joint military exercise from April 16 with a special focus on combating terror and disaster management, the Nepal Army announced in Kathmandu on April 13, 2017. The 10-day-long military drill will conclude on April 25 and is named 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2017'. Sagarmatha is the Nepali name of Mt Everest.

1347) Who among the following was named a UN Messenger of Peace by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on April 8, 2017?

- a) Shakira
- b) Angelina Jolie
- c) Sakena Yacoobi
- d) Malala Yousafzai*

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on April 8, 2017 named Pakistan's Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai a UN Messenger of Peace, the highest honour bestowed by his office on a global citizen.

1348) World Homeopathy Day was observed on _____.

- a) April 9
- b) April 10*
- c) April 11
- d) April 12

World Homeopathy Day was observed on April 10, 2017 to mark the birth anniversary of the founder and father of Homeopathy Dr. Friedrich Samuel Hahnemann (born 1755, Germany).

1349) The International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda was observed on:

- a) April 7*
- b) April 9

- c) April 11
- d) April 13

1350) Which of the following tribes along with Hutus was involved in the Genocide in Rwanda in 1994?

- a) Asante
- b) Tutsi*
- c) Yoruba
- d) Igbo

The International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda was observed at the United Nations on April 7, 2017. The UN estimates that in 1994 more than 800,000 people were systematically murdered throughout Rwanda. The vast majority were Tutsi, but moderate Hutus, Twa and others were also targeted. The genocide was sparked when a plane carrying ex-Rwandan president Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down on April 6, 1994, killing all on board. Rwandan Hutus blamed ethnic Tutsis for the attack and sought immediate revenge.

1351) Which of the following hosted the first ever meeting of the G20 Digital Ministers on 6-7 April, 2017, entitled 'Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future'?

- a) Frankfurt
- b) Hamburg
- c) Nuremberg
- d) Dusseldorf*

As part of its G20 Presidency, Germany hosted the first ever meeting of the G20 Digital Ministers on 6-7 April, 2017 in Dusseldorf, entitled 'Digitalisation: Policies for a Digital Future'.

1352) Who among the following was appointed as the new Administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in April 2017?

- a) Francis Gurry
- b) Taleb Rifai
- c) Don Brash
- d) Achim Steiner*

UN chief Antonio Guterres on April 12, 2017 named Germany's Achim Steiner as the new administrator of the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Steiner, who previously served at the UN Environment Programme, was selected to succeed Helen Clark, a former New Zealand PM, who has steered the UNDP since 2009. Headquartered in New York City, the UNDP seeks to reduce poverty, improve social development and encourage women's empowerment.

1353) Georgy Grechko has died at age 85 in Moscow on April 8, 2017. He was well-known:

- a) Novelist
- b) Cosmonaut*
- d) Physicist
- e) Chemist

Russian space agency Roscosmos says Soviet-era cosmonaut Georgy Grechko has died at age 85 in Moscow on April 8, 2017. Grechko made three trips into space between 1975 and 1985, spending a total of 134 days off the Earth. His longest was a stay of more than three months aboard the Salyut-6 space station in 1977-78. Grechko later became a cosmonaut instructor and joined the faculty at the Russian Academy of Sciences' institute of atmospheric physics.

1354) Which of the following is the Research Vessel (RV) operated by CSIR's National Institute of Oceanography (NIO)?

- a) Sindhu Sameeksha
- b) Sindhu Sadhana*
- c) Sindhu Spandan
- d) Sindhu Samrat

Researchers at the Dona Paula based CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) have developed a robotic platform that can be stationed at any depth from 0 to 200 metres to track the oceanic processes. Scientists at Marine

Instrumentation Group of CSIR-NIO have developed a robotic platform, Seabed Resident Event Profiler (SREP) that can be stationed at any water depth down to 200 meters along the Indian coast. This was disclosed in a statement by NIO in Panaji on April 14, 2017. During the recent voyage of RV Sindhu Sadhana, the latest state of the art research vessel of institute, SREP was tested along the coast.

1355) NASA's Cassini mission revealed in April 2017 that Enceladus has a form of chemical energy that can sustain life. Enceladus is the moon of:

- a) Mercury
- b) Venus
- c) Saturn*
- d) Mars

Saturn's icy moon Enceladus has a form of chemical energy that life can feed on, researchers with NASA's Cassini mission to Saturn have revealed. "Confirmation that the chemical energy for life exists within the ocean of a small moon of Saturn is an important milestone in our search for habitable worlds beyond Earth," said the Cassini project scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California.

1356) The Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Award was announced for which of the following in Hindi by the government in April 2017?

- a) Short story
- b) Play
- c) Novel
- d) News*

Central Hindi Institute Director, Agra on April 11, 2017 announced the names of 26 writers from different categories for the prestigious Hindi Sevi Samman Awards. The awardees will receive Rs 5 lakh each, a citation and a shawl from President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in May. The Ganesh Shankar Vidhyarthi Award for Hindi journalism will be awarded to Rahul Dev and Baldev Bhai Sharma.

1357) Which of the following announced the winners of the annual Pulitzer Prizes in April 2017?

- a) Stanford University
- b) Princeton University
- c) Harvard University
- d) Columbia University*

1358) Which of the following won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in April 2017?

- a) Get in Trouble: Stories by Kelly Link
- b) Maud's Line by Margaret Verble
- c) Imagine Me Gone by Adam Haslett
- d) The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead*

The 2017 Pulitzer Prizes were awarded by the Pulitzer Prize Board for work during the 2016 calendar year. Prize winners and nominated finalists were announced on April 10, 2017. The Pulitzer Prize is an award for achievements in newspaper, magazine and online journalism, literature, and musical composition in the United States. It was established in 1917 by provisions in the will of American (Hungarian-born) Joseph Pulitzer who had made his fortune as a newspaper publisher, and is administered by Columbia University in New York City. Prizes are awarded yearly in twenty-one categories. The 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction was won by Colson Whitehead for 'The Underground Railroad'.

1359) Professor Fujii Takeshi (Japan) and Professor Gabriela Nik Ilieva (New York) will be honoured by the President of India in May for their efforts in promoting which language?

- a) Hindi*
- b) Tamil
- c) Sanskrit
- d) Gujarati

Central Hindi Institute Director, Agra on April 11, 2017 announced the names of 26 writers from different categories for the prestigious Hindi Sevi Samman Awards. The awardees will receive Rs 5 lakh each, a citation and a shawl from

President Pranab Mukherjee at a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in May. Professor S. Shesharatnam (Andhra Pradesh), M. Govind Rajan (Tamil Nadu), Harmahendra Singh Bedi (Punjab) and H. Subadani Devi (Manipur) have been selected from non-Hindi speaking states for their contribution to the Hindi language. Foreign Hindi writers selected for the award are Professor Fujii Takeshi (Japan) and Professor Gabriela Nik Ilieva (New York) while the Non-Resident Indians (NRI) who will get the awards are Pushpita Avasthi (Netherlands) and Padmesh Gupta (London). The Union Human Resource Development Ministry instituted the Hindi Sevi Samman in 1989. More than a hundred Hindi writers have received the prestigious awards till now.

1360) The eighth Public Sector Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 11*
- b) April 12
- c) April 13
- d) April 14

1361) . SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises) Awards were given to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) in April 2017. Who among the following is the Director General of SCOPE?

- a) Partha Ray
- b) Anant Geete
- c) Ved Prakash
- d) UD Choubey*

The eighth Public Sector Day was marked on April 11, 2017 with the presentation of SCOPE (Standing Conference of Public Enterprises) Awards to Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) by the President in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Award function was organized jointly by SCOPE and Department of Public Enterprises (DPE). Anant G. Geete is the Union Minister of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Babul Supriyo is the Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Chairman of SCOPE is Ved Prakash while Dr. UD Choubey is the Director General.

1362) Who among the following took charge as whole-time Member in Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) in April 2017?

- a) Ravindra Puranik
- b) Pradeep Subramanian
- c) Makrand Saxena
- d) Mukulita Vijayawargiya*

Mukulita Vijayawargiya took charge as Whole Time Member, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India in New Delhi on April 13, 2017. Dr. (Ms.) Vijayawargiya will look after Administrative Law Wing. She will also look after Information Technology, Limited Insolvency Examination, National Insolvency Examination, Finance and Accounts and Communication.

1363) BHIM-Aadhaar, the merchant interface of the BHIM, was launched by the PM on April 14, 2017. The customer having bank account and Aadhaar requires which of the following for payment?

- a) Smart phone
- b) Feature phone
- c) Debit card
- d) None of the above*

1364) Consider the following on the referral bonus scheme incentive scheme for BHIM launched by the PM on April 14, 2017:

- I. The existing user who refers BHIM to a new user would get a cash bonus credited directly to his account
- II. The new user who adopts BHIM would get a cash bonus credited directly to his account
- III. The merchant who is involved in first transaction for new user of BHIM would get a cash bonus credited directly to his account

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II and III only

d) I and III only

1365) Who among the following won the Rs.1 crore first prize for consumers under the Lucky Grahak Yojana in April 2017?

- a) Hardik Kumar
- b) Bharat Singh
- c) Ragini Rajendra Uttekar
- d) Shradha Mohan Mengshette*

1366) Who among the following won the Rs.50 lakh first prize for merchants under the DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana in April 2017?

- a) Hardik Kumar
- b) Bharat Singh
- c) Ragini Rajendra Uttekar
- d) Anand Ananthapadmanabhan*

Enroute to the digital payments gaining the proportions of a mass movement, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a series of initiatives on April 14, 2017 in Nagpur.

BHIM-Aadhaar, the merchant interface of the BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) App, will pave the way for making digital payments by using the Aadhaar platform. The transaction will require customer's fingerprint for authentication. 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. Any citizen without access to smart phones, internet, debit or credit cards will be able to transact digitally through the BHIM Aadhaar platform.

The Prime Minister also launched two new incentive schemes for the BHIM – Cash back and Referral bonus – with an outlay of Rs. 495 crore for a period of six months. Under the Referral bonus scheme both the existing user who refers BHIM and the new user who adopts BHIM would get a cash bonus credited directly to their account. Under the Cashback scheme the merchants will get a cash back on every transaction using BHIM. Both schemes are to be administered by MEITY and implemented by NPCI.

The initial two incentives schemes viz., Lucky Grahak Yojana and DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana, came to an end after a 100-day information, education and communication campaign led by NITI Aayog to make digital payments a mass movement in India. **Lucky Grahak Yojana:** 20 year-old Shradha Mohan Mengshette, a second year student of Electrical Engineering from Latur district in Maharashtra, emerged as the winner of Rs.1 crore mega draw for consumers. **Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana:** The first prize of Rs. 50 lakh, under the DigiDhan Vyapar Yojana category for merchants, was won by Anand Ananthapadmanabhan for accepting a payment of Rs.300 at GRT Jewellers in Tambaram, Tamil Nadu.

In order to achieve the target of 2500 crore digital transactions during the current financial year, the Prime Minister also announced 86 townships spread all over India as 'less-cash townships'.

1367) Stock exchange BSE has directed all entities listed with it to make filings of financial results in XBRL mode in April 2017. XBRL stands for which of the following?

- a) Excellent Business Response Language
- b) Extensible Business Reporting Language*
- c) External Business Recording Language
- d) Exterior Business Response Language

Stock exchange BSE has directed all entities listed with it to make filings of financial results in XBRL mode. XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language) is an electronic format for communication of business and financial data. It is a computer readable language having its own grammar and framework of rules. "It has been decided that with effect from April 1, 2017 onwards, all listed entities with BSE, would be required to make their filings in respect of financial results...In XBRL mode within 24 hours of submission of results in PDF mode," the exchange said in a release on April 12, 2017.

1368) The Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has drawn up GRAF to for Public Sector Banks to improve corporate governance and face competition from the private sector. 'R' in GRAF stands for:

- a) Risk
- b) Reform
- c) Reward*
- d) Resolution

To prime public sector banks (PSBs) to hold their own against nifty private sector rivals and also prepare them for possible mergers in the future, the Bank Boards Bureau (BBB) has drawn up an elaborate Governance, Reward and Accountability Framework (GRAF).

The GRAF seeks to ensure that corporate governance at PSBs is in keeping with various pieces of legislation, including the Companies Act, 2013, Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and Securities and Exchange Board of India (listing obligations and disclosure requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Further, the framework abides by the guidelines of the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision on corporate governance principles for banks. Among others, the principles deal with the board's overall responsibilities, board qualifications and composition, senior management, risk management function, compliance, internal audit and compensation.

The BBB was set up in 2016 to make recommendations for selection of the chiefs of PSBs and financial institutions and help them develop strategies and capital-raising plans.

The Bureau has evolved a code of conduct and ethics that can be enforced across all PSBs to ensure the right behaviour.

It has also come up with compensation reforms so that best practices can be introduced in PSBs on the lines already prevalent in Central Public Sector Enterprises.

The BBB has evolved a relative performance rating system to assess the performance of PSBs, its directors and employees; and performance evaluation system based on which decision-making for the extension/termination of a whole-time director can be undertaken objectively.

Later in the fiscal, the Bureau will advise the government on evolving training and development programmes for management personnel in PSBs and help banks develop a leadership succession plan.

The BBB's GRAF move comes in the context of PSBs facing challenges on various fronts, including competition from new entrants, aggressive private banks and NBFCs eating into their market share on the loans front, and jump in bad loans. (April 14, 2017)

1369) CBDT has tied up with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to issue PAN and TAN for new companies in 1 day. Which of the following is not expanded correctly?

- a) PAN: Permanent Account Number
- b) TAN: Tax Deduction Account Number
- c) Col: Certificate of Incorporation
- d) None of the above*

In order to improve the Ease of Doing Business for newly incorporated corporates, CBDT has tied up with Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) to issue Permanent Account Number (PAN) and Tax Deduction Account Number (TAN) in 1 day. Applicant companies submit a common application form on MCA portal and once the data of incorporation is sent to CBDT by MCA, the PAN and TAN are issued immediately without any further intervention of the applicant.

The Certificate of Incorporation (COI) of newly incorporated companies includes the PAN in addition to the Corporate Identity Number (CIN). TAN is also allotted simultaneously and communicated to the Company.

Tax Deduction Account Number or Tax Collection Account Number is a 10-digit alphanumeric number issued by the Income-tax Department (referred as TAN). TAN is to be obtained by all persons who are responsible for deducting tax at source (TDS) or who are required to collect tax at source (TCS). (April 11, 2017)

- 1370)** The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 for implementation by States/UTs in April. This has been done in partnership with which of the following?
- WEF
 - OECD
 - WTO
 - World Bank*

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with the World Bank Group, released the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) 2017 for implementation by States/UTs on April 13, 2017. The BRAP includes 405 recommendations for reforms on regulatory processes, policies, practices and procedures spread across 12 reform areas.

- 1371)** The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Committee has recommended keeping budgetary deficit at _____ of GDP in three years to March 2020.
- 2.8%
 - 3%*
 - 3.2%
 - 3.4%

A high-level FRBM panel has recommended keeping budgetary deficit at 3 per cent of GDP in three years to March 2020 and setting up a new council to determine annual targets. Calling for more focus on debt-to-GDP ratio, its recommendation for the fiscal deficit for the current fiscal is lower than 3.2 per cent that Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has set for himself in the Budget for 2017-18. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) committee is headed by former revenue secretary N K Singh. The report was made public on April 12, 2017.

- 1372)** Ministry of Commerce & Industry released data on India's Foreign Trade (Merchandise) on April 13, 2017. How much were India's Imports in 2016-17?
- USD 300.36 billion
 - USD 320.36 billion
 - USD 340.36 billion
 - USD 380.36 billion*

- 1373)** Ministry of Commerce & Industry released data on India's Foreign Trade (Merchandise) on April 13, 2017. How much were India's Exports in 2016-17?
- USD 214.64 billion
 - USD 234.64 billion
 - USD 254.64 billion
 - USD 274.64 billion*

- 1374)** India's Foreign Trade (Merchandise) data was released by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on April 13, 2017. Which of the following grew (in dollar terms) in 2016-17?
- Exports*
 - Imports
 - Trade Deficit
 - All the above

Data on India's merchandise trade for the financial year 2016-17 was released by the Commerce & Industry Ministry on April 13, 2017.

EXPORTS: Cumulative value of exports for the period April-March 2016-17 was US\$ 274645.10 million (Rs. 1841314.39 crore) as against US\$ 262290.11 million (Rs. 1716377.99 crore) registering a positive growth of 4.71 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 7.28 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

IMPORTS: Cumulative value of imports for the period April-March 2016-17 was US\$ 380367.65 million (Rs. 2550926.19 crore) as against US\$ 381006.64 million (Rs. 2490298.03 crore) registering a negative growth of 0.17 per cent in Dollar terms and positive growth of 2.43 per cent in Rupee terms over the same period last year.

TRADE DEFICIT: The trade deficit for April-March, 2016-17 was estimated at US\$ 105722.55 million which was 10.95% lower than the deficit of US\$ 118716.53 million during April-March, 2015-16.

1375) What was the change in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in February 2017?

- a) +1.2%
- b) +1%
- c) +0.8%
- d) -1.2%*

Industrial output contracted by 1.2 per cent in February 2017. The industrial output, according to data released on April 12, 2017, slipped to a 4-month low contracting by 1.2 per cent in February because of decline in the manufacturing sector and lower demand for capital as well as consumer goods. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) had registered a growth of 1.99 per cent in February 2016.

1376) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for March 2017?

- a) 2.81%
- b) 3.81%*
- c) 4.81%
- d) 5.81%
- e) 6.81%

Consumer Price Index (CPI), or retail inflation, during March 2017 rose month-on-month at 3.81 per cent, as compared to 3.65 per cent in February, official data showed on April 12, 2017. The Central Statistics Office data revealed that the annual retail inflation for rural India was 3.75 per cent while that for the urban centres was 3.88 per cent. The government target is four per cent plus-or-minus two percentage points for the next five years.

1377) The government has selected five cities – Puducherry, Vizag, Udaipur, Jamshedpur and Chandigarh – where petrol and diesel prices will be changed once every _____ from May 1.

- a) Day*
- b) Two days
- c) Three days
- d) Week

Petrol and Diesel prices will change every day in sync with international rates in five select cities from 1st May. A pilot for daily revision of petrol and diesel price will be first implemented in Puducherry, Vizag, Udaipur, Jamshedpur and Chandigarh. Indian Oil Corp-IOC chairman B. Ashok said on April 12, 2017 that state-owned fuel retailers IOC, BPCL and HPCL will launch it on pilot basis and gradually extend it to all over the country. State fuel retailers currently revise rates on 1st and 16th of every month based on average international price of the fuel in the preceding fortnight and currency exchange rate.

1378) The government on April 9, 2017 launched over 350 projects to build about two lakh houses with a private sector investment of Rs 38,000 crore. C in CREDAI refers to:

- a) Corporate
- b) Community
- c) Consortium
- d) Confederation*

The government on April 9, 2017 launched over 350 projects to build about two lakh houses with a private sector investment of Rs 38,000 crore, a first major initiative of corporates in the Centre's affordable housing scheme. Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA) Minister M Venkaiah Naidu launched the housing projects at a function at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) members will invest over Rs 38,000 crore to build these houses.

1379) For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters in March 2017. Which of the following was ranked first?

- a) Kandla
- b) Haldia*

- c) Paradip
- d) Chennai

For the first time ever, the twelve major ports under the Ministry of Shipping have been ranked on sanitation parameters, based on the efforts undertaken by them to counter waste generating sources with respect to port operation, office area, township area and the response to incoming ships.

The exercise was undertaken during the 'Swachhta Pakhwada' observed from the 16th to 31st of March 2017. Quality Council of India (QCI) was tasked to assess the Swachhta activities undertaken by all the Ports. While Haldia and Vizag ports bagged the first and second ranks respectively, almost all ports have achieved the benchmark for cleanliness or are well above it. This was disclosed in a press note issued by the Ministry of Shipping on April 11, 2017.

The 12 Major Ports: Kolkata & Haldia, Mumbai, Chennai, Kochi, Kandla, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, V O Chidambaranar (formerly Tuticorin), New Mangalore, Mormugao, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and Ennore.

1380) Who among the following former Chief Justices of India is known for his report on Centre-State relations?

- a) J. S. Verma
- b) M. M. Punchhi*
- c) A. S. Anand
- d) A.M. Ahmadi

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh chaired the 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council in New Delhi on April 9, 2017. The Standing Committee examined in detail various recommendations of the Punchhi Commission. The Government of India constituted a Commission on Centre-State Relations under the chairmanship of Justice Madan Mohan Punchhi, former Chief Justice of India on 27th April 2007 to look into the new issues of Centre-State relations keeping in view the changes that have taken place in the polity and economy of India since the Sarkaria Commission had last looked at the issue of Centre-State relations over two decades ago.

1381) The government will soon launch an umbrella programme 'SAMPADA' for which of the following sectors?

- a) Handicrafts
- b) Garments
- c) Information Technology
- d) Food Processing*

The government will soon launch an umbrella programme 'SAMPADA' for food processing sector with Rs 6,000 crore outlay to integrate current and new schemes aimed at reducing food wastage and doubling farmers' income. Announcing this on April 11, 2017, Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal said her ministry would soon approach the Cabinet for the approval of 'Scheme for Agro-Marine Produce Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters (SAMPADA).'

1382) Which mobile application was launched by Power Minister Piyush Goyal on April 11, 2017 to enable consumers to access real-time information on power supply from electricity distribution companies (discoms)?

- a) Urja Saathi
- b) Urja Mitra*
- c) Urja Bandhu
- d) Urja Dost

Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal on April 11, 2017 launched the 'Urja Mitra' mobile application that allows consumers across India to exchange real-time information with electricity distribution companies (discoms) on power supply. "Urja Mitra provides a central platform in the form of web portal as well as mobile app for state power distribution utilities to disseminate information on outages to urban and rural consumers through SMSs, emails or push notifications," he said. Through this app, consumer can view outages across the country, as well as lodge complaints on outages in their area. The Power Ministry earlier launched a related application -- Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan (Urja) -- to monitor service delivery to consumers in towns across the country.

1383) Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were appointed as Members in which of the following in April 2017?

- a) Railway Board
- b) CIC
- c) NITI Aayog
- d) CBDT*

Senior bureaucrats Ajit Kumar Srivastava and Shabri Bhattasali were on April 10, 2017 appointed members of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex policy making body of the Income Tax department.

36. Ravi Venkatesan was appointed Co-Chairman at which of the following in April 2017?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys*
- c) HCL
- d) TCS

Former Microsoft India Chairman Ravi Venkatesan was on April 13, 2017 appointed as Co-Chairman of Infosys. R. Seshasayee is the other Co-Chairman.

1384) Who among the following actors bought the 'Kingfisher Villa' in Goa, owned by defaulter Vijay Mallya, in an auction conducted by a group of banks led by SBI in April 2017?

- a) Ravi Teja
- b) Prakash Raj
- c) Sachin Joshi*
- d) Prabhas Raju

A luxurious beach front villa in Goa owned by absconding liquor baron Vijay Mallya has been sold to Bollywood and South Indian film actor Sachin Joshi, by a group of banks led by State Bank of India on April 8, 2017. The property, known as the 'Kingfisher Villa', is situated on the picturesque Candolim Beach.

1385) Which of the following has decided to set up a joint venture in India with Toshiba and Denso to produce lithium-ion batteries for automobiles?

- a) Nissan
- b) Suzuki*
- c) Honda
- d) Toyota

Suzuki Motor Corp, Toshiba Corp and Denso Corp on April 14, 2017 said they would form a joint venture to produce lithium-ion batteries for automobiles in India, where auto emission regulations are tightening to deal with pollution problems.

1386) Which of the following inaugurated its Cyber Range Lab in Gurugram on April 12, 2017? The lab aims to train security staff to build the skills necessary to combat new-age threats.

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Cisco*

Cisco India on April 12, 2017 inaugurated its Cyber Range Lab in Gurugram that aims to train security staff to build the skills necessary to combat new-age threats. As the demand for cyber security experts grows manifold than any other IT job, cyber security workforce has become a priority for many organisations. Cyber Range Lab will immerse people in simulated real-world cyber-attacks to train them on how to properly prepare for, respond to and manage a broad variety of threats.

1387) . Who among the following has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with 6.9 million followers in April 2017?

- a) Xi Jinping
- b) Narendra Modi*
- c) Vladimir Putin
- d) Angela Merkel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as the most followed world leader on photo-sharing app Instagram with a whopping 6.9 million followers, surpassing US President Donald Trump. Trump, who occupies the second spot, has 6.3 million followers while Pope Francis is in third place with 3.7 million followers, ahead of the White House account with 3.4 million followers. The study was undertaken by public relations firm Burson-Marsteller. (April 12, 2017)

1388) Malala Yousafzai became only the sixth person to receive honorary citizenship of which of the following in April 2017?

- a) United States
- b) Australia
- c) Norway
- d) Canada*

Malala Yousafzai became only the sixth person to receive honorary Canadian citizenship in Ottawa on April 13, 2017. She is also the youngest to receive honorary Canadian citizenship -- a privilege previously granted to five others including Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama and Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi.

1389) Ramesh Chandra Agrawal died on April 12, 2017 at the age of 73. He was the Chairman of which newspaper group?

- a) Dainik Bhaskar*
- b) Rajasthan Patrika
- c) Dainik Jagran
- d) Amar Ujala

Ramesh Chandra Agrawal, Chairman of the country's leading publication house Dainik Bhaskar Group, died in Ahmedabad on April 12, 2017. He was 73. Besides the Hindi newspaper, the group also publishes Divya Bhaskar in Gujarati, English newspaper DNA, Marathi newspaper Divya Marathi, along with running FM Radio My FM and DB Digital.

1390) Which corporate group launched India's first locally designed and manufactured industrial robot named 'Brabo' in April 2017?

- a) Godrej
- b) Aditya Birla
- c) Tata*
- d) L&T

TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a fully-owned arm of Tata Motors, on April 11, 2017 launched the country's first locally designed and manufactured industrial robot, the Brabo, which can increase productivity by up to 30 per cent.

1391) 44. B. Venugopal and Sunita Sharma were appointed as Managing Directors at which of the following in April 2017?

- a) ONGC
- b) LIC*
- c) SBI
- d) NABARD

The government on April 10, 2017 appointed two more managing directors to LIC. B. Venugopal and Sunita Sharma have been appointed for a period of nearly two years. The top management of LIC consists of the chairman and four managing directors. With these appointments, LIC has four MDs, with the other two being Usha Sangwan and Hemant Bhargava. VK Sharma, who was an MD, was elevated as the Chairman in December 2016.

1392) Which of the following created the record for operating the highest number of flights ever by an Indian airline on April 7, 2017?

- a) GoAir
- b) IndiGo*
- c) Jet Airways
- d) SpiceJet

IndiGo on April 8, 2017 said that it flew 900 flights on April 7, 2017, setting the record for operating the highest number of flights ever by an Indian airline in the history of Indian civil aviation sector.

1393) The fifth hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) after Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai was inaugurated in which state in April 2017?

- a) Assam
- b) Haryana
- c) Gujarat*
- d) Assam

A crack team of counter-terror NSG commandos has been permanently based at its newest hub in Gujarat by the central government. This is the fifth hub of the National Security Guard (NSG) in the country after four such bases were started in Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Chennai post the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. The main garrison for the commando force is in Manesar in Gurgaon, near the national capital. NSG was raised in 1984 as a federal contingency force to counter terrorist activities. (April 9, 2017)

1394) Which of the following launched 'Operation Durga' on April 13, 2017 to ensure women safety in the state?

- a) Assam
- b) Haryana*
- c) Gujarat
- d) Assam

Haryana on April 13, 2017 launched 'Operation Durga' to ensure women safety in the state. The Chief Minister's Flying Squad formed 24 teams to catch offenders from all districts of Haryana for their alleged involvement in crimes against women.

1395) Which state's police has initiated Tare Zameen Par program to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas and encourage them to lead happy lives?

- a) Tripura
- b) Odisha
- c) Chhattisgarh
- d) Jharkhand*
- e) Bihar

With a motive to enlighten children in Naxal-affected areas of Jharkhand's Palamau district, Jharkhand Police has initiated Tare Zameen Par program to encourage children to lead happy lives. Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Vipul Shukla appealed to locals to donate bags, shoes, books and clothes that would be distributed among poor children. (April 13, 2017)

1396) Who among the Chief Ministers announced the relaunch of 'Adarana', a scheme for improving traditional occupations, in April 2017?

- a) Devendra Fadnavis
- b) K. Chandrashekhara Rao
- c) P. Vijayan
- d) N. Chandrababu Naidu*

Reiterating his resolve for the uplift and all-round development of people belonging to the Backward Classes, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu announced the re-launch of 'Adarana', a scheme for improving traditional occupations. He made this announcement while addressing the 191st birth anniversary of social reformer Mahatma Jyotirao Phule, being celebrated for the first time as a State function, in Visakhapatnam on April 11, 2017.

1397) Which mobile application was relaunched by Delhi Police in April 2017 for safety of women?

- a) Shakti
- b) Prahari
- c) Rakshak
- d) Himmat*

In a bid to reach out to more women, Delhi Police on April 13, 2017 relaunched its Himmat app with more user-friendly features. Launched in 2015, the app saw few takers in the last two years. A total of 91,682 women have installed it in their phones so far and the app has 31,859 registered users. Senior officers though felt that the numbers were not satisfactory and the reasons for the "low" installations and less usage were analysed accordingly. It was felt that the registration process for the app needed to be made simpler and it should also cater to the Hindi-speaking women.

1398) 1. As many as 7,000 girl students on April 11, 2017 performed classical dance 'Kuchipudi' to set a new Guinness World record at which of the following places?

- a) Cuddapah
- b) Rajahmundry
- c) Tirupati
- d) Visakhapatnam*

As many as 7,000 girl students on April 11, 2017 performed classical dance 'Kuchipudi' in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh to set a Guinness World record. The event was jointly being organized by Andhra Pradesh Residential Educational Institutions Society (APREIS) and Social Welfare Department. The organisers said it broke the earlier record of the largest Kuchipudi dance. As many as 6,117 artists had performed the classical dance in Vijayawada in December 2016 to set the record.

1399) S. Nandagopal died in Chennai on April 14, 2017 at the age of 71. He was winner of national award given by which of the following?

- a) Sangeet Natak Akademi
- b) Sahitya Akademi
- c) Lalit Kala Akademi*
- d) None of the above

Eminent sculptor S. Nandagopal died in Chennai on April 14, 2017. He was 71. He was the recipient of the National Award, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi, in 1970.

1400) Which state hosted the Sangken festival in April 2017?

- a) Tripura
- b) Mizoram
- c) Arunachal Pradesh*
- d) Assam

The Theravada Buddhist community in Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating the 3 day Sangken festival starting from April 14, 2017. This marks the start of Theravada Buddhist New Year. It is celebrated in the last days of the old year and the Lunar New Year begins on the day just after the end of the festival.

1401) Michael M. Sailo passed away in Aizawl on April 8, 2017 at the age of 37. He was a well-known:

- a) Singer*
- b) Doctor
- c) Sculptor
- d) Journalist

Mizoram's celebrated rap artist, Michael M. Sailo, passed away in an accident in Aizawl on April 8, 2017. Sailo was an empanelled artist of All India Radio, Aizawl. Michael, also known as Aceman was associated with one of the popular rock band of Mizoram - The Scavenger Project.

1402) Dorjee Khandu Memorial Museum was inaugurated on April 9, 2017. He was the former Chief Minister of:

- a) Tripura
- b) Mizoram
- c) Arunachal Pradesh*
- d) Assam

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama inaugurated the Dorjee Khandu Memorial Museum in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh on April 9, 2017. He also released a book titled - 'Ocean and Blue Mountains' published by department of Karmik and

Adhyatmik Affairs (DoKAA) in presence of Chief Minister Pema Khandu and other dignitaries. The book title refers to 'Ocean' as His Holiness and 'Blue Mountains' as the people of Arunachal Pradesh, and is a collection of memoirs of the special bond shared between the two. The Dalai Lama also released a book titled - 'Crossing of the Frontiers' describing his exile route from Tibet to India, published by Losel Nyninje Charitable Society and Monyul Social Welfare Association.

1403) India won the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup Tennis tie against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru by a 4-1 margin in Bengaluru. Who among the following won two singles matches for India?

- a) N. Sriram Balaji
- b) Rohan Bopanna
- c) Prajnesh Gunneswaran
- d) Ramkumar Ramanathan*

1404) India won the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup Tennis tie against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru by a 4-1 margin in Bengaluru. Who among the following won the doubles match for India?

- a) N. Sriram Balaji & Rohan Bopanna*
- b) Ramkumar Ramanathan & N. Sriram Balaji
- c) Rohan Bopanna & Prajnesh Gunneswaran
- d) Rohan Bopanna & Ramkumar Ramanathan

India won the Asia/Oceania Group I Davis Cup Tennis tie against Uzbekistan in Bengaluru by a 4-1 margin in Bengaluru. On April 9, 2017, Ramkumar Ramanathan won the first match against Sanjar Fayziev in straight sets 6-3, 6-2. But, Uzbekistan prevented a clean sweep for India, when Temur Ismailov defeated Prajnesh Gunneswaran in straight sets 7-5, 6-3 in the second reverse singles. On April 8, Rohan Bopanna and N. Sriram Balaji won the Doubles match by beating the Uzbek pair of Farrukh Dustov and Sanjar Fayziev 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. On April 7, Ramkumar Ramanathan and Prajnesh Gunneswaran handed India a 2-0 lead by winning their respective singles matches. In the first match, Ramanathan overcame Temur Ismailov 6-2 5-7 6-2 7-5, while debutant Gunneswaran defeated Sanjar Fayziev 7-5, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

1405) Which of the following hosted the final of the Fifth Asian School Hockey Championship in April 2017?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal*
- c) Lucknow
- d) Gandhinagar

The Indian School team beat Malaysia 5-1 to lift the title at the Fifth Asian School Hockey Championship in Bhopal at the Aishbagh Stadium on April 11, 2017.

1406) Akhilesh Das Gupta died in Lucknow on April 12, 2017 at the age of 56. He was the head of which of the following?

- a) All India Tennis Association
- b) Table Tennis Federation of India
- c) Archery Association of India
- d) Badminton Association of India*

Former Union Minister and President of Badminton Association of India (BAI) Akhilesh Das Gupta died in Lucknow on April 12, 2017. He was 56.

1407) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Malaysia Open badminton in April 2017?

- a) Nozomi Okuhara
- b) Carolina Marin
- c) Yihan Wang
- d) Tai Tzu Ying*

1408) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Malaysia Open badminton in April 2017?

- a) Lee Chong Wei
- b) Chen Long
- c) Kidambi Srikanth
- d) Lin Dan*

China's Lin Dan, a two-time Olympic champion beat Malaysian world number one Lee Chong Wei to win his first ever Malaysia Open badminton Men's Singles title in Kuching on April 9, 2017. Dan won 21-19, 21-14. Meanwhile, Taiwan's Tai Tzu Ying won the Women's Singles title by defeating Spain's Carolina Marin 23-25, 22-20, 21-13.

1409) Who among the following won the Asian Billiards in Chandigarh in April 2017?

- a) Dhruv Sitwala
- b) Pankaj Advani*
- c) Rupesh Kumar
- d) Ashok Shandilya

Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani won his seventh Asian title by defeating Sourav Kothari 6-3 in an entertaining final of the Asian Billiards Championship in Chandigarh on April 14, 2017.

1410) Who among the following won the Formula 1 Chinese grand Prix at Shanghai on April 9, 2017?

- a) Max Verstappen
- b) Lewis Hamilton*
- c) Jenson Button
- d) Sebastian Vettel

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix in Shanghai on April 9, 2017. This was Hamilton's 54th race title of his career and his first of the new Formula One season. Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished in second place followed by Red Bull's Max Verstappen in third place.

1411) . Who among the following won the only gold medal for India at the Thailand International Boxing Tournament in Bangkok in April 2017?

- a) Bajrang
- b) Shyam Kumar*
- c) Praveen Rana
- d) Rohit Tokas

Indian boxer Shyam Kumar (49kg) clinched a gold medal at the Thailand International Tournament in Bangkok on April 8, 2017. Earlier, Rohit Tokas (64kg) had lost in the semi-finals to settle for bronze medal. India thus finished the tournament with two medals. The country had sent a seven-strong team for the event, of which four boxers lost in the opening round.

1412) A portal and mobile app on RUSA was launched by the Union HRD Ministry in April 2017. RUSA is:

- a) Rashtriya Unnat Shiksha Abhiyan
- b) Rashtriya Uday Shiksha Abhiyan
- c) Rashtriya Upkar Shiksha Abhiyan
- d) Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan*

The Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, got its own portal and mobile app on April 17, 2017. They were launched Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. The portal is a one-stop for States' Higher Education Plans, decision of the States' Higher Education Councils and details of the resources under this scheme.

1413) The three day National Conference on Innovation (Navonmesh) was organised in New Delhi on April 18-20, 2017 by HRD Ministry. What was its focus?

- a) Vocational education
- b) Higher education
- c) School education*
- d) Financial literacy

The three day National Conference on Innovation (Navonmesh) in School Education was inaugurated at the NCERT headquarters in New Delhi on April 18, 2017 by Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar. The conference was addressed by Anil Swarup, Secretary School Education, Hrushikesh Senapati, Director NCERT and

Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO representative. The three day conference had participants from different states and UNESCO in addition to NGOs and Educationists.

1414) . Shigeru Aoyagi is the representative of which of the following in India?

- a) UNESCO*
- b) UNICEF
- c) UNDP
- d) WHO

The three day National Conference on Innovation (Navonmesh) in School Education was inaugurated at the NCERT headquarters in New Delhi on April 18, 2017 by Union Minister of Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar. The conference was addressed by Anil Swarup, Secretary School Education, Hrushikesh Senapati, Director NCERT and Shigeru Aoyagi, Director and UNESCO representative. The three day conference had participants from different states and UNESCO in addition to NGOs and Educationists.

1415) 4. Union Cabinet approved procurement of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Units for use in 2019 General Elections in April 2017. These will be procured from Electronics Corporation of India Ltd and:

- a) Tata Advanced Systems
- b) Bharat Electronics Ltd*
- c) Engineers India Ltd
- d) Crompton Greaves

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 19, 2017 gave its approval for procurement of Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) Units for use in the General Elections in 2019. These will be procured from Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore and Electronics Corporation of India Ltd., Hyderabad.

1416) The Health Ministry has decided to change India's definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria. According to the new definition, a person who is unable to count fingers from a distance of _____ would be considered "blind"

- a) 1 metre
- b) 3 metres*
- c) 5 metres
- d) 7 metres

1417) The Health Ministry has decided to change India's definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria. India's current definition was adopted in:

- a) 1966
- b) 1976*
- c) 1986
- d) 1996

1418) The Health Ministry has decided to change India's definition of blindness to bring it in line with the WHO criteria. What will be the impact on the number of blind?

- a) It will decrease*
- b) It will increase
- c) It will remain unchanged
- d) None of the above

1419) What is the World Health Organization's target of reducing the prevalence of blindness in India by 2020?

- a) 0.1% of the total population
- b) 0.2% of the total population
- c) 0.3% of the total population*
- d) 0.4% of the total population

India has changed its over four-decade-old definition of blindness, bringing it in line with the WHO criteria, a step that would drastically bring down the number of people considered "blind" in the country. According to the new definition, a

person who is unable to count fingers from a distance of three metres would be considered “blind” as against the earlier stipulation of six metres, which was adopted in 1976. The aim is to achieve the WHO goal of reducing the blindness prevalence of India to 0.3 per cent of the total population by 2020. The notification in this regard has been issued by the Union Health Ministry. Also, the name of the scheme, ‘National Programme for Control of Blindness’ has been changed to ‘The National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment’. (April 19, 2017)

1420) The Prime Minister announced in April 2017 that virtual museums would be set up at 50 places in the country to highlight the significant role of ____ in the country’s freedom struggle.

- a) Tribals*
- b) Women
- c) Teachers
- d) Children

1421) Paika Rebellion against the British East India Company occurred in Odisha in which year?

- a) 1807
- b) 1817*
- c) 1827
- d) 1837

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 16, 2017 said virtual museums would be set up at 50 places in the country to highlight the significant role of the tribals in the country’s freedom struggle. PM Modi felicitated the family members of 16 great freedom fighters who participated in the first mutiny against British rule known as Paika Rebellion at Raj Bhawan in Bhubaneswar. The rebels undertook an armed rebellion against the British East India Company in 1817.

1422) Who among the following is the retired army veteran, in news in April 2017, for cycling 11000 km in 183 days to pay homage to martyrs?

- a) Major General (Retired) Balwant Singh Negi
- b) Major General (Retired) Somnath Jha*
- c) Major General (Retired) Praveen Bakshi
- d) Major General (Retired) Jai Shanker Menon

Major General (Retired) Somnath Jha, aged 58 years, after serving the Army for 37 years, remains a man on the mission. This third generation soldier took up the daunting task of cycling throughout the Nation for 183 days as his tribute to around 21,000 Armed Forces martyrs since Independence. He cycled 11000km in 43,528 minutes, dedicating two minutes of cycling to each martyr. Asked as to ‘why two minutes of cycling’ and the Veteran replied ‘we observe two minutes silence for each of our martyr’. Gen Jha concluded his homage journey by laying of wreath at the Amar Jawan Jyoti on April 19, 2017 and vowed to undertake similar endeavour once the National War Memorial is dedicated to the Nation.

1423) 12. Nora Chopra passed away in New Delhi on April 20, 2017 at the age of 64. She was well-known as:

- a) Dentist
- b) Painter
- c) Architect
- d) Journalist*

Veteran journalist Nora Chopra passed away in New Delhi on April 20, 2017 at the age of 64. Chopra had started her career with the Pioneer in Allahabad, and later she worked for Northern India Patrika, the Asian Age and Tehelka.

1424) How much as India contributed to the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) in April 2017?

- a) USD 100,000
- b) USD 250,000*
- c) USD 500,000
- d) USD 750,000

India on April 20, 2017 contributed USD 250,000 to the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA) for electoral assistance to the member states. “As elections play an important role in the peace processes and political transitions aimed at ending bloodshed, or establishing or restoring democratic governance, electoral assistance is a growing area of

responsibility and expertise,” DPA said on its website. The United Nations member states are the 193 sovereign states that are members of the UN. This is the second Indian contribution of USD 250,000 to the programmes for electoral assistance and capacity building. The first was made in 2012.

1425) Which of the following has signed a contract with Hanwa Techwin of South Korea in April 2017 to manufacture self-propelled artillery guns for the Indian Army?

- a) Reliance Defence
- b) Bharat Dynamics Ltd.
- c) Larsen & Toubro*
- d) Tata Advanced Systems

India and South Korea on April 21, 2017 signed two agreements to build artillery guns for the Indian Army and for collaboration in shipbuilding. One of them is an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the governments while the other is a manufacturing agreement between two private companies for artillery guns. In the Inter-governmental MoU for defence industry cooperation, India has already nominated Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam while South Korea will designate their shipyard soon. Indian engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Hanwa Techwin of South Korea signed a contract to manufacture self-propelled artillery guns for the Indian Army.

1426) Who among the following is the European Union’s High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in news for visiting India in April 2017?

- a) Margrethe Vestager
- b) Lech Kaczyński
- c) Federica Mogherini*
- d) Jean-Claude Juncker

Federica Mogherini, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on April 21, 2017. Modi and Mogherini discussed regional and global developments of mutual interest. The next India-EU Summit will be held in India in October 2017. Mogherini also held delegation level talks with External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj. The EU is one of India’s largest trading partners with bilateral trade in goods reaching 85 billion dollars in 2016. The EU has been strongly pushing for moving ahead with the free trade agreement which is known as the EU-India Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA).

1427) Sri Lanka has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo. It will be celebrated on:

- a) May 4
- b) May 8
- c) May 12*
- d) May 16

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate UN Vesak Day in Colombo on May 12, Sri Lanka’s Minister for Justice and Buddhasasana Wijeyadasa Rajapakse said in Colombo on April 19, 2017. Vesak Day, also known as Buddha Pournima, is a traditional holiday commemorated by Sri Lanka’s majority Sinhala Buddhists.

1428) 17. Which of the following was observed on April 19, 2017?

- a) World Liver Day*
- b) World Polio Day
- c) World Kidney Day
- d) World Heart Day

World liver day is observed on every 19 April, to spread awareness about liver related disease. The liver is the second largest and the most complex organ in the body, with the exception of the brain.

1429) Patricia Espinosa came on a two-day visit to India in April 2017. She is the head of:

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNDP
- c) UNFCCC*
- d) UNESCO

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary Patricia Espinosa came on a two-day visit to India on April 17-18, 2017.

1430) The World _____ Day was observed on April 17, 2017.

- a) Malaria
- b) Leprosy
- c) Diabetes
- d) Haemophilia*

The World Haemophilia Day was observed on April 17, 2017. Every year on April 17, World Haemophilia Day is observed around the world to increase awareness about haemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders.

1431) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Harjit Singh Sajjan of Canada who came on an official visit to New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley*
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Urjit Patel
- d) Sushma Swaraj

Canada's Indian-origin Defence Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan paid obeisance at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on April 20, 2017 where he was presented with a robe of honour. The minister inaugurated the new office of the Consulate-General of Canada in Chandigarh on April 21. Sajjan met his Indian counterpart Arun Jaitley on April 18 and also laid a wreath at Amar Jawan Jyoti at India Gate, which a memorial dedicated to unnamed soldiers.

1432) Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a referendum that expands his authority on April 16, 2017. Which of the following the party in power in Turkey?

- a) Motherland Party
- b) Justice and Development Party*
- c) People's Democratic Party
- d) Progressive Nationalist Party

1433) Turkey was in news for referendum on President's powers in April 2017. The country is a member of:

- a) G7
- b) EU
- c) NAM
- d) NATO*

1434) What is the capital of Turkey, a country in news for referendum on President's powers in April 2017?

Turkey

- a) Bursa
- b) Ankara*
- c) Antalya
- d) Diyarbakir

1435) What is the currency of Turkey, a country in news for referendum on President's powers in April 2017?

- a) Euro
- b) Turkish Lira*
- c) Turkish Riyal
- d) Turkish Dinar

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan narrowly won a referendum on April 16, 2017 to expand presidential powers. The "Yes" campaign had won 51.41 per cent and "No" 48.59 per cent. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) said the Turkish nation gave its final word by voting "Yes" in the country's constitutional referendum. A NATO member since 1952, Turkey shares borders with Syria, Iran and Iraq but also EU members Greece

and Bulgaria. The capital Ankara has a population of around five million. Istanbul is the largest city and industrial and commercial hub with more than 15 million people.

1436) Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May announced snap general election on June 8 recently. Consider the following statements about her.

- I. She is Britain's first woman Prime Minister
- II. She is leader of Conservative Party
- III. Her government has completed less than half of its five year term

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III only

1437) Britain's Parliament approved Prime Minister Theresa May's decision to hold snap general election in April 2017.

What is the Lower House of Parliament in Britain called?

- b) National Assembly
- c) Federation Council
- d) House of Commons*
- e) House of Representatives

British Prime Minister Theresa May on April 18, 2017 announced a snap general election in the UK on June 8. The move is unexpected as her government has not even completed half its term. British law says a five-year term can only be cut short with Parliament's approval. On April 19, MPs approved May's plan for a snap election on June 8 in a Commons vote. The House of Commons voted in favour of the poll by 522 votes to just 13. May took over as Britain's Prime Minister on July 16, 2016, replacing David Cameron who resigned following the British vote to break away from the European Union. Conservative Party leader Theresa May became Britain's second woman prime minister after Margaret Thatcher (1979-1990) in July 2016. May was the Home Secretary under PM David Cameron who resigned.

1438) More than 250 people were killed during the annual Thingyan water festival organised in April 2017 in which country?

- a) Vietnam
- b) Cambodia
- c) Mongolia
- d) Myanmar*

A total of 285 people were killed and 1,073 others injured across Myanmar during the annual Thingyan water festival organised from April 13 to 16, 2017.

1439) The International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as World Heritage Day, was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 17
- b) April 18*
- c) April 19
- d) April 20

1440) What was the theme of the International Day for Monuments and Sites, also known as the World Heritage Day, observed in April 2017?

- a) Tribal Heritage
- b) Heritage and Science
- c) Heritage of Commemoration
- d) Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism*

1441) How many of UNESCO's World Heritage sites are in India?

- a) 5
- b) 15
- c) 25

d) 35*

World Heritage Day, also known as International Day for Monuments and Sites, was observed on April 18, 2017. In 2017, the theme is “Cultural Heritage & Sustainable Tourism”, chosen in relation to the United Nations International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development and in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The day aims to spread awareness of the importance of protecting and preserving various sites around the world that have achieved world heritage status. World Heritage sites are officially recognised by United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). These sites are classified as a natural or man-made structure that has international importances and hold cultural and physical significance. There are total 1,052 heritage sites in all over the World. In India, there are 35 World Heritage Sites.

India's 35 properties are inscribed on the World Heritage List. They are:

Cultural (27): Agra Fort (1983), Ajanta Caves (1983), Archaeological Site of Nalanda Mahavihara (Nalanda University) at Nalanda, Bihar (2016), Buddhist Monuments at Sanchi (1989), Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park (2004), Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus) (2004), Churches and Convents of Goa (1986), Elephanta Caves (1987), Ellora Caves (1983), Fatehpur Sikri (1986), Great Living Chola Temples (1987), Group of Monuments at Hampi (1986), Group of Monuments at Mahabalipuram (1984), Group of Monuments at Pattadakal (1987), Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013), Humayun's Tomb, Delhi (1993), Khajuraho Group of Monuments (1986), Mahabodhi Temple Complex at Bodh Gaya (2002), Mountain Railways of India (1999), Qutb Minar and its Monuments, Delhi (1993), Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) at Patan, Gujarat (2014), Red Fort Complex (2007), Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka (2003), Sun Temple, Konârak (1984), Taj Mahal (1983), The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement (2016), The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010). **Natural** (7): Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area (2014), Kaziranga National Park (1985), Keoladeo National Park (1985), Manas Wildlife Sanctuary (1985), Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks (1988), Sundarbans National Park (1987), Western Ghats (2012). **Mixed** (1): Khangchendzonga National Park (2016)

1442) . Which of the following has decided to end its 457 work visa programme that allowed businesses to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs?

- a) United States
- b) Canada
- c) Ireland
- d) Australia*

Australia on April 20, 2017 announced tougher citizenship laws for new applicants, including higher English language skills and longer residency requirement, days after the government scrapped a popular visa programme used mostly by Indians. The move comes after Australia announced it would abolish the popular 457 work visa used by over 95,000 foreign workers. The 457 programme allows business to employ foreign workers for a period up to four years in skilled jobs where there is a shortage of Australian workers. The majority of the visa holders under this category were from India.

1443) The Gwadar port in China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is in which province?

- a) Sindh
- b) Punjab
- c) Balochistan*
- d) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

A state-run Chinese company will handle the operations of Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port in Balochistan province for a period of 40 years, the government said in Islamabad on April 20, 2017. The China Overseas Port Holding Company (COPHC) would carry out all the development work on the port on the Arabian Sea.

1444) Which of the following pairs of books and writers nominated for Booker International Prize in April 2017 is matched correctly?

- a) A Horse Walks Into a Bar: Mathias Enard
- b) Compass: David Grossman
- c) Fever Dream: Samanta Schweblin*
- d) All the above

1445) Which of the following pairs of books and writers nominated for Booker International Prize in April 2017 is matched correctly?

- a) Judas: Dorthe Nors
- b) Mirror, Shoulder, Signal: Amos Oz
- c) The Unseen: Roy Jacobsen*
- d) All the above

The six writers shortlisted for this year's Man Booker International Prize were revealed by the organisers on April 20, 2017. The finalists are competing for a £50,000 prize, which is divided equally between the author and the translator. The 2017 Man Booker International shortlist: A Horse Walks Into a Bar by David Grossman (Israel), Compass by Mathias Enard (France), Fever Dream by Samanta Schweblin (Argentina), Judas by Amos Oz (Israel), Mirror, Shoulder, Signal by Dorthe Nors (Denmark) and The Unseen by Roy Jacobsen (Norway). The 2017 winner will be announced on June 14. The International Prize is different from the Man Booker Prize which is awarded for the best original novel written in English and published in the U.K.

1446) Who among the following, known as the world's oldest person, died in Italy on April 15, 2017 at the age of 117?

- a) Jeralean Talley
- b) Emma Morano*
- c) Maggie Barnes
- d) Matilde Bresciani

1447) Who among the following became the world's oldest person on April 15, 2017?

- a) Nabi Tajima
- b) Violet Brown*
- c) John Mosse
- d) Elizabeth Riley

Emma Morano, an Italian woman believed to have been the oldest person alive and the last survivor of the 19th century, died on April 15, 2017 at the age of 117. Morano, born on November 29 1899, died at her home in Verbania, in northern Italy. According to the US-based Gerontology Research Group (GRG), Morano ceded the crown of the world's oldest human being to Jamaican Violet Brown, who was born on March 10, 1900. Morano's death means there is no one living known to have been born before 1900.

1448) Which of the following is China's first unmanned cargo spacecraft that was launched on April 20, 2017?

- a) Jiuquan
- b) Beidou
- c) Tiangong
- d) Tianzhou*

China on April 20, 2017 successfully launched its first unmanned cargo spacecraft. Powered by a Long March-7 Y2 carrier rocket, Tianzhou-1 roared into the air from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre in the southern Hainan Province. In space, the cargo ship will dock with the orbiting Tiangong-2 space station, provide fuel and other supplies, and conduct space experiments before falling back to Earth.

1449) 38. Which district of Rajasthan won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for its "Solar Urja Lamps Project"?

- a) Dungarpur*
- b) Jaisalmer
- c) Jodhpur
- d) Barmer

1450) Which district of Gujarat won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana?

- a) Sabarkantha
- b) Banaskantha*
- c) Gandhinagar
- d) Mehsana

1451) Which district of Maharashtra won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana?

- a) Beed
- b) Jalna*
- c) Osmanabad
- d) Nanded

1452) Which district of Telangana won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)?

- a) Warangal
- b) Adilabad
- c) Karimnagar
- d) Nizamabad*

1453) Which district of Bihar won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana?

- a) Nalanda*
- b) Kaimur
- c) Munger
- d) Nawada

1454) Which state won the Civil Services Day award in April 2017 for excellent implementation of Start-Up India scheme?

- a) Gujarat*
- b) Maharashtra
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented awards for Excellence in Implementation of Priority Programmes and addressed Civil Servants on the occasion of the eleventh Civil Services Day in New Delhi on April 21, 2017.

The Prime Minister presented a total of 12 awards, which include 10 under the five Priority Programmes and 2 under Innovation category. These awards were given in three Groups, the first group consisting of eight North-Eastern States and the three Hill States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, second group comprising of the seven Union Territories and the remaining 18 States constituting the third group.

The winners are as follows:

- Under Innovation category, Dantewada district of Chhattisgarh was awarded for initiative “Cashless Village Palnar” and Dungarpur district of Rajasthan was given award for initiative “Solar Urja Lamps Project”.
- Under the Priority Programme Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Siaha district of Mizoram was awarded in North East and Hill states category and Banaskantha district of Gujarat was awarded under the category of other states.
- Under the Priority Programme Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the awards were given to Gomati district of Tripura in North East and Hill states category and Jalna district of Maharashtra under the category of other states.
- Under the Priority Programme e-National Agriculture Market (e-NAM), Solan district of Himachal Pradesh was awarded in North East and Hill states category and Nizamabad district of Telangana was awarded under the category of other states.
- Under the Priority Programme Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, the awards were given to Sivasagar district of Assam in North East and Hill states category and Nalanda district of Bihar under the category of other states.
- For Start-Up India, the award was given to Gujarat state under other states category and for Stand-Up India, the award was given to North and Middle Andaman of Andaman & Nicobar islands under Union Territories category.

1455) The NSCI Safety Awards were presented by Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya in New Delhi on April 19, 2017. It is not given in which category?

- a) Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar
- b) Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar
- c) Suraksha Puraskar

d) Suraksha Patra*

The NSCI Safety Awards were presented by Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya in New Delhi on April 19, 2017. The National Safety Council of India (NSCI) is a self-supporting non-profit autonomous society, set up by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 1966. In all, 70 organisations have been picked for the award across four categories – Sarva Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Shreshtha Suraksha Puraskar, Suraksha Puraskar and Prashansa Patra.

1456) Who among the following was announced as winner of Translation Prize in English 2016 by Sahitya Akademi in April 2017?

- a) Githa Hariharan
- b) Rajesh Gopinathan
- c) K. Satchidanandan
- d) Aniruddhan Vasudevan*

Aniruddhan Vasudevan's "One Part Woman", a translation of Perumal Murugan's Tamil novel "Maadhorubaagan" has been chosen for the Translation Prize in English 2016, Sahitya Akademi announced in New Delhi on April 19, 2017.

1457) Which state gave its annual Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement veteran actress Saira Banu in April 2017?

- a) Gujarat
- b) Maharashtra*
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Veteran actress Saira Banu and actor Jackie Shroff have been named for the prestigious Raj Kapoor Lifetime Achievement and Raj Kapoor Special Contribution annual awards, respectively, by the Maharashtra government, Cultural Affairs Minister Vinod Tawde announced in Mumbai on April 19, 2017. Marathi film personalities Vikram Gokhale and Arun Nalawade have been named for the coveted V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement and V. Shantaram Special Contribution annual awards.

1458) Which state has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in small category (less than 1 million tonnes) states?

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

1459) Which state has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in medium category (1 to 10 million tonnes) states?

- a) Goa
- b) Kerala
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Himachal Pradesh*

1460) Which state has been selected for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in large category (production more than 10 million tonnes) states?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Tamil Nadu*
- c) Punjab
- d) Madhya Pradesh

Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has selected Tripura for the Krishi Karman Award 2015-16 for commendable increase in food grain production in small category states. Tripura gets this national award for the second time. The northeastern state first received the award in the 2009-10 fiscal. This was disclosed by Tripura Agriculture Minister Aghore Debbarma in Agartala on April 19, 2017. For total food grain production, Tamil Nadu gets the award in large category (production more than 10 million tonnes), Himachal Pradesh in medium category (1 to 10 million tonnes) and Tripura in small category (less than 1 million tonnes). Each award-winning state would receive a trophy, a citation and cash award of Rs five crore at a function in New Delhi.

1461) Which state has been chosen for the 2015-16 Krishi Karman award for becoming the best performing state in Wheat production in April 2017?

- a) Punjab
- b) Gujarat
- c) West Bengal
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

Madhya Pradesh was conferred with prestigious Krishi Karman Award of the Indian Government fifth time in succession. This award has been conferred for the year 2015-16 in wheat production category. State will get trophy, citation letter and a cash reward of Rs 2 crore. This was disclosed by the state government on April 21, 2017.

1462) Which of the following awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, in April 2017?

- a) UNICEF
- b) UNDP
- c) UNFCCC
- d) UNESCO*

The UNSECO has awarded its Peace Prize to Giuseppina (Giusi) Nicolini, the mayor of the Italian island of Lampedusa, for her commitment to saving the lives of migrants and refugees. Nicolini was bestowed with the honour on April 19, 2017 for her effort that saved thousands who fled across the Mediterranean often on unseaworthy boats to find a better and peaceful life. Lampedusa is the first European landfall for people fleeing war and economic hardship in Africa and the Middle East. Since becoming Mayor in 2012, Nicolini has been an outspoken defender of refugee and migrant rights.

1463) Eduardo Mendoza has been presented with the Cervantes Prize in April 2017 for literature in which language?

- a) French
- b) Russian
- c) Spanish*
- d) Italian

Spanish novelist Eduardo Mendoza has been presented with the Cervantes Prize, the Spanish-speaking world's highest literary honour, by King Felipe VI on April 20, 2017 in the central town of Alcala de Henares, the birthplace of Miguel de Cervantes, author of "Don Quixote."

1464) Offer for sale (OFS) of which of the following yielded Rs. 1200 crore to the government in April 2017?

- a) SAIL
- b) NMDC
- c) STC
- d) NALCO*

The Central Government has successfully divested 9.2% of paid-up capital in National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) to raise Rs. 1,200 crore. Originally, the disinvestment in NALCO OFS was pegged at 5% of paid-up capital, but seeing the overwhelming response from the market, the government decided to exercise the green shoe option to retain over-subscription and raised the offer to 9.2% on April 19, 2017. With this transaction, government's shareholding in NALCO has come down to 65.37%.

1465) The World Bank's latest edition of the Migration and Development Brief was released in April 2017. Which of the following was the largest recipient of remittances in 2016?

- a) China
- b) India*
- c) USA
- d) Saudi Arabia

1466) The World Bank's latest edition of the Migration and Development Brief was released in April 2017. Remittances accounted for the highest share of GDP in which of the following in 2016?

- a) Kazakhstan

- b) Kyrgyzstan*
- c) Tajikistan
- d) Turkmenistan

India saw a significant drop in remittances in 2016 but managed to retain the top spot among remittances receiving nations, the World Bank said in the latest edition of its 'Migration and Development Brief' released in Washington on April 21, 2017. India received \$62.7 billion in 2016, a decrease of 8.9 per cent over \$68.9 billion in 2015. India was the largest remittance recipient followed closely by China (\$61 billion), the Philippines (\$29.9 billion), Mexico (28.5 billion) and Pakistan (19.8 billion), making up the top five. As a share of the gross domestic product (GDP), however, the top five recipients were Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Liberia, Haiti, and Tonga. Remittances accounted for 2.9 per cent of India's GDP in 2016.

1467) Which of the following retained its GDP growth projection for India at 7.2% for 2017-18 in its World Economic Outlook update released in April 2017?

- a) WEF
- b) IMF*
- c) WTO
- d) OECD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on April 18, 2017 called for accelerated economic reforms for India to achieve a higher growth trajectory, while retaining its GDP growth projection of 7.2% for 2017-18. In its biannual World Economic Outlook (WEO), it increased India's growth estimate for 2016-17 to 6.8%, from 6.6% estimated in January. Global growth has been raised marginally to 3.5% in 2017 from the January estimate of 3.4%.

1468) Who among the following is the Director General of the India Meteorological Department (IMD)?

- a) Ajit Tyagi
- b) K. J. Ramesh*
- c) S. K. Srivastava
- d) R. R. Kelkar

Southwest monsoon is likely to be "near normal" this year with possibility of a "good distribution" of rainfall across the country, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) Director General K J Ramesh said in New Delhi on April 18, 2017. The country will receive 96 per cent of Long Period Average with an error model of plus or minus 5 per cent. A 96 per cent rainfall means it is on the border line of normal and below normal precipitation. Anything between 96 and 104 per cent of the LPA is considered "normal". Rainfall under 96 per cent is categorised as "below normal". Rainfall of 104-110 per cent of the LPA is "above normal". Ramesh said there is 38 per cent probability of a "near normal monsoon" rainfall.

1469) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in March 2017?

- a) 2.7%
- b) 3.7%
- c) 4.7%
- d) 5.7%*

Inflation based on the wholesale price index slipped to 5.70 per cent in March 2017, according to official data released on April 17, 2017. The WPI inflation, reflecting the annual rate of price rise, in February was 6.55 per cent.

1470) 9. What is the interest rate on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17 approved by the Finance Ministry recently?

- a) 8.45 per cent
- b) 8.55 per cent
- c) 8.65 per cent*
- d) 8.75 per cent

Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya on April 20, 2017 said that the Finance Ministry has approved 8.65 per cent interest rate on Employees Provident Fund (EPF) for 2016-17.

1471) What was India's position in the 2017 A T Kearney Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index released in April 2017?

- a) Third
- b) Fourth
- c) Fifth
- d) Eighth*

India has jumped one spot to rank 8th in the 2017 AT Kearney Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index with 31 per cent of the surveyed respondents being more optimistic on economic outlook over the next three years. Top 10 countries: 1. United States, 2. Germany, 3. China, 4: United Kingdom, 5. Canada, 6. Japan, 7. France, 8. India, 9. Australia, 10. Singapore (April 18, 2017)

1472) Vijay Shekhar Sharma and Prime Minister Narendra Modi featured in Time magazine's annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' released in April 2017. Sharma is the founder of which mobile payments firm?

- a) Paytm*
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

1473) TIME magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world was released in April 2017. These 100 people were selected in the categories – icons, leaders, pioneers, titans and _____.

- a) Dons
- b) Artists*
- c) Gurus
- d) Tycoons

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma were the only two Indians to make it to an annual list of '100 most influential people in the world' this year released by the Time magazine in New York on April 20, 2017. The list features pioneers, artists, titans, leaders and icons from around the world.

1474) Who among the following topped Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world in April 2017?

- a) Joko Widodo
- b) Rodrigo Duterte*
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Donald Trump

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has won Time magazine's readers' poll of the 100 most influential people in the world. The Time 100 Reader Poll was an online survey in which the publication had asked its readers to vote for who should be included in this year's Time 100 list of the world's most influential people. Duterte received 5 per cent of the total "yes" votes in the poll which closed on April 16, 2017.

1475) 14. Which magazine has selected gymnast Dipa Karmakar, wrestler Sakshi Malik and actress Alia Bhatt in its list of 'super achievers from Asia under the age of 30' in April 2017?

- a) Forbes*
- b) Newsweek
- c) Time
- d) Fortune

Over 50 Indians, including gymnast Dipa Karmakar, Olympic medallist Sakshi Malik and actress Alia Bhatt, are among Forbes's list of super achievers from Asia under the age of 30 who are "pushing boundaries of innovation". The second Forbes '30 Under 30' Asia list 2017 features 300 impressive young entrepreneurs—30 in 10 categories, including entertainment, finance and venture capital, retail, social entrepreneurs and enterprise technology, under the age of 30 years who are pushing the boundaries of innovation.

1476) The Supreme Court on April 17, 2017 ordered the auction of Aamby Valley in Pune over its owner's alleged failure to deposit money for refunding to its investors. Who among the following is its promoter?

- a) Vijay Mallya
- b) Subrata Roy*
- c) Nitin Kasliwal
- d) Naveen Jindal

The Supreme Court on April 17, 2017 ordered the auction of Sahara's Aamby Valley in Pune over the business conglomerate's alleged failure to deposit money for refunding to its investors. The court ordered the selling of 34,000 crore rupees worth of Sahara properties and directed its chief Subrata Roy to appear before it on April 28.

1477) Which state has topped the 'Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States' published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) in April 2017?

- a) Delhi*
- b) Gujarat
- c) Karnataka
- d) Tamil Nadu

Delhi has emerged as the top state in terms of internet readiness with a strong position in areas like e-infrastructure, e-participation, IT environment, government e-services. This was disclosed by industry body IAMAI on April 19, 2017. The report titled 'Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States' published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Nielsen, noted that Delhi takes the first slot among all states and is followed by Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Supreme Court allows NDMC to e-auction Taj Mansingh

1478) The Air India has revised the minimum age limit for senior citizens to avail discounted tickets to _____ recently.

- a) 62 years
- b) 61 years
- c) 60 years*
- d) 59 years

The Air India has revised the minimum age limit for senior citizens to avail discounted tickets from existing 63 to 60 years. The revised age limit has been implemented with immediate effect for all domestic sectors. The claimants would be required to produce a valid photo-identity card with the date of birth, like Aadhaar, Voters ID, Driving Licence, Passport or Senior Citizens ID card issued by Air India at the time of bookings. (April 20, 2017)

1479) Which of the following hosted the Global Exhibition on Services (GES) organised by Department of Commerce in association with CII in April 2017?

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida*
- c) Gurugram
- d) Faridabad

The four-day long Global Exhibition on Services (GES) was concluded on April 20, 2017 in Greater Noida. The event began on April 17. The GES was organised by the Department of Commerce in association with CII. The GES has emerged as a platform for showcasing services sectors in the world. 573 domestic and foreign exhibitors participated besides 24 states.

1480) Which industry chamber elected Vasvi Bharat Ram as new President of the women's wing in April 2017?

- a) FICCI*
- b) ASSOCHAM
- c) CII
- d) PHDCCI

FICCI Ladies Organisation (FLO) on April 19, 2017 elected Vasvi Bharat Ram as new President of the women's wing of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI).

1481) . Ramanathan Ramanan was on April 21, 2017 appointed as the Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission under the NITI Aayog. He will join on secondment basis for which of the following for a period of two years?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) HCL
- d) TCS*

Ramanathan Ramanan of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) was on April 21, 2017 appointed as the Mission Director of the Atal Innovation Mission under the NITI Aayog. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his appointment in the rank of Additional Secretary to Government of India, on secondment basis from the TCS, initially for a period of two years, an order issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

1482) India's first train with glass roof was inaugurated on a route in which of the following states in April 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Andhra Pradesh*

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on April 17, 2017 inaugurated the new Vistadome coach which has glass roof, LED lights, GPS-based info system and rotating seats among other features. He flagged off the train with Vistadome coaches between Visakhapatnam and Araku through video conferencing from Rail Sadan at Bhubaneswar. He also inaugurated the Life Line Express-Sindhudurg of Konkan Railway.

1483) Which state decided to change nomenclature of the 'Viklang Kalyan Vibhag' (Handicap Welfare Department) to 'Divyang Jan Shasaktikaran Vibhag' ('Divyang' Empowerment Department) in April 2017?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet headed by CM Yogi Adityanath on April 18, 2017 decided to change nomenclature of the 'Viklang Kalyan Vibhag' (Handicap Welfare Department) to 'Divyang Jan Shasaktikaran Vibhag' ('Divyang' Empowerment Department).

1484) Phase-1 (Link 2) of the Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation Yojana (SAUNI) project was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister in which of the following districts of Gujarat in April 2017?

- a) Rajkot
- b) Botad*
- c) Junagadh
- d) Bhavnagar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 17, 2017 dedicated to the nation, Phase-1 (Link 2) of the SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) Yojana, at Botad in Gujarat. He also laid the Foundation Stone of Phase 2 (Link 2) of the SAUNI Yojana. Earlier, he welcomed Narmada water into the Krishna Sagar Lake by pressing a button.

1485) Which state government has decided to gift a smartphone to newly married women under its Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana in April 2017?

- a) Jharkhand
- b) Chhattisgarh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Madhya Pradesh*

The Madhya Pradesh government has decided to gift a smartphone to newly married women under its flagship scheme - Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana. The move is aimed at encouraging women to undertake cashless transactions using smartphones. The decision was taken during the cabinet meeting, chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal on April 18, 2017. Mukhyamantri Kanyadan Yojana was launched in April, 2006 with an objective to provide financial help to poor, needy or destitute families for marrying off their daughters.

1486) April 15, 2017 was observed as the 70th Foundation Day of:

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Himachal Pradesh*

Himachal Pradesh CM Virbhadra Singh launched 'unemployment allowance scheme' on state's 70th foundation Day on April 15, 2017.

- 1487)** President of India awarded standards to Armoured Corps Centre and School based in _____ Maharashtra.
- Satara
 - Hingoli
 - Nanded
 - Ahmednagar*

President of India awarded standards to Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar.

- 1488)** Who among the following is the President of Nepal, in news for visiting India in April 2017?
- Bidhya Devi Bhandari*
 - Sushila Karki
 - Bijay Kumar Gachhedar
 - Sher Bahadur Deuba

Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari arrived on an official visit to India on April 17, 2017.

- 1489)** The Indian Air Force had launched 'Bambi Bucket' operation to douse forest fires in which state in April 2017?
- Jharkhand
 - Chhattisgarh
 - Rajasthan*
 - Uttar Pradesh

Five days after intense fire-fighting measures taken by the Army, the Air Force and the district administration, fire on the hills of Mount Abu the Aravali hills was doused. Major tourist attractions were opened on April 18, 2017 and the restriction on boating in the Nakki Lake was lifted. The Indian Air Force had launched 'Bambi Bucket' operation to douse the wildfire. MI-17 V5 helicopters poured water at various locations to douse the blaze in Mount Abu.

- 1490)** Which of the following has decided to set up quiz clubs in government schools to make learning more activity-oriented and interesting for children?
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra
 - Goa
 - Haryana*

The Haryana government has decided to set up quiz clubs in schools run by it to make learning more activity-oriented and interesting for children. "The aim of setting up quiz clubs in government schools is to encourage students to learn new things, generate interest among them regarding their syllabus and attract them towards learning through innovative activities," state education minister Ram Bilas Sharma said in Chandigarh on April 19, 2017.

- 1491)** Which state's Jalyukta Shivar project to tackle drought situation in the country was mentioned by the PM in his address at the BJP national conclave in Bhubaneswar?
- Gujarat
 - Maharashtra*
 - Goa
 - Haryana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 16, 2017 mentioned the Maharashtra government's flagship project Jalyukta Shivar to tackle drought situation in the country. Speaking at the BJP national conclave in Bhubaneswar, he asked other states to replicate the Maharashtra model to overcome water crisis and help farmers. The Jalyukta Shivar project was launched in Maharashtra on Jan 26, 2015. The state government plans to make all 25,000 drought-prone villages water reliant by 2019.

- 1492)** The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to name Agra airport after who among the following in April 2017?

- a) B. R. Ambedkar
- b) Jaiprakash Narayan
- c) Deendayal Upadhyaya*
- d) Vallabhbai Patel

The Agra airport would now be named after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya while the upcoming civil terminal at Gorakhpur Air Force station would be named after Mahayogi Gorakhnath who is known as the founder of the Nath monastic movement. These decisions were taken in a meeting of the Uttar Pradesh state cabinet headed by chief minister Yogi Adityanath in Lucknow on April 18, 2017.

1493) Who among the following won the bypoll to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat in Jammu and Kashmir in April 2017?

- a) Bikram Singh
- b) Farooq Abdullah*
- c) Nazir Ahmad Khan
- d) Farooq Ahmad Dar

National Conference President and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah on April 15, 2017 won the bypoll to the Srinagar Lok Sabha seat, beating his PDP rival Nazir Ahmad Khan by 10,557 votes. Farooq polled 47,926 votes while Khan polled 37,369 votes. NOTA (none of the above) were 714. A total of 89,865 votes were cast for the by-poll.

1494) . Which of the following is the ruling party in Sikkim?

- a) Congress
- b) Sikkim Democratic Front*
- c) Sikkim Krantikari Morcha
- d) Sikkim Sangram Parishad

CM Pawan Chamling's ruling Sikkim Democratic Front (SDF) candidate Dilli Ram Thapa on April 15, 2017 won the Upper Burtuk assembly by-poll. The bypoll was held following the disqualification of sitting MLA Prem Singh Tamang, accused of misappropriation of funds during his tenure as the state Animal Husbandry department Minister in 1996-97. Tamang, a former SDF leader, is founder of the Sikkim Krantikari Morcha, the largest opposition party in the 32-member state assembly.

1495) P. K. Kunhalikutty won the bypoll for Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency held in April 2017. He was candidate of which party?

- a) Congress
- b) Communist Party of India
- c) Indian Union Muslim League*
- d) BJP

The Indian Union Muslim League on April 17, 2017 retained the Malappuram Lok Sabha constituency with its candidate P K Kunhalikutty winning by over 1.7 lakh votes in the bypoll. The bypoll was necessitated following the demise of E Ahamed, a former Union Minister and leader of IUML, a key partner in the Congress-led UDF Opposition in the state.

1496) Which of the following has decided to provide pension to former circus artistes in the state in April 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Goa
- d) Kerala*

The Kerala Government on April 17, 2017 said it has decided to provide pension to former circus artistes in the state and allocated 1.13 crore rupees for the same. The decision was taken after a group of circus artistes met Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan during his recent visit to Kannur district and apprised him of their plight. Thalassery in Kannur district is considered to be the cradle of Indian circus.

1497) . India's first film on demonetisation named "Shunyota" (Emptiness) was released on April 21, 2017. It is in which language?

- a) Marathi
- b) Bengali*
- c) Bhojpuri
- d) Konkani

Bengali film named "Shunyota" (Emptiness) is based on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's demonetisation drive attempts to portray the impact of currency ban on the common man. The movie directed by Suwendu Ghosh was released on April 21, 2017. The film with U/A certification has been released across 26 theatres in West Bengal.

1498) The 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia will feature 39 sports the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. Which of the following is not among the new inclusions?

- a) Bridge
- b) Pencak silat
- c) Jujitsu
- d) Billiards*

1499) The 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia will feature 39 sports the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. Which of the following is not among the new inclusions?

- a) Paragliding
- b) Snooker*
- c) Jet Ski
- d) Sport Climbing

1500) The 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia will feature 39 sports the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. Which of the following has been removed from the list of previous games?

- a) Squash
- b) Cricket*
- c) Baseball
- d) Volleyball

The 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta, Indonesia will feature 39 sports, more than at the last event in South Korea (36), the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said on April 21, 2017. The new additions at the 2018 games are Bridge, Pencak Silat (Indonesian martial art), Jujitsu, Paragliding, Jet Ski and Sport Climbing.

Cricket, which was at the last two Asian Games, is being dropped after the OCA complained that major sides had failed to send full-strength squads.

The 2018 Asian Games will take place from August 18 to September 2, with most events in Jakarta and Palembang. The country last hosted the Asian Games in 1962.

1501) Sports are: **1:** Aquatics (Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming, Water Polo) **2:** Archery **3:** Athletics **4:** Badminton **5:** Baseball/Softball **6:** Basketball **7:** Bowling **8:** Boxing **9:** Bridge **10:** Canoe/Kayak **11:** Cycling (Track, Road Race, Mountain Bike, BMX) **12:** Equestrian **13:** Fencing **14:** Football **15:** Golf **16:** Gymnastics (Artistic, Rhythmic, Trampoline) **17:** Handball **18:** Hockey **19:** Jet Ski **20:** Judo **21:** Kabaddi **22:** Karate **23:** Martial Arts (Jujitsu, Pencak Silat, Wushu), **24:** Modern Pentathlon **25:** Paragliding **26:** Rowing **27:** Rugby Sevens **28:** Sailing **29:** Sepak Takraw **30:** Shooting **31:** Sport Climbing **32:** Squash **33:** Table Tennis **34:** Taekwondo **35:** Tennis (Tennis, Soft Tennis) **36:** Triathlon **37:** Volleyball (Indoor Volleyball, Beach Volleyball) **38:** Weightlifting **39:** Wrestling

The OCA has also decided to include video gaming as a full sport at the 2022 Asian Games, with competitors in electronic sports set to receive medals for their digital prowess.

1502) Which of the following events was held on April 17, 2017? Both Men's and Women's races were won by Kenyan athletes.

- a) Paris Marathon
- b) Berlin Marathon
- c) Boston Marathon*
- d) London Marathon

Kenya's Geoffrey Kirui and Edna Kiplagat were the winners in the men's and women's categories of the 121st Boston Marathon in Boston on April 17, 2017.

1503) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Asian Table Tennis Championships organised in China in April 2017?

- a) Zhou Yu
- b) Lin Gaoyuan
- c) Fan Zhendong*
- d) Jeong Sangeun

1504) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Asian Table Tennis Championships organised in China in April 2017?

- a) Miu Hirano*
- b) Zhu Yuling
- c) Chen Meng
- d) Mouma Das

1505) . The 2017 Asian Table Tennis Championships concluded in Wuxi (China) on April 16, 2017. How many of the five titles – Men's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Singles, Women's Doubles & Mixed Doubles – were won by China?

- a) One
- b) Two
- c) Three
- d) Four*

The 2017 Asian Table Tennis Championships concluded in Wuxi (China) on April 16, 2017. Winners: Fan Zhendong (China): **Men's Singles**, Miu Hirano (Japan): **Women's Singles**, Zhu Yuling/Chen Meng (China): **Women's Doubles**, Fan Zhendong/Lin Gaoyuan (China): **Men's Doubles**, Zhou Yu/Chen Xingtong (China): **Mixed Doubles**

1506) Who among the following won the Men's Singles title at the Singapore Open Super Series Badminton tournament in April 2017?

- a) HS Prannoy
- b) Sourabh Varma
- c) B. Sai Praneeth*
- d) Kidambi Srikanth

1507) Who among the following won the Women's Singles title at the Singapore Open Super Series Badminton tournament in April 2017?

- a) P. V. Sindhu
- b) Saina Nehwal
- e) Arundhati Pantawane
- d) None of the above*

The Singapore Open Super Series Badminton tournament concluded in Singapore on April 16, 2017. Winners: B. Sai Praneeth (India): **Men's Singles**, Tai Tzu Ying (Taiwan): **Women's Singles**, Lu Kai/Huang Yaqiong (China): **Mixed Doubles**, Christinna Pedersen and Kamilla Rytter Juhl (Denmark): **Women's Doubles**, Mathias Boe and Carsten Mogensen (Denmark): **Men's Doubles**.

1508) Who among the following won the Korchnoi Zurich Chess Challenge in April 2017?

- a) Vassily Ivanchuk
- b) Wesley So
- c) Levon Aronian
- d) Hikaru Nakamura*

Former world chess champion Viswanathan Anand of India finished third overall, with a score of 13.5 points from a possible 21 in the Korchnoi Zurich Chess Challenge, which concluded on April 17, 2017. American Hikaru Nakamura, with 15 points, emerged the overall winner.

1509) . Who among the following won the Formula 1 Bahrain Grand Prix in April 2017?

- a) Valtteri Bottas
- b) Lewis Hamilton*
- c) Esteban Ocon
- d) Sebastian Vettel

Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany won the Formula One 2017 Bahrain Grand Prix at the Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir, Bahrain on April 16, 2017 while Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton of United Kingdom and Valtteri Bottas of Finland finished second and third respectively

1510) Which of the following is not among the ten new places selected in second phase of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative by the government in April 2017?

- a) Gangotri
- b) Ramanathaswamy Temple, Rameswaram*
- c) Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa
- d) Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam

1511) Which of the following is not among the ten new places selected in second phase of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative by the government in April 2017?

- a) Yamunotri
- b) Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain
- c) Mallikarjuna Swamy Temple, Srisaillam*
- d) Char Minar, Hyderabad

1512) Which of the following is not among the ten new places selected in second phase of Swachh Iconic Places (SIP) initiative by the government in April 2017?

- a) Baijnath Dham, Devghar
- b) Gaya Tirth in Bihar
- c) Somnath temple in Gujarat
- d) None of the above*

The second quarterly review meeting on the Swachh Iconic Places (SIP), an initiative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation under Swachh Bharat Mission, was held at Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine, in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir on April 25, 2017. Ten Swachh Iconic Places are already implementing action plans in phase 1.

On this occasion, Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation, Narendra Singh Tomar announced ten new Iconic places to be taken under the Phase II of Swachh Iconic Places initiative. These ten new iconic places which are to be brought to a higher standard of swachhta and visitors' amenities are : 1. Gangotri, 2. Yamunotri. 3. Mahakaleshwar Temple, Ujjain, 4. Char Minar, Hyderabad, 5. Church and Convent of St. Francis of Assisi, Goa, 6. Adi Shankaracharya's abode Kaladi in Ernakulam, 7. Gomateshwar in Shravanbelgola, 8. Baijnath Dham, Devghar, 9. Gaya Tirth in Bihar and 10. Somnath temple in Gujarat.

The ten Iconic places already in Phase I are: 1. Ajmer Sharif Dargah 2. CST Mumbai 3. Golden Temple, Amritsar 4. Kamakhya Temple, Assam 5. Maikarnika Ghat, Varanasi 6. Meenakshi Temple, Madurai 7. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi, Katra, J&K 8. Shree Jagannath Temple, Puri 9. The Taj Mahal, Agra 10. Tirupati Temple, Tirumala.

1513) The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. Who among the following Ministers is not from Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry?

- a) Arjun Ram Meghwal*
- b) Radha Mohan Singh
- c) Parshottam Rupala
- d) Sudarshan Bhagat

1514) The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. Which of the following is not covered in Kharif?

- a) Soyabean
- b) Wheat*
- c) Paddy
- d) Cotton

1515) The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. Which of the following is covered in Kharif?

- a) Barley
- b) Gram
- c) Linseed
- d) Sunflower*

The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign – 2017 was organised at New Delhi on April 25-26, 2017. The Conference was inaugurated by Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and also addressed by Parshottam Rupala and Sudarshan Bhagat, Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

The agricultural crop year in India is from July to June. The Indian cropping season is classified into two main seasons-(i) Kharif and (ii) Rabi based on the monsoon. The kharif cropping season is from July –October during the south-west monsoon and the Rabi cropping season is from October-March (winter). The crops grown between March and June are summer crops. The terms 'kharif' and 'rabi' originate from Arabic language where Kharif means autumn and Rabi means spring.

The **kharif crops** include Paddy (rice), Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi, Tur (Arhar), Moong, Urad, Groundnut, Soyabean, Sunflower Seed, Nigarseed, Sesamum and Cotton. The **rabi crops** include wheat, barley, oats (cereals), chickpea/gram (pulses), linseed, mustard, safflower

1516) Which of the following has been proposed by NITI Aayog in its draft three-year action plan discussed with Chief Ministers in April 2017?

- a) Law Performance Index
- b) Judge Performance Index
- c) Justice Performance Index
- d) Judicial Performance Index*

The NITI Aayog has proposed the introduction of a judicial performance index to reduce delays and the outsourcing of non-core functions of the police to private agencies or other government departments, in a bid to fix justice system that is in 'dire need of reform.' The creation of a judicial performance index that could help High Courts and their chief justices keep track of the performance and processes at district courts and subordinate levels for reducing delay, should be 'the first step' in judicial system reforms, the Aayog has said in its draft three-year action plan discussed with Chief Ministers on April 23, 2017.

1517) Which of the following organised a photo exhibition "The Paths We Walk" in New Delhi in April 2017?

- a) Ministry of Culture and Tourism
- b) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*
- c) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- d) Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

1518) April is observed as World ____ Awareness Month.

- a) Autism*
- b) Alzheimer
- c) Anaemia
- d) Stroke

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment inaugurated a Documentary Photo exhibition "The Paths We Walk" in New Delhi on April 24, 2017. The exhibition has been organized by The National Trust under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in collaboration with Society for Child Development, New Delhi. The month of April is celebrated across the world as the World Autism Awareness Month.

1519) The international conference on “_____ : Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India” was organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) on April 27-28, 2017.

- a) Jahangir
- b) Sher Shah Suri
- c) Akbar
- d) Dara Shikoh*

1520) Who among the following is President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR)?

- a) Shakti Sinha
- b) Lokesh Chandra*
- c) Mahesh Rangarajan
- d) Viswanathan Mohan

The international conference on “Dara Shikoh: Reclaiming Spiritual Legacy of India” was organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) on April 27-28, 2017. The event was inaugurated by Minister of State for External Affairs M.J. Akbar. In 1655 Shah Jahan declared Dara Shikoh the Crown Prince of the Mughal Empire. He was, however, assassinated by his younger brother Muhiuddin (later, Emperor Aurangzeb) in a bitter struggle for the throne. “The study of India begins with the translation of the Upanishads and Dara Shikoh had them translated into Persian,” ICCR President Lokesh Chandra said.

1521) Teen Murti Chowk and the Teen Murti Marg in New Delhi will now be known after which Israeli city with the NDMC approving their renaming in April 2017?

- a) Haifa*
- b) Holon
- c) Netanya
- d) Jerusalem

The Teen Murti Chowk and the Teen Murti Marg in New Delhi will now be known after the Israeli city Haifa with the NDMC approving their renaming. The Teen Murti Chowk will now be known as ‘Teen Murti Haifa Chowk’ and the Teen Murti Marg will be known as ‘Teen Murti Haifa Marg’. The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on April 27, 2017 took a decision in this regard. The Israeli city of Haifa, which these places are being named after, was liberated from the Ottoman occupation by Indian soldiers during the First World War. Large number of Indian soldiers of the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade died during the battle and nearly 900 are buried in Israel.

1522) CAPART recently recommended the cancellation of registration of 159 FIRs against various NGOs for swindling government funds. CAPART is Council for Advancement of People’s Action and _____ Technology.

- a) Read
- b) Rural*
- c) Recent
- d) Regional

The Supreme Court on April 26, 2017 suggested that the government ought to frame a statutory law to regulate the flow of public money to the NGOs even as the Council for Advancement of People’s Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) recommended the cancellation of registration of 159 FIRs against various NGOs for swindling government funds. CAPART was founded in 1986, as a nodal agency for catalysing and coordinating the emerging partnership between voluntary organisations and the Government for sustainable development of rural areas. CAPART is an autonomous body registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860, and is functioning under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development.

1523) Who among the following is the Director of “Lipstick Under My Burkha”? FCAT directed CBFC to grant an ‘A’ certificate to the film in April 2017.

- a) Gurinder Chadha
- b) Meghna Gulzar
- c) Alankrita Srivastava*
- d) Zoya Akhtar

In April 2017, the Film Certification Appellate Tribunal (FCAT) directed the Central Board of Film Certification's (CBFC) to grant an 'A' certificate to the film "Lipstick Under My Burkha", which was earlier refused certification by the Board. Following the CBFC's decision, the film's director Alankrita Srivastava and producer Prakash Jha had filed an appeal in the FCAT.

1524) Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, J P Nadda 'Test and Treat Policy for _____', in New Delhi on April 28, 2017.

- a) Hypertension
- b) Diabetes
- c) Leprosy
- d) HIV*

"As soon as a person is tested and found to be positive, he will be provided with ART (anti-retroviral therapy) irrespective of his CD count or clinical stage." This was stated by the Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare, J P Nadda at the launch of the 'Test and Treat Policy for HIV', in New Delhi on April 28, 2017. "This will be for all men, women, adolescents and children who have been diagnosed as a HIV + case. This will improve longevity, improve quality of life of those infected and will save them from many opportunistic infections, especially TB," Nadda further added.

1525) Which of the following has been selected as the location of National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in animation, visual effects, gaming and comics by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication in April 2017?

- a) Kolkata
- b) Mumbai*
- c) Chennai
- d) New Delhi

The National Centre of Excellence (NCOE) in animation, visual effects, gaming and comics will come up in Mumbai in 2018-19, which will be the biggest in Asia, the Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) Director General KG Suresh said in Nagpur on April 23, 2017. "Maharashtra government has already given the 20-acre land for the purpose. NCOE will be the joint venture between the IIMC and FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry)," Suresh said. A fund of Rs 167.5 crore has been allotted for the project and the NBCC, a PSU, will construct the project building.

1526) Who among the following is the Union Minister for Panchayati Raj?

- a) Narendra Singh Tomar*
- b) Chaudhary Birender Singh
- c) Uma Bharati
- d) Ram Vilas Paswan

1527) The institution of Panchayati Raj came into being with the enactment of the Constitution _____ Amendment Act, 1992.

- a) 73rd*
- b) 74th
- c) 75th
- d) 76th

1528) The **Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar** given on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24 is named after who among the following?

- a) Nanaji Deshmukh*
- b) Deendayal Upadhyay
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

1529) The **Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar** given on National Panchayati Raj Day on April 24 is named after who among the following?

- a) Nanaji Deshmukh
- b) Deendayal Upadhyay*
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

April 24, 2017 was celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Diwas. The day marks the passing of the Constitution Act (73rd Amendment), 1992, that came into existence with effect from April 24, 1993. The enactment of the 73rd amendment is applauded as a defining moment in history as it permits states to take steps to organize village panchayats and provide them with necessary powers and authority necessary to help them to function as units of self-government.

National awards viz., Deendayal Upadhyay Panchayat Sashaktikaran Puraskar and Nanaji Deshmukh Rashtriya Gaurav Gram Sabha Puraskar are conferred upon Panchayati Raj Institutions and e-Panchayat Puraskars to State Governments.

A quarterly Newsmagazine "Gramoday Sankalp" published and distributed by Ministry of Panchayati Raj on behalf of three Ministries viz., Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Rural Development & Drinking Water and Sanitation is also released on the occasion of National Panchayati Raj Day.

Narendra Singh Tomar is the Union Minister for Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water and Sanitation.

1530) The India Post released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on which of the following as a Fragrance Stamp on April 23, 2017?

- a) Tea
- b) Rose
- c) Saffron
- d) Coffee*

The India Post on April 23, 2017 released a Commemorative Postage Stamp on Coffee as a Fragrance Stamp in Bengaluru. The stamp is priced at Rs. 100. India had introduced aromatic sandalwood stamp, priced at Rs 15, in 2006. Rose-scented stamps were also released in four varieties of flowers in 2007. The varieties were Jawahar, Neelam, Delhi Princess and Bhim, each priced at Rs five. A Jasmine-scented stamp was released in 2008.

1531) CIPAM and INTA launched an IPR Awareness campaign for schools across the country on April 25, 2017. CIPAM is Cell for IPR _____ and Management.

- a) Publicity
- b) Planning
- c) Protection
- d) Promotion*

The Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) in collaboration with the International Trademark Association (INTA) launched the IPR Awareness campaign for schools across the country in New Delhi on April 25, 2017.

1532) Who among the following was appointed as the new Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in April 2017?

- a) Rajinder Khanna
- b) Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar*
- c) Dineshwar Sharma
- d) Rajan Gupta

1533) Which of the following is the motto of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)?

- a) Duty Unto Death
- b) Serve with Honour
- c) Service and Loyalty*
- d) Protection and Security

1534) Who among the following was appointed as the new Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in April 2017?

- a) Arun Chaudhary
- b) P. N. Mishra
- c) R. K. Pachnanda*
- d) Dilip Trivedi

1535) . Which of the following is the motto of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

- a) Duty Unto Death
- b) Serve with Honour
- c) Service and Loyalty
- d) Valour - Steadfastness and Commitment*

The Government has appointed Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar as the new Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and R. K. Pachnanda as the new Director General of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in April 2017. Mottos: Duty Unto Death: BSF, Service and Loyalty: CRPF, Valour - Steadfastness and Commitment: Indo Tibetan Border Police, Protection and Security: CISF.

1536) 27. Lok Sabha MP Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. Which of the following awards were won by him?

- a) Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award*
- b) National Film Award for Best Actor
- c) Padma Shri
- d) Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

1537) Lok Sabha MP Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. He won from which constituency in 2014?

- a) Gurdaspur*
- b) Jalandhar
- c) Ludhiana
- d) Amritsar

1538) Lok Sabha MP Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. He had served as Union Minister for Culture and Tourism in the Cabinet of who among the following?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Vishwanath Pratap Singh
- c) Atal Behari Vajpayee*
- d) Manmohan Singh

Actor and BJP leader Vinod Khanna died in Mumbai on April 27, 2017 at the age of 70. He made his debut as a villain in "Mann Ka Meet" in 1968. He won from Gurdaspur constituency in Punjab in Lok Sabha elections as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidate in 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2014. He lost once in 2009. PM Atal Behari Vajpayee made him Union Minister for Culture and Tourism in July 2002. Six months later, he was moved to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) as Minister of State. He won three Filmfare awards in his career. In 1975, he won Filmfare Best Supporting Actor Award for Haath Ki Safai and in 1979 he again won the Filmfare Best Supporting Actor for Muqaddar Ka Sikander. He received Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1999.

1539) Begum Yaman K. Khan passed away at 52 in Ludhiana on April 28, 2017. She was well-known as a:

- a) Singer*
- b) Dancer
- c) Painter
- d) Sculptor

Famous Sufi singer and daughter of legendary Sitar Maestro (late) Ustad Vilayat Ali Khan, Begum Yaman K. Khan passed away at 52 in Ludhiana on April 28, 2017.

1540) The 'Priority Watch List' of the US government comprises countries that are seen as not taking sufficient action against:

- a) Money laundering and tax evasion
- b) Violation of intellectual property rights*
- c) Religious extremism and human rights violations
- d) Illegal immigration and poorly enforced labour laws

The US on April 28, 2017 retained India on its priority watch list this year for “lack of improvement” in the intellectual property (IP) framework. “India remains on the priority watch list this year for lack of sufficient measurable improvements to its IP framework on long-standing challenges and new issues that have negatively affected US right holders over the past year, particularly with respect to patents, copyrights, trade secrets, and enforcement,” the US Trade Representative (USTR) said in a report. The ‘Special 301’ report is an annual review of the global state of IP protection and enforcement.

1541) What was India’s rank on the World Press Freedom Index unveiled by ‘Reporters Without Borders’ in April 2017?

- a) 106th
- b) 126th
- c) 136^{th*}
- d) 146th

1542) What were the three top ranked countries in the World Press Freedom Index unveiled by ‘Reporters Without Borders’ in April 2017?

- a) Taiwan, Malaysia, Qatar
- b) Finland, Sweden, Norway*
- c) France, Portugal, Singapore
- d) Denmark, Netherlands, Iceland

In its annual World Press Freedom Index, Reporters Without Borders has ranked India 136th out of 180 countries. Norway is ranked first, followed by Sweden and Finland. “The rate at which democracies are approaching the tipping point is alarming for all those who understand that if media freedom is not secure, then none of the other freedoms can be guaranteed,” the watchdog’s Secretary General, Christophe Deloire, said in Paris on April 26, 2017.

1543) The first ‘India ____ Energy Forum’ was organised in ____ on April 20, 2017.

- a) Indonesia, New Delhi
- b) Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur
- c) Malaysia, New Delhi
- d) Indonesia, Jakarta*
- e) None of the above

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal and Ignasius Jonan, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Indonesia participated in the first ‘India Indonesia Energy Forum’, held in Jakarta, Indonesia, on April 20, 2017.

1544) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka? He visited India in April 2017.

- a) Wijeyananda Dahanayake
- b) Ratnasiri Wickremanayake
- c) Dingiri Banda Wijetunga
- d) Ranil Wickremesinghe*

India and Sri Lanka on April 26, 2017 signed MoU on economic co-operation following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Sri Lankan counterpart Ranil Wickremesinghe in New Delhi. The MoU proposes Indian investment in development of port and oil tank farms in Trincomalee, setting up of a LNG power plant and terminal, piped gas supply in capital Colombo, highway and railway projects in north and east of the country etc.

1545) Which of the following organised the two-day event ‘Making Global Goals Local Business – India’ in New Delhi on April 26-27, 2017?

- a) UN*
- b) EU
- c) WEF
- d) WTO

The United Nations Global Compact was organised in New Delhi on April 26-27, 2017. The two-day event saw participation from over 300 leaders from business, finance, civil society, government and the UN for its regional flagship

event Making Global Goals Local Business - India. The United Nations Global Compact is a United Nations initiative to encourage businesses worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation.

1546) Who among the following is the President of Armenia, a country visited by Vice President Hamid Ansari in April 2017?

- a) Serzh Sargsyan*
- b) Karen Karapetyan
- c) Robert Kocharyan
- d) Hovik Abrahamyan

1547) Consider the following regarding Armenia.

I. Parliament: National Assembly

II. Capital: Yerevan

III. Currency: Lari

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only*
- c) II and III only
- d) III only

India will help Armenia to build satellite and remote sensing data matters and train Armenian scientists as both the countries signed three agreements in capital Yerevan on April 25, 2017 to boost bilateral cooperation. The agreements were signed after Vice President Hamid Ansari held talks with the top leadership of Armenia including President Serzh Sargsyan, Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan and Foreign Minister Eduard Nalbandian. National Assembly is the Parliament of Armenia. **Countries and Currencies:** Ukraine: Hryvnia, Georgia: Lari, Armenia: Dram, Moldova: Leu, Azerbaijan: Manat

1548) What is the joint Naval Exercise between India and France organised in Mediterranean Sea in April 2016 named?

- a) Samudra
- b) Indra
- c) Seaspark
- d) Varuna*

The Indian Navy on April 24, 2017 began a joint maritime exercise with the French Navy at the Mediterranean Sea to further deepen combat coordination between the two navies. The 'Varuna' exercise will continue till April 30.

1549) Cyprus is an island nation in the:

- a) Red Sea
- b) Dead Sea
- c) Mediterranean Sea*
- d) Black Sea

1550) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Cyprus? He visited India in April 2017.

- a) Harris Georgiades
- b) Yiannakis Matsis
- c) Averof Neofytou
- d) Nicos Anastasiades*

1551) Which of the following regarding Cyprus is not correct?

- a) Currency is Euro
- b) Nicosia is the capital
- c) Member of European Union
- d) None of the above*

India and Cyprus on April 28, 2017 signed four pacts, including one for air services and another for cooperation in merchant shipping in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades after holding delegation-level talks at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi. Cyprus, an island nation in Mediterranean Sea, is member of EU and its currency is Euro. Nicosia is the capital and House of Representatives is the Parliament.

1552) Which of the following hosted the Meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' on April 21, 2017?

- a) Houston
- b) Washington*
- c) Chicago
- d) New York

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley attended the Meeting of G-20 Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' in Washington on April 21, 2017.

1553) Which of the following announced in April 2017 that it will pull out of the Organization of American States (OAS)?

- a) Cuba
- b) Nicaragua
- c) Venezuela*
- d) Honduras

1554) Who among the following is the Secretary General of the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS)?

- a) Pedro Vaz
- b) Luis Almagro*
- c) Nestor Mendez
- d) Delcy Rodriguez

Venezuela's Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez said in Caracas on April 26, 2017 the government would launch a two-year process to pull out of the Washington-based Organization of American States (OAS). 35 countries are members of OAS. The OAS and other international authorities have voiced concern about the state of democracy in Venezuela, where President Nicolas Maduro is resisting opposition pressure to remove him from office. OAS Secretary General Luis Almagro has previously branded Maduro, an elected socialist, a "dictator" for stifling the opposition.

1555) Which of the following was not among the top 5 countries in 2016 defence expenditure as per the latest report from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) in April 2017?

- a) Japan*
- b) India
- c) China
- d) Saudi Arabia

India's military expenditure grew around 8.5 per cent in 2016, making it the world's fifth largest spender at \$55.9 billion, figures released by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) revealed on April 24, 2017. As per the figures, the US remains the world's largest military spender registering a growth of 1.7 per cent between 2015 and 2016 to \$611 billion. China is second on the list spending \$215 billion, an increase of 5.4 per cent. Russia increased its spending by 5.9 per cent to \$69.2 billion, making it the third largest spender. Saudi Arabia, the third largest spender in 2015, dropped to the fourth position in 2016 with its spending dropping by 30 per cent in 2016 to \$63.7 billion.

1556) Which of the following claims the independent Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (Western Sahara) as its own territory?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Angola
- c) Morocco*
- d) Tunisia

Cuba and Morocco has signed an agreement to reestablish diplomatic ties after a gap of 37 years, the Cuban Foreign Ministry said in a statement in Havana on April 22, 2017. Morocco cut ties with Havana in 1980 after Cuba recognised Western Sahara as the independent Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic. Morocco claims the territory as its own.

1557) Who among the following is the President of Beijing-based Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?

- a) Xu Xiang
- b) Jin Liqun*
- c) Tang Yuhan
- d) Zhu Yanfeng

The World Bank and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on April 23, 2017 signed an agreement to strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing between the two institutions. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and Beijing-based AIIB President Jin Liqun in Washington.

1558) Which of the following is the joint Egypt-US naval exercise in Red Sea in April 2017?

- a) Hawk Salute 2017
- b) Kite Salute 2017
- c) Falcon Salute 2017
- d) Eagle Salute 2017*

Navies of Egypt and the United States launched "Eagle Salute 2017" joint exercise in the waters of the Red Sea on April 23, 2017.

1559) . China launched its second aircraft carrier on April 26, 2017 which has not been named. Which of the following its first aircraft carrier launched in 2014?

- a) Jilin
- b) Fujian
- c) Liaoning*
- d) Guizhou

China launched its first domestically-built aircraft carrier on April 26, 2017. The 50,000-tonne aircraft carrier is yet to be named. The new carrier is touted to be a significant upgrade from the 'Liaoning', which was built more than 25 years ago and is a refurbished Soviet ship bought from Ukraine.

1560) Which of the following has decided to provide upto \$ 1 billion for constructing 560 mosques in Bangladesh?

- a) UAE
- b) Qatar
- c) Oman
- d) Saudi Arabia*

Bangladesh has approved a project to build hundreds of mosques with almost \$1 billion from Saudi Arabia. The government plans to construct 560 mosques — one in every town in Bangladesh. Saudi Arabia will provide the lion's share of the \$1.07 billion cost, said Planning Minister Mustofa Kamal on April 26, 2017.

1561) Which of the following is the intercontinental ballistic missile test-fired by the US in April 2017?

- a) Pointman III
- b) Targetman III
- c) Minuteman III*
- d) Journeyman III

The US Air Force test-fired the long-range Minuteman III missile on April 26, 2017. Deployed from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, the missile travelled roughly 4,200 miles to a test range near the Marshall Islands. The test launched a Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile from the Airborne Launch Control System on a Navy E-6 Mercury jet.

1562) World Book and Copyright Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 23*
- b) April 24

- c) April 25
- d) April 26

1563) Which of the following was named World Book Capital 2017 by UNESCO?

- a) Malabo
- b) Libreville
- c) Accra
- d) Conakry*

World Book and Copyright Day (WBCD) was observed on April 23, 2017. It is a yearly event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The focus, this year is on the visually impaired to have easy access to printed materials. UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova said for 2017, Conakry in Guinea has been designated World Book Capital 2017.

1564) What was the theme of the World Intellectual Property Day observed on April 26, 2017?

- a) Designing the Future
- b) Innovation: Improving lives*
- c) Creativity: The Next Generation
- d) Digital Creativity: Culture Reimagined

1565) The World Intellectual Property Day is observed on April 26 to marks the date on which WIPO Convention came into force in 1970. Who among the following is the Director General of World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)?

- a) Francis Gurry*
- b) Taleb Rifai
- c) Claude Smadja
- d) Achim Steiner

April 26, 2017 was observed as the World Intellectual Property Day with 'Innovation – Improving lives' as its theme. The aim is to spread awareness about the role that intellectual property rights (patents, trademarks, industrial designs, copyright) play in encouraging innovation and creativity. WIPO's member states designated April 26 – the day on which the WIPO Convention came into force in 1970 – as World IP Day with the aim of increasing general understanding of IP. Francis Gurry is the Director General of World Intellectual Property organization (WIPO).

1566) What was the theme of World Malaria Day observed on April 25, 2017?

- a) End malaria for good
- b) A push for prevention*
- c) Achieving Progress and Impact
- d) Malaria: a disease without borders

1567) World Malaria Day was observed on April 25, 2017. Who among the following received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902 for his work on malaria?

- a) Edward Jenner
- b) Louis Pasteur
- c) Thomas Wood
- d) Robert Ross*

World Malaria Day was observed on April 25, 2017. The day is an occasion to highlight the need for continued investment and sustained political commitment for malaria prevention and control. Theme for World Malaria Day 2017: "A push for prevention". World Malaria Day (WMD) is an international observance commemorated every year on 25 April. It recognizes global efforts to control malaria. British doctor Ronald Ross received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1902 for his work on malaria.

1568) 'International Girls in ICT Day' is observed on fourth ____ of April every year.

- a) Monday
- b) Tuesday
- c) Wednesday

d) Thursday*

1569) Who among the following is the Secretary-General of the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU)?

- a) Xu Xiang
- b) Jin Liqun
- c) Tang Yuhan
- d) Houlin Zhao*

United Nations agencies on April 27, 2017 introduced thousands of girls and women to careers in coding and robotics as part of its annual 'International Girls in ICT Day' celebrations around the world, meant to encourage girls and women to pursue careers in the field of information and communications technology. Secretary-General of the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Houlin Zhao said he hopes that the Day, marked annually on the fourth Thursday in April, "will continue to introduce more girls to ICTs."

1570) International Mother Earth Day was celebrated on _____, 2017.

- a) April 21
- b) April 22*
- c) April 23
- d) April 24

1571) . What was the theme of the International Mother Earth Day celebrated in April 2017?

- a) Trees for the Earth!
- b) Water Wonderful World
- c) Clean Earth – Green Earth
- d) Environmental & Climate Literacy*

International Mother Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 2017. According to the UN, the day is celebrated each year to remind each of us that the Earth and its ecosystems provide us with life and sustenance. The theme for 2017 is "Environmental & Climate Literacy".

1572) World _____ Week was observed from April 24 to 30, 2017.

- a) Organic
- b) Nutrition
- c) Immunization*
- d) Blood Donation

World Immunization Week was observed from April 24 to 30, 2017. Immunization is one of the most successful and cost-effective means to help children grow into healthy adults. We have made enormous progress, but 1 in 5 children is still not being reached. In addition, too many adolescents and adults are not receiving the vaccines they need to help them stay healthy throughout life. It is time to close the gap.

1573) An international day to celebrate which genre of music was on April 30, 2017?

- a) Rock
- b) Jazz*
- c) Blues
- d) Reggae

The annual International Jazz Day was celebrated on April 30, 2017. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), for more than a century jazz has helped soothe and uplift the souls of millions of people in all corners of the world.

1574) Which of the following became the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in April 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Peru
- c) El Salvador*
- d) Uruguay

El Salvador has become the first country in the world to ban the mining of metals in what campaigners called a landmark move for environmental protection. The law bans “prospection, exploration, exploitation, extraction or processing of metallic minerals in El Salvador,” according to the text published in the official journal in capital San Salvador on April 27, 2017. The new law entered into force after being signed by President Salvador Sanchez Ceren.

1575) Which of the following is the joint military exercise conducted by forces of UAE and the US in April 2017?

- a) Iron Claw 3*
- b) Copper Claw 3
- c) Platinum Claw 3
- d) Steel Claw 3

A joint military exercise between the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the US land forces concluded in Abu Dhabi. Named Iron Claw 3, the training is part of the military exercises the UAE Armed Forces carry out throughout the year, with the aim of enhancing capability, gaining more field experience and understanding military doctrines. (April 28, 2017)

1576) Who among the following was appointed as youngest Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) in April 2017?

- a) Heba Nour
- b) Yusra Mardini*
- c) Zainab Bakkour
- d) Marella Mamoun

First ever Refugee Olympic Team swimmer Yusra Mardini (19), a Syrian who fled across the Mediterranean, has been appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador for United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). With the appointment, she became the youngest Goodwill Ambassador working with the UN Refugee Agency. Mardini, 19, competed in the 2016 games in Rio de Janeiro as a member of the first-ever Refugee Olympic Team. She has been granted asylum in Germany. “Through her powerful personal story, Yusra represents the hopes, the fears and the incredible potential of the more than ten million young refugees around the globe,” said UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi in Geneva (Switzerland) on April 28, 2017.

1577) Jonathan Demme died on April 26, 2017 at the age of 73. Which movie directed by him won five honours at the Academy Awards – Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Adapted Screenplay?

- a) Jaws
- b) The Exorcist
- c) It Happened One Night
- d) The Silence of the Lambs*

Oscar-winning filmmaker Jonathan Demme, best known for his directorial ventures “The Silence of the Lambs” (1991) and “Philadelphia” died in Manhattan, New York on April 26, 2017 at the age of 73. “The Silence of the Lambs” won Academy Awards in all the top five categories: Best Picture, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Director, and Adapted Screenplay.

1578) The Centre is set to launch IDEAS scheme for students from higher educational institutions to find solutions to problems facing the country and get rewarded for their efforts. Expand IDEAS?

- a) Development of Efficient and Austere Systems
- b) Development of Efficient and Affordable Systems*
- c) Development of Efficient and Adaptable Systems
- d) Development of Efficient and Applicable Systems

The Centre is set to launch a scheme for students from higher educational institutions to volunteer to offer innovative, original and practical solutions to problems facing the country and get rewarded for their efforts. The scheme that will invite students to find solutions to problems in these fields — and offer a prize of Rs. 1 crore to the best solution in each field — is to be called IDEAS, or Innovations for Development of Efficient and Affordable Systems. The Human Resource Development Ministry has identified a handful of areas pertaining to which the problem-solving skills of students will be tested. Under each of the above areas or themes, 10 problem statements will be prepared and widely publicised. (April 24, 2017).

1579) What is the cash prize given to Dadasaheb Phalke award winner?

- a) Rs 5 lakh
- b) Rs 7 lakh
- c) Rs 10 lakh*
- d) Rs 12 lakh

1580) Kasinadhuni Viswanath is the _____ winner of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award.

- a) 28th
- b) 38th
- c) 48th*
- d) 58th

1581) 2016 Dadasaheb Phalke Award winner Kasinadhuni Viswanath is recipient of which of the following national honours?

- a) Padma Shri*
- b) Padma Bhushan
- c) Padma Vibhushan
- d) National Film Award for Best Director

Renowned Film Director & Actor Kasinadhuni Viswanath is to be conferred the 48th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2016. This was announced by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting on April 24, 2017. The Award consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs and a shawl. The Award shall be conferred by the President at Vigyan Bhawan on May 3. His contributions have received recognition in the form of Padma Shri Award in 1992 by the Government of India for his contribution to film making. His other honours include National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment – Sankarabharanam (1979) and Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration – Saptapadi (1982). He also won Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1994.

1582) Who among the following was on April 24, 2017 announced as the Asia recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize?

- a) Bibhuti Patnaik
- b) Prafulla Samantara*
- c) Nikhilanand Panigrahy
- d) Santanu Kumar Acharya

1583) Who among the following is not among the six winners of the Goldman Environmental Prize announced in April 2017?

- a) Uros Macerl
- b) Rodrigo Tot
- c) Nohra Padilla*
- d) Wendy Bowman

Indian environmental activist Prafulla Samantara was on April 24, 2017 announced as the Asia recipient of the Goldman Environmental Prize for championing the cause of Odidha's Dongria Kondh tribals and safeguarding their land and culture. The prize honours grassroots environmental heroes from the world's six inhabited regions -- Africa, Asia, Europe, Islands & Island Nations, North America, and South and Central America. This year's other winners are Uros Macerl from Slovenia, mark! Lopez from the US, Rodrigo Tot from Guatemala, Rodrigue Mugaruka Katembo from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Wendy Bowman from Australia.

1584) Who among the following BJP Rajya Sabha MPs has won lifetime achievement award given by the World Health Organisation (WHO) in April 2017?

- a) Dr. C.P. Thakur*
- b) Dr. Prabhakar Kore
- c) Dr. Vikas Mahatme
- d) Dr. Subramanian Swamy

Former union health minister and BJP Rajya Sabha MP C P Thakur will be awarded with a lifetime achievement award by World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017 for extensive research in the field of Kalajar. Thakur has been invited by

the Leishmania Scientific Committee to participate in a five-day programme from May 16 at Toledo in Spain, a statement from the MP's office said on Patna on April 27, 2017. A native of Patna, Thakur, presently a BJP Rajya Sabha member, served as union health minister during the NDA government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee. A renowned doctor, Thakur has done extensive research in the field of Kalajar and is the first Indian Medical scientist bestowed with the prestigious award by WHO.

1585) Which of the following won the 'Indian MNC of the year' award given by the All India Management Association (AIMA) in April 2017?

- a) Bajaj Auto
- b) Tata Motors
- c) Hero MotoCorp*
- d) Maruti Suzuki

Hero MotoCorp, the world's largest two-wheeler manufacturer, was adjudged the 'Indian MNC of the year' by All India Management Association (AIMA). Pawan Munjal, Chairman, MD and CEO, Hero MotoCorp Ltd., received the award for the rapid global expansion of Brand Hero in New Delhi on April 28, 2017. Hero MotoCorp, which sold more than 6.6 million two-wheelers in FY'17, is the only Indian two-wheeler company to have a manufacturing facility in Latin America.

1586) Who among the following was crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017 in Nicaragua's capital Managua on April 24, 2017?

- a) Srinidhi Shetty
- b) Srishti Kaur*
- c) Lata Sharma
- d) Aradhana Singh

Srishti Kaur from India has been crowned Miss Teen Universe 2017, beating out 25 other contestants from around the world in the annual beauty pageant held at the Ruben Dario National Theater in Nicaragua's capital Managua on April 24, 2017. The six-year-old beauty pageant for teens aged 15 to 19 is held by the Miss Universe Organization.

1587) Which of the following Hindi movies won the best film honour at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in April 2017?

- a) Rustom
- b) Dangal
- c) Kahaani 2
- e) Newton*

Actor Rajkummar Rao-starrer "Newton" has won the best film honour at the Hong Kong International Film Festival. Amit Masurkar-directed "Newton", which also stars Anjali Patil, is a political satire. (April 23, 2017)

1588) SEBI has decided to allow investors to purchase mutual funds worth through digital wallets. What is the limit per mutual fund per financial year?

- a) Rs. 5,000
- b) Rs. 25,000
- c) Rs. 50,000*
- d) Rs. 75,000

1589) . SEBI has decided to allow investors to purchase mutual funds worth through digital wallets. Consider the following statements.

- I. E-wallet issuers can offer cash back incentive for investing in an MF scheme
- II. The e-wallet's balance can only be used for subscription to MFs
- III. Redemptions of such investments can be made only to the bank account of a unit holder

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III only

Investors will be permitted to purchase mutual funds worth up to Rs. 50,000 through digital wallets with SEBI approving the proposal on April 26, 2017. "Investments up to Rs. 50,000 per mutual fund per financial year can be made using e-wallets," the regulator said while redemptions of such investments can be made only to the bank account of a unit holder. E-wallet issuers would not be permitted to offer any incentive such as cash back, directly or indirectly, for investing in an MF scheme. Besides, the e-wallet's balance loaded through cash or debit card or net banking can only be used for subscription to MFs. The limit of Rs. 50,000 would be an umbrella limit for investment by an investor through e-wallet and/or cash, per MF.

1590) Who among the following is Chairman of the Committee constituted by Finance Ministry to examine the seventh Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations on Allowances?

- a) Sunil Arora
- b) Rakesh Singh
- c) Ashok Lavasa*
- d) Chinmay Basu

The Committee on Allowances, constituted by Finance Ministry to examine the seventh Central Pay Commission (CPC) recommendations on Allowances, submitted its Report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on April 27, 2017. The Committee was headed by Ashok Lavasa, Finance Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure) and was set-up in June 2016.

1591) One of the first three flights under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also called UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), was inaugurated on Shimla-New Delhi route on April 27, 2017. The flight is operated by which of the following?

- a) Trujet
- b) Air Deccan
- c) Odisha Air
- d) Alliance Air*

1592) One of the first three flights under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also called UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), was inaugurated on Kadapa-Hyderabad route on April 27, 2017. The flight is operated by which of the following?

- a) Trujet*
- b) Air Deccan
- c) Odisha Air
- d) Alliance Air

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 27, 2017 inaugurated the maiden Shimla-New Delhi flight under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also called UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik). The prime minister also simultaneously flagged off regional connectivity scheme (RCS) flights on the Kadapa-Hyderabad and Nanded-Hyderabad sectors (both operated by Trujet) through video-conferencing. The Shimla-New Delhi flight is being operated by Alliance Air, a subsidiary of Air India. Five airlines were awarded 128 routes to operate flights under RCS in March 2017 after a bidding process. The five airlines are: Alliance Air, Air Deccan, Odisha Air, SpiceJet and Trujet.

1593) What is the foodgrain production target for crop year 2017-18 announced by Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh on April 25, 2017?

- a) 253 million tonnes
- b) 263 million tonnes
- c) 273 million tonnes*
- d) 283 million tonnes

The government on April 25, 2017 set foodgrain production target at record 273 million tonne for the 2017-18 crop year and expects to achieve 4 per cent farm sector growth following the prediction of normal monsoon. Foodgrain production is estimated to touch a record 271.98 million tonne (MT) in the current year (July-June), according to the second estimate of the agriculture ministry. This was announced by Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said while addressing a national conference that is discussing sowing strategy for the coming kharif season.

1594) What is the minimum age eligible for those wanting to join Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?

- a) 18 years*
- b) 20 years

- c) 22 years
- d) 24 years

1595) Those subscribing for Atal Pension Yojana (APY) will start receiving pension after completing the age of _____.

- a) 50 years
- b) 55 years
- c) 60 years*
- d) 65 years

1596) What is the maximum monthly pension payable to subscribers of Atal Pension Yojana (APY)?

- a) Rs. 3000
- b) Rs. 5000*
- c) Rs. 7000
- d) Rs. 9000

With a view to digitally empower the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) subscribers and improve the quality of service, the facility of online viewing of the statement of transaction (e-SOT) and also the e-PRAN card have been launched. The APY subscribers can visit the website: www.npscra.nsdl.co.in or www.npstrust.org.in under the Atal Pension Yojana Section to avail these value added facilities. This was stated in a press note issued by the Finance Ministry on April 25, 2017. APY, launched in May 2015, provides minimum guaranteed pension ranging between Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month for the subscriber from the age of 60 years, depending on the contribution option exercised on entering at an age between 18 and 40 years. The same amount of pension is paid to the spouse in the case of the subscriber's demise.

1597) Which of the following launched 'Solve for India' program for entrepreneurs and startups on April 28, 2017?

- a) Google*
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Adobe

Aiming to support and mentor new initiatives in the field of technology, Google on April 28, 2017 announced its 'Solve for India' program to inspire the new wave of entrepreneurs and startups across the country. Through this initiative, Google aims to expand and energise the startup ecosystem in these 11 tier II cities and inspire the budding entrepreneurs to solve for India and its underserved user needs.

1598) Which of the following launched artificial intelligence platform 'Nia' in April 2017? Nia can help businesses forecast revenues, understand customer behaviour and deal with compliance and fraud.

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys*
- c) HCL
- d) TCS

IT major Infosys launched its new artificial intelligence platform 'Nia' in April 2017 that can help businesses forecast revenues, understand customer behaviour as well as deep dive into content of contracts and deal with compliance and fraud.

1599) Who among the following became the first Indian actor to address TED talks (Technology, Entertainment and Design talks) in Vancouver, Canada in April 2017?

- a) Aamir Khan
- b) Salman Khan
- c) Amitabh Bachchan
- d) Shahrukh Khan*

Shahrukh Khan became the first Bollywood actor to address TED talks (Technology, Entertainment and Design talks) in Canada on April 27, 2017. The actor attended 'Ted 2017 - The Future You' conference held in Vancouver, Canada.

1600) Which of the following has partnered with MMTc-PAMP to launch Digital Gold in April 2017? It enables Indians to buy, store and sell pure gold instantly.

- a) Paytm*
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

On the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, online payment platform Paytm on April 27, 2017 announced its collaboration with India's only Internationally Accredited Refinery MMTC-PAMP to launch Digital Gold, enabling Indians to buy, store and sell pure gold instantly. Paytm users can now purchase gold online and store it in MMTC-PAMP's highly secure vaults free of charge. They can also request for their gold to be delivered at their home in the form of minted coins or sell it back online instantly.

1601) Who among the following is the author of popular philosophical novel "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance"? He died in US at the age of 88 on April 25, 2017.

- a) Mortimer J. Adler
- b) Donald T. Campbell
- c) Lawrence C. Becker
- d) Robert M. Pirsig*

Robert M. Pirsig, whose philosophical novel "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" became a million-selling classic and cultural touchstone, died at the age of 88 on April 25, 2017 in South Berwick, Maine. The book was published in 1974 and was based on a motorcycle trip Pirsig took in the late 1960s with his 12-year-old son, Chris.

1602) Which private sector bank has acquired the entire stake held by its partner Old Mutual of UK in their life insurance joint venture in April 2017?

- a) Axis Bank
- b) ICICI Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Kotak Mahindra Bank*

Kotak Mahindra Bank on April 28, 2017 said it has inked an agreement to purchase the entire 26 per cent equity stake held by Old Mutual plc, UK (OM) in Kotak Mahindra Old Mutual Life Insurance for a consideration of Rs. 1,292.7 crore. After the completion of the transaction, Kotak Mahindra Group will hold 100 per cent of the equity shareholding of Kotak Life.

1603) Which state was directed by the Supreme Court in April 2017 to reinstate its ex- Directors General of Police (DGP) who was transferred in May 2016?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Telangana
- c) Goa
- d) Kerala*

Supreme Court on April 24, 2017 directed the Kerala government to reinstate ex-DGP T P Senkumar who was transferred in May 2016.

1604) Which state's Anti Terror Squad (ATS) on April 27, 2017 said that it plans to initiate a 'Ghar Wapsi' (Home Coming) campaign for deradicalisation of the misguided youth?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

The Uttar Pradesh Anti Terror Squad (ATS) on April 27, 2017 said that it plans to initiate a 'Ghar Wapsi' (Home Coming) campaign for deradicalisation of the misguided youth.

1605) Former speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Ali Mohammad Naik, passed away in Srinagar on April 21, 2017 at the age of 87. He belonged to which party?

- a) National Conference*

- b) Congress
- c) Peoples Democratic Party
- d) Panthers Party

Senior National Conference (NC) leader and former speaker of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Ali Mohammad Naik, passed away in Srinagar on April 21, 2017 at the age of 87. He was elected speaker of the Assembly in 1996. In 1999, he defeated former chief minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in Lok Sabha elections from Anantnag constituency of South Kashmir. Naik was badly injured in a militant attack in 2006.

1606) World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 26
- b) April 27
- c) April 28*
- d) April 29

World Day for Safety and Health at Work was observed on April 28, 2017. The World Day for Safety and Health at Work is an annual international campaign to promote safe, healthy and decent work. It is held on 28 April and has been observed by the International Labour Organization (ILO) since 2003. The ILO's campaign for the 2017 World Day for Safety and Health at Work focuses on the critical need for countries to improve their capacity to collect and utilize reliable occupational safety and health (OSH) data.

1607) The annual Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) April 26
- b) April 27
- c) April 28
- d) April 29*

The annual Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare was observed on April 29, 2017. The day is observed on April 29 each year to mark the date in 1997 on which the Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force. This commemoration provides an opportunity to pay tribute to the victims of chemical warfare, as well as to reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.

1608) ISRO made an Announcement of Opportunity in April 2017 to research institutions in the country for its forthcoming mission to which planet?

- a) Venus*
- b) Saturn
- c) Jupiter
- d) Uranus

ISRO on April 24, 2017 made an Announcement of Opportunity for its Venus mission to research institutions in the country.

1609) 39-year-old Younis Khan completed 10,000 Test runs in April 2017. Which of the following statements is not correct?

- a) He is the first Pakistani player to achieve this milestone
- b) He is the oldest player to achieve this milestone
- c) He achieved this milestone in a test match against West Indies
- d) None of the above*

39-year-old Younis Khan became the first Pakistan player to complete 10,000 Test runs during his team's first innings in the first Test against West Indies at Sabina Park in Kingston (Jamaica) on April 23, 2017. Younis was out for 58. The 39-year-old right hander began his 116th Test with 9,977 runs from 207 innings and went to the elusive landmark after tea. Khan is the oldest to reach the milestone of 10,000 Test runs at 39 years and 145 days. India's Sachin Tendulkar leads the list of most run-getters in Test cricket with 15,921 in 200 matches.

1610) Which cricket stadium's four blocks were named after war heroes Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa, Colonel N J Nair, Havildar Hangpan Dada and Subedar Joginder Singh in April 2017?

- a) Wankhede
- b) Eden Gardens*
- c) M. Chinnaswamy
- d) Feroz Shah Kotla

Four war heroes found a place of permanence in the hallowed Eden Gardens Stadium of Kolkata as the Cricket Association of Bengal on April 28, 2017 named four blocks of the stadium in honour of them. The name plates of Lieutenant Colonel Dhan Singh Thapa, Colonel N J Nair, Havildar Hangpan Dada and Subedar Joginder Singh were unveiled in a ceremony at the stadium that stands on land owned by the Ministry of Defence.

1611) Which Indian player won the Men's Doubles title at Monte Carlo Masters along with Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay in April 2017?

- a) N. Sriram Balaji
- b) Rohan Bopanna*
- c) Yuki Bhambri
- d) Ramkumar Ramanathan

Rafael Nadal won the Monte Carlo Masters for a record-breaking 10th time with a dominant 6-1, 6-3 defeat of Spanish compatriot Albert Ramos-Vinolas in Monte Carlo on April 23, 2017. India's Rohan Bopanna and his Uruguayan partner Pablo Cuevas won the Men's Doubles title by beating Feliciano Lopez and Marc Lopez of Spain in the final 6-3, 3-6, 10-4.

1612) Who among the following won the Men's Race at the London Marathon on April 23, 2017?

- a) Eliud Kipchoge
- b) Daniel Wanjiru*
- ca) Dennis Kimetto
- d) Stanley Biwott

Kenyan Daniel Wanjiru won the Men's Race London Marathon on April 23, 2017 in two hours five minutes 48 seconds. Kenya's Mary Keitany won the women's race, finishing in 2:17.01.

1613) Which of the following pairs of Indian medal winners at the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in April 2017 is not matched correctly with their event?

- a) Manpreet Kaur: Women's shot put
- b) Neeraj Chopra: Men's javelin
- c) Tintu Luka: Women's high jump*
- d) Neena Varakil: Women's long jump

1614) Which of the following pairs of Indian medal winners at the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in April 2017 is matched correctly with their event?

- a) Jinson Johnson: Men's triple jump
- b) Dutee Chand: Women's 100m*
- c) Om Prakash Karhana: Men's 10 km walk
- d) All the above

Indian shot putter Manpreet Kaur clinched gold medal in the first leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet with a national record in Jinhua (China) on April 24, 2017. India ended the one-day event with seven medals (1 gold, 4 silver, 2 bronze). Neeraj Chopra (men's javelin), Tintu Luka (women's 800m), Neena Varakil (women's long jump) and Jinson Johnson (men's 800m) won a silver each while Dutee Chand (women's 100m) and Om Prakash Karhana (men's shot put) bagged a bronze each.

Neena Varakil stole the limelight from her more fancied compatriots to bag the gold in women's long jump as India won six medals in the second leg of the Asian Grand Prix Athletics Meet in New Delhi on April 27, 2017. Besides Neena's gold, India won four silver medals through Manpreet Kaur (women's shot put), Neeraj Chopra (men's javelin), Dutee Chand (women's 100m) and Tintu Luka (women's 800m), and a bronze through Om Prakash Karhana (men's shot put). The third leg will be held in Chinese Taipei on April 30.

1615) Who among the following won the Reykjavik Open Chess tournament in Iceland in April 2017?

- a) Anish Giri*

- b) Magnus Carlsen
- c) Hikaru Nakamura
- d) Vladimir Kramnik

1616) Who among the following Indians was adjudged the 'best women's player of the tournament' at the Reykjavik Open Chess tournament in Iceland in April 2017?

- a) Padmini Rout
- b) Koneru Humpy
- c) Harika Dronavalli*
- d) Soumya Swaminathan

The Reykjavik Open Chess tournament in Iceland ended on April 27, 2017. Anish Giri of the Netherlands won the tournament followed by his countryman Jorden Van Foreest in second place. Indian Grandmaster Harika Dronavalli was adjudged the 'best women's player of the tournament'.

MAY-2017

1617) Results of Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns were disclosed in May 2017. Which of the following is not among the Top-5 Cleanest cities?

- a) Surat
- b) Bhopal
- c) Mysuru
- d) Tiruchirappalli*

1618) Which of the following was ranked first in Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns?

- a) New Delhi Municipal Council
- b) Navi Mumbai
- c) Vadodara
- d) Indore*

1619) Which of the following was ranked last in Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns?

- a) Gonda
- b) Hardoi
- c) Bahraich
- d) Bagaha*

1620) Consider the following regarding the results of Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns.

- I. Gujarat has most cities in Top 50
- II. Uttar Pradesh has most cities in Bottom 50
- III. The survey was conducted by QCI in January-February 2017

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) I, II and III*

1621) The Quality Council of India conducted Swachh Survekshan-2017 in 434 cities and towns. Who among the following is its Chairman?

- a) Adil Zainulbhai*
- b) Dipankar Gupta
- c) Nadeem Qureshi
- d) Saraswati Prasad

Indore has emerged as the India's Cleanest City in the Swachh Survekshan-2017 conducted in 434 cities and towns, the results of which were announced in New Delhi on May 4, 2017 by the Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu. Bhopal, Visakhapatnam, Surat, Mysuru, Tiruchirappalli, New Delhi Municipal Council, Navi Mumbai, Vadodara and Chandigarh are among the Top 10 clean cities in that order. 10 towns that came at the bottom of the 434 surveyed are;

Gonda (UP) ranked 434 followed by Bhusawal (Maharashtra), Bagaha (Bihar)- 433, Hardoi (UP)-432, Katihar (Bihar)-431, Bahraich (UP)-429, Muktsar (Punjab)-427, Muktsar (Punjab)-426 and Khurja (UP)-425.

A total of 14 States were represented in the Top 50 clean cities with Gujarat accounting for 12, followed Madhya Pradesh-11, Andhra Pradesh-8 and one each from Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh. 25 towns from Uttar Pradesh are ranked among the bottom 50 cities with followed by Rajasthan and Punjab with five each, two in Maharashtra and one each from Haryana, Karnataka and Lakshadweep.

Swachh Survekshan-2017 aimed at capturing the outcomes on ground of the ongoing efforts to make urban areas Open Defecation Free and to improve door-to-door collection, processing and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste. Of the total score of 2,000, 900 marks were assigned for performance in respect of ODF and solid waste management, 600 marks for Citizen Feedback and 500 marks for Independent Observation.

Quality Council of India that conducted the survey during January-February this year deployed 421 assessors for on the site inspection of cleanliness in 434 cities and towns and another 55 for real time monitoring of progress of survey and field inspections. Field inspectors used geo-tagged devices for collecting evidence in real time of their inspection at 17,500 locations.

1622) Health & Family Welfare Ministry's eVIN project was recently studied by many countries for replication. 'I' in eVIN stands for:

- Immunisation
- Investigation
- Intelligence*
- Indigenous

Members of a five country international delegation called on C K Mishra, Secretary Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, in New Delhi on May 4, 2017. They interacted with the Health Secretary to learn more about the global best practice of eVIN (Electronic Vaccine Intelligence Network) project of the Health Ministry and to understand how it is being implemented in the country and the ways in which it be replicated in their own countries.

1623) BrahMos missiles were test fired successfully on 2 consecutive days in May 2017. 'C' in LACM stands for:

- Class
- Cruise*
- Continental
- Conventional

South Western Command's Corps 'Strike One' successfully carried out the firing of the advanced BRAHMOS Block III land attack cruise missile (LACM) system in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on May 3, 2017 for the second consecutive day. The successive launches reinforce the formidable weapon's precision strike capability. It was successfully tested from the same location on May 2. These successful firings of the supersonic cruise missile were carried out in full operational land-to-land configurations from Mobile Autonomous Launchers (MAL) at its full-range.

- The Brahmos missile is developed by a joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The Brahmos cruise missile is based on the Russian P-800 Oniks cruise missile and other similar sea-skimming Russian cruise missile technology.
- The missile travels at speeds of Mach 2.8 to 3.0. It is the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.
- The BrahMos-A is a modified air-launched variant of the missile which will arm the Su-30MKI of the air force as a standoff weapon.
- The BrahMos-II is a hypersonic cruise missile. Like the BrahMos, the range of BrahMos II has also been limited to 290 km to comply with the MTCR.
- The land attack version of BrahMos has been operationalised in the Indian Army since 2007.

After India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in 2016, India and Russia are now planning to jointly develop a new generation of Brahmos missiles with 600 km-plus range and an ability to hit protected targets with pinpoint accuracy.

1624) Which of the following is the hand-held device developed by DRDO for security agencies for detection of chemical agents?

- a) E-Kiran
- b) E-Netra
- c) E-Drishti
- d) E-Nasika*

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on May 1, 2017 handed over a number of devices developed by the DRDO to National Security Guard (NSG), Delhi Police and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The devices handed over to NDRF included 'E-Nasika', a hand-held equipment which is capable of rapid detection of chemical agents well below their toxic limits. Jaitley also handed over 'OTL-300' (Optical Target Locater-300). This equipment can instantly detect partially camouflaged optical elements, such as telescopes, binoculars and night vision devices.

1625) May Measurement Month (MMM) 2017 was launched by ICMR and PHFI(Public Health Foundation of India)for which of the following in May?

- a) Blood pressure*
- b) Tuberculosis
- c) Malnutrition
- d) Diabetes

A mega exercise was launched in New Delhi on May 1, 2017 to measure blood pressure of over 2 million people in India and stress on regular screening of hypertension, which has taken epidemic proportions. The initiative -- May Measurement Month (MMM) 2017 -- is part of a global initiative to raise awareness on the importance of screening to tackle **high blood pressure**. Raised blood pressure or hypertension claims over 2 lakh Indian lives each year.

1626) FreeDish is the direct-to-home DTH platform of which of the following?

- a) Tata Sky
- b) Dish TV
- c) Airtel Digital
- d) Doordarshan*

The government will increase the number of free channels in **Doordarshan's direct-to-home (DTH)** platform -- FreeDish -- from nearly 90 to 250 by next year, Union Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said in New Delhi on May 5, 2017.

1627) PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the _____ Research Institute in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand on May 3, 2017.

- a) Hamdard
- b) Biocon
- c) Patanjali*
- d) Dabur

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Patanjali Research Institute in Haridwar** district of Uttarakhand on May 3, 2017.

1628) 'Looking for the Rainbow: My years with Daddy' is a recently released book authored by:

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Ruskin Bond*

1629) Who among the following historians is the author of 'Why Gandhi Still Matters' released recently?

- a) Romila Thapar
- b) Mushirul Hasan
- c) Nayantara Sehgal
- d) Rajmohan Gandhi*

1630) Who among the following MPs was retained as the Chairperson of the 22-member parliamentary Committee on Public Undertakings in May 2017?

- a) Ajay Sancheti

- b) K. V. Thomas
- c) Shanta Kumar*
- d) Sharad Yadav

1631) Who among the following MPs was retained as the Chairperson of the 29-member Estimates Committee of the Parliament in May 2017?

- a) Anand Sinha
- b) Satyanarayan Jatiya
- c) Om Prakash Mathur
- d) Murli Manohar Joshi*

Senior BJP leaders **Murli Manohar Joshi and Shanta Kumar** have been reappointed as chairmen of the Estimates Committee and the parliamentary panel on Public Undertakings, respectively for a fixed tenure of one year in May 2017 by Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan.

The **Estimates Committee**, constituted for the first time in 1950, is a Parliamentary **Committee** consisting of 30 Members, elected every year by the Lok Sabha from amongst its Members. The Chairman of the **Committee** is appointed by the Speaker from amongst its members.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

The work done by the Parliament in modern times is not only varied in nature, but considerable in volume. The time at its disposal is limited. It cannot, therefore, give close consideration to all the legislative and other matters that come up before it. A good deal of its business is, therefore, transacted by what are called the Parliamentary Committees.

Ad hoc and Standing Committees

Parliamentary Committees are of two kinds: *Ad hoc* Committees and the Standing Committees. *Ad hoc* Committees are appointed for a specific purpose and they cease to exist when they finish the task assigned to them and submit a report. The principal *Ad hoc* Committees are the Select and Joint Committees on Bills. Others like the Railway Convention Committee, the Committees on the Draft Five Year Plans and the Hindi Equivalents Committee were appointed for specific purposes. Apart from the *Ad hoc* Committees, each House of Parliament has Standing Committees like the Business Advisory Committee, the Committee on Petitions, the Committee of Privileges and the Rules Committee, etc.

Other Committees

Of special importance is yet another class of Committees which act as Parliament's 'Watch Dogs' over the executive. These are the Committees on Subordinate Legislation, the Committee on Government Assurances, the Committee on Estimates, the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Public Undertakings and Departmentally Related Standing Committees (DRSCs). The Committee on Estimates, the Committee on Public Accounts, the Committee on Public Undertakings and DRSCs play an important role in exercising a check over governmental expenditure and Policy formulation.

COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEES

Select and Joint Committees

When a Bill comes up before a House for general discussion, it is open to that House to refer it to a Select Committee of the House or a Joint Committee of the two Houses. A motion has to be moved and adopted to this effect in the House in which the Bill comes up for consideration. In case the motion adopted is for reference of the Bill to a Joint Committee, the decision is conveyed to the other House requesting them to nominate members of the other House to serve on the Committee. The Select or Joint Committee considers the Bill clause by clause just as the two Houses do. Amendments can be moved to various clauses by members of the Committee. The Committee can also take evidence of associations, public bodies or experts who are interested in the Bill. After the Bill has thus been considered the Committee submits its report to the House. Members who do not agree with the majority report may append their minutes of dissent to the report.

Committee on Estimates

This Committee consists of 30 members who are elected by the Lok Sabha every year from amongst its members. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year. The main function of the Committee on Estimates is to report what economies, improvements in organisation, efficiency, or administrative reform, consistent with the policy underlying the estimates may be effected and to suggest alternative policies in order to bring about efficiency and economy in administration. From time to time the Committee selects such of the estimates pertaining to a Ministry or a group of Ministries or the statutory and other Government bodies as may seem fit to the Committee. The Committee also examines matters of special interest which may arise or come to light in the course of its work or which are specifically referred to it by the House or the Speaker.

Committee on Public Undertakings

The Committee on Public Undertakings consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of Rajya Sabha are associated with it. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year.

The functions of the Committee on Public Undertakings are—(a) to examine the reports and accounts of Public Undertakings; (b) to examine the reports, if any, of the Comptroller and Auditor General on the Public Undertakings; (c) to examine in the context of the autonomy and efficiency of the Public Undertakings whether the affairs of the Public Undertakings are being managed in accordance with sound business principles and prudent commercial practices; and (d) such other functions vested in the Committee on Public Accounts and the Committee on Estimates in relation to the Public Undertakings as are not covered by clauses (a), (b) and (c) above and as may be allotted to the Committee by the Speaker from time to time. The Committee does not, however, examine matters of major Government policy and matters of day-to-day administration of the Undertakings.

Committee on Public Accounts

This Committee consists of 15 members elected by the Lok Sabha and 7 members of the Rajya Sabha are associated with it. A Minister is not eligible for election to this Committee. The term of the Committee is one year.

The main duty of the Committee is to ascertain whether the money granted by Parliament has been spent by Government "within the scope of the Demand". The Appropriation Accounts of the Government of India and the Audit Reports presented by the Comptroller and Auditor General mainly form the basis for the examination of the Committee. Cases involving losses, nugatory expenditure and financial irregularities come in for severe criticism by the Committee. The Committee is not concerned with questions of policy. It is concerned only with the execution of the policy laid down by Parliament and its results.

Business Advisory Committee (Lok Sabha)

The Business Advisory Committee of Lok Sabha consists of 15 members including the Speaker who is the *ex-officio* Chairman. The members are nominated by the Speaker. Almost all sections of the House are represented on the Committee as per the respective strength of parties in the House. The function of the Committee is to recommend the time that should be allotted for the discussion of such Government legislative and other business as the Speaker, in consultation with the Leader of the House, may direct to be referred to the Committee. The Committee, on its own initiative, may also recommend to the Government to bring forward particular subjects for discussion in the House and recommend allocation of time for such discussions. The decisions reached by the Committee are always unanimous in character and representative of the collective view of the House. The Committee generally meets at the beginning of each Session and thereafter as and when necessary.

1632) Anadolu Agency (AA) is an international news agency headquartered in which of the following countries?

- a) Iran
- b) Serbia
- c) Greece
- d) Turkey*

India and Turkey signed several agreements and MoUs in several fields following talks between PM Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New Delhi on May 1, 2017. A cooperation agreement between Press Trust of India (PTI) and Anadolu Agency (AA), an international news agency headquartered in Ankara was signed.

1633) Which surgeon became well-known for performing weight loss surgery on world's heaviest woman Eman Ahmed of Egypt in Mumbai recently?

- a) Adil Batliwala
- b) Mumtaj Siddiqui
- c) Abbas Tyrewala
- d) Muffadal Lakdawala*

Egyptian Eman Ahmed Abd-El Aty left India after losing over 50 percent weight - for further treatment in Abu Dhabi on May 4, 2017. Bariatric surgeon Muffadal Lakdawala at Mumbai's Saifee Hospital had treated her. During her 83-day stay in India, once weighing around 500 kg, 37-year old Eman managed to steadily lose kilos and left the country weighing 171 kg.

1634) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) for a period of three years in May 2017?

- a) Karan Singh
- b) Kancha Ilaiah

- c) Narendra Jadhav
- d) Braj Bihari Kumar*

Braj Bihari Kumar, editor of quarterly journals Dialogue and Chintan Srijan, was on May 2, 2017 appointed as the chairman of the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), for a period of three years. He will succeed noted economist S K Thorat.

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) was established in the year of 1969 by the Government of India to promote research in social sciences in the country.

1635) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed MoU for cooperation with Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) of which of the following in May 2017?

- a) Italy
- b) Serbia
- c) Greece
- d) Turkey*

India and Turkey signed several agreements and MoUs in several fields following talks between PM Narendra Modi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in New Delhi on May 1, 2017. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) signed MoU for cooperation with Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), Turkey

1636) Fast Patrol Vessel, MCGS Valiant, was delivered to Mauritius on April 30, 2017. It was designed and built at:

- a) Goa Shipyard*
- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

The Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on April 30, 2017 delivered the second fast patrol vessel 'MCGS Valiant' to the Mauritius Coast Guard at a ceremony held in Vasco near Panaji. The 50-metre-long vessel is primarily designed for coastal patrolling, anti-drug surveillance, and for anti-piracy operations, the official said, adding that 'MCGS Valiant' will also be useful in anti-smuggling and search and rescue operations.

The Mauritius Coast Guard received its second fast patrol vessel, MCGS Valiant, from Indian shipbuilder Goa Shipyard Limited on April 30.

The \$27 million contract for the construction of **MCGS Valiant and sister ship MCGS Victory** was signed in May 2014. The contract also included ten 14.5m-long fast interceptor boats.

MCGS Valiant had its keel laid in May 2015, and was launched four months ahead of schedule on February 2, 2017.

The 50-meter vessels are designed for coastal patrolling, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, anti-drug surveillance, anti-poaching operations, and search and rescue operations. They are fitted with a 30 mm CRN-91 gun, 12.7 mm HMGs and 7.62 mm MMGs. According to GSL, the vessels are capable of achieving a high speed of 37.3 knots.

1637) Students of which neighbouring country will benefit from 'Muktijodha Scholarship' Scheme announced by the government in May 2017?

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

India will give Rs 35 crore to children of freedom fighters in Bangladesh in the next five years under the new '**Muktijodha Scholarship**' Scheme, High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla announced in Chittagong on April 29, 2017.

1638) Who among the following leaders was selected by Japan for its 'Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun' honour recently?

- a) Mani Shankar Aiyar
- b) Shashi Tharoor
- c) Ashwani Kumar*

d) Anand Sharma

Former Union minister Ashwani Kumar was selected by Japan for its top honour in May 2017 for his contribution to strengthening of bilateral ties between the two countries. "The Presentation Ceremony for the Investiture of the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun will be held at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on May 9, when the foreign recipients will be given an audience with His Majesty the Emperor of Japan," the Japanese Embassy said in New Delhi on April 29, 2017.

1639) Parliamentary elections were held in Algeria in May 2017. Who among the following is the President?

- a) Ali Benflis
- b) Moussa Touati
- c) Ramtane Lamamra
- d) Abdelaziz Bouteflika***

The party of Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika and its coalition ally have won a clear majority in parliamentary elections held on May 4, 2017. Bouteflika's National Liberation Front (FLN) won 164 of the national assembly's 462 seats. But the FLN preserved its majority thanks to its ally, the Rally for National Democracy (RND), which won 97 seats.

1640) An Asian Universities Alliance was established in _____ on April 29, 2017.

- a) Tokyo
- b) Seoul
- c) Beijing*
- d) Singapore

An Asian Universities Alliance was established in Beijing on April 29, 2017 with an aim to enhance cooperation and communication among 15 member varsities, including one from India – the Indian Institute of Technology-Mumbai (IIT-Mumbai). The alliance was proposed in March 2016 by Tsinghua University, where the meeting was held.

1641) Who among the following won the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize in May 2017?

- a) Dawit Isaak*
- b) Mazen Darwish
- c) Ahmet Şık
- d) Reeyot Alemu

1642) Which of the following hosted UNESCO's World Press Freedom Day celebration from May 1 to 4, 2017?

- a) Paris
- b) Riga
- c) Jakarta*
- d) Helsinki

1643) What was the theme of World Press Freedom Day observed on May 3, 2017?

- a) Access to Information and Fundamental Freedoms
- b) Safe to Speak: Securing Freedom of Expression in All Media
- c) Media Freedom for a Better Future: Shaping the post-2015 Development Agenda
- d) Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies***

The World Press Freedom Day was observed on May 3, 2017. This year's theme highlights media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies and builds on the theme 'Critical Minds for Critical Times: Media's role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies.' UNESCO's main celebration of this year's edition of the Day took place in Jakarta, Indonesia, from 1 to 4 May. During the event, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova awarded the 2017 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize to Dawit Isaak, the imprisoned Eritrean-born journalist who was represented by his daughter, Bethelem Isaak, during a ceremony hosted by Joko Widodo, the President of Indonesia.

1644) The United Nations marked the first World _____ Day on May 2, 2017.

- a) Dolphin
- b) Tuna*
- c) Cod
- d) Whale

The United Nations marked the first World Tuna Day on May 2, 2017 with calls to conserve one of the globe's most popular fish to be caught and eaten. Tuna species, which are highly migratory, account for 20 percent of the value of all fish caught and over 8 percent of all internationally traded seafood.

1645) Sushila Karki is the first female _____.

- a) Defence Minister of Nepal
- b) Speaker of Nepal's Parliament
- c) Governor of Nepal's Central Bank
- d) Chief Justice of Nepal's Supreme Court*

Nepal's Supreme Court on May 5, 2017 reinstated the country's first woman chief justice Sushila Karki and directed Parliament to halt her impeachment as the tussle between the legislature and the judiciary took a dramatic turn. Karki had assumed office as Nepal's first woman Chief Justice on August 1, 2016.

1646) Who among the following is the President of Czech Republic? He announced his resignation but withdrew after few days in May 2017?

- a) Stanislav Gross
- b) Mirek Topolánek
- c) Bohuslav Sobotka*
- d) Milos Zeman

Czech Prime Minister Bohuslav Sobotka on May 5, 2017 withdrew plans to resign.

1647) Tony Blair, who announced his return to politics in May 2017, is the former Prime Minister of:

- a) New Zealand
- b) Canada
- c) Ireland
- d) United Kingdom*

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on May 1, 2017 he was plunging back into domestic politics in order to fight against Brexit. Blair, 63, was prime minister for a decade from 1997.

1648) Who among the following was elected as Albania's new President by the country's Parliament in April 2017?

- a) Lulzim Basha
- b) Ante Gotovina
- c) Sali Berisha
- d) Ilir Meta*

Albania's parliament elected its Speaker as the country's new President in capital Tirana on April 29, 2017. Speaker Ilir Meta was chosen after lawmakers in the 140-seat body who were present for the closed-door election voted 87-2 in favour of him.

1649) Who among the following won the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) Award for Investigative Journalism for 2016 in May 2017?

- a) Shahbaz Khan
- b) Sharad Vyas
- c) Vinoy Mathew
- d) Shyamlal Yadav*

Shyamlal Yadav and Jay Mazoomdaar have won the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) Award for Investigative Journalism for 2016. They got the award for their series of stories published in The Indian Express in September 2016. The award comprises a trophy, citation and a purse of Rs. 2 lakh. It was given in Hyderabad on May 3, 2017. 'The One-Rupee Trick' by Yadav and Mazoomdaar revealed the abuse by bank officials of the zero-balance accounts of India's unbanked.

1650) Which of the following countries has opted out of ISRO's South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) project?

- a) Afghanistan
- b) Sri Lanka
- c) Maldives
- d) Pakistan*

India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F09) successfully launched the **2230 kg South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) into its planned Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) on May 5, 2017**. This was the eleventh launch of GSLV and took place from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota (AP). This is the fourth consecutive success achieved by GSLV carrying indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage. The Satellite has 12 Ku band transponders. According to the government, the satellite will enable a full range of services to India's neighbours in telecommunication and broadcasting areas such as television, direct-to-home (DTH) services, education, telemedicine, weather forecasting and disaster management support. Each country will get access to at least one transponder through which they could beam their own programming, but they will have to develop their own ground infrastructure. Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan will benefit from this satellite. Pakistan has opted out.

1651) University students from India, the UK and the US launched the DNDi to develop medicines in May 2017. DNDi stands for:

- a) Drugs for New Diseases initiative
- b) Drugs for Natural Diseases initiative
- c) Drugs for Neonatal Diseases initiative
- d) Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative***

University students from India, the UK and the US will collaborate on a new first-of-its-kind research and development project aimed at discovering potential drugs for patients living with neglected diseases like kala-azar. The 'Open Synthesis Network (OSN)' project between five universities was launched by non-profit research and development organisation Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi) in May 2017. It involves collaboration between 25 undergraduate and Master's students in Chemistry from participating universities. During the 2016-2017 Academic Year, they will work on improving chemical compounds for the neglected disease visceral leishmaniasis (VL) known as kala-azar in India.

1652) Who among the following won the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award for the year 2017?

- a) Sanjay Pratihar*
- b) Anurag Agrawal
- c) S. Venkata Mohan
- d) Soumen Chakrabarti

Sanjay Pratihar, a scientist at Tezpur University, has been chosen for the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal for the Young Scientist Award for the year 2017. (May 1, 2017)

1653) Who among the following won the Rising Star Award at the Annual Asian Awards in London in May 2017?

- a) Adhish Praveen
- b) Nur Islam
- c) Saimul Alam
- d) Sunny Pawar***

Child actor Sunny Pawar, best known for his performance in the Oscar-nominated film "Lion", was chosen for the Rising Star Award at the 7th Annual Asian Awards in London on May 3, 2017. He was cast as young Saroo Brierley in the true life drama. Founded in 2010, the Asian Awards acknowledge pan-Asian success across all walks of life.

1654) Who among the following won the jury prize gold medal at the Moscow Sand art Championship on April 28, 2017.

- a) Bansi Kaul
- b) Ram Mohan
- c) Paresh Maity
- d) Sudarsan Pattnaik***

Sudarsan Pattnaik from Odisha has won the jury prize gold medal at the Moscow Sand art Championship on April 28, 2017. Pattnaik said he had created a 10 feet high sand sculpture of Lord Ganesh and inscribed "Go Green" on the statue. Sudarsan said he chose this message to highlight the importance of ecological balance in the face of global warming.

1655) Which of the following received the FICCI-India Sanitation Coalition prize in April 2017?

- a) Deepalaya
- b) Sulabh Foundation
- c) Lok Biradari Prakalp
- d) Aga Khan Foundation***

The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) of the Aga Khan Foundation received the FICCI-India Sanitation Coalition prize for the initiative that seeks to contribute towards building an open-defecation free India by 2019 under the 'Swachh Bharat' mission. The Foundation received the award from Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on April 27.

1656) Who among the following won the 'Hero of the League' award in the recently-concluded edition of the I-League football tournament in May 2017?

- a) Khalid Jamil
- b) Sunil Chhetri*
- c) Debjit Majumder
- d) Anas Edathodika

Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri, who smashed seven goals in the recently-concluded edition of the I-League football tournament, has clinched the most coveted 'Hero of the League' award.

1657) The Union Cabinet approved National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017 recently. What is the current per capita consumption of steel in India?

- a) 41 Kgs
- a) 61 Kgs*
- a) 81 Kgs
- a) 101 Kgs

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for National Steel Policy (NSP) 2017. According to a press note issued by the government on May 3, 2017, the new Steel Policy seeks to enhance domestic steel consumption and ensure high quality steel production and create a technologically advanced and globally competitive steel industry. The policy projects crude steel capacity of 300 million tonnes (MT), production of 255 MT and a robust finished steel per capita consumption of **158 Kgs by 2030-31**, as against the current consumption of 61 Kgs.

1658) The government has decided to disinvest 3 ITDC (India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.) in May 2017. Hotel Lake View Ashok is in which capital?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal*
- c) Lucknow
- d) Gandhinagar

The CCEA chaired by the Prime Minister approved the initiation of the process of disinvestment of hotels/properties of the India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (ITDC), according to a press note issued by the government on May 3, 2017. In the first stage of the disinvestment process, three hotels listed have been taken up for disinvestment: (i) Hotel Lake View Ashok, Bhopal (ii) Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati (iii) Hotel Bharatpur Ashok, Bharatpur (Rajasthan).

1659) The UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is based at

- a) Jakarta
- b) Kuala Lumpur
- c) Manila
- d) Bangkok*

India is expected to clock 7.1 per cent growth this year before edging up to 7.5 per cent in 2018, the Bangkok-based UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said in its annual flagship report 'The Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2017' launched on May 1, 2017.

1660) What is the growth forecast for the Indian economy in 2017-18 made by ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada in May 2017?

- a) 7.1%
- b) 7.2%
- c) 7.3%
- d) 7.4%*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said that Indian economy will **grow 7.4% in 2017-18** and 7.6% in the next fiscal. India had grown 7.1 per cent in 2016-17. ADB Chief Economist Yasuyuki Sawada said that reforms like the Goods and Services Tax and the new bankruptcy law will make it easier to do business in India.

1661) What is the Department of Telecom's portal that will help users get radiation level of a particular mobile tower tested named?

- a) Tarang Seva
- b) Tarang Sanchar*
- c) Tarang Suraksha
- d) Tarang Spandan

The Minister of Communications Manoj Sinha launched **Tarang Sanchar**, a web portal for Information sharing on Mobile Towers and EMF (electromagnetic frequency) Emission Compliances, in New Delhi on May 2, 2017. The portal will allow users to get a tower or base station checked for radiation emission, for a fee of Rs 4,000.

1662) Who among the following was appointed as the new Controller General of Accounts in the Ministry of Finance in May 2017?

- a) Kriti Pant
- b) Ranjan Das
- c) Vandana Sinha
- d) Anthony Lianzuala*

Anthony Lianzuala took over as the New Controller General of Accounts (CGA) in New Delhi on May 1, 2017.

1663) Which of the following hosted the 4th National Standards Conclave jointly by CII & BIS on May 1-2, 2017?

- a) New Delhi*
- b) Mumbai
- c) Kolkata
- d) Hyderabad

Department of Commerce, Government of India in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and the National Accreditation Board for Certification Bodies (NABCB) and other knowledge partners organised the 4th National Standards Conclave on 1-2 May 2017 at New Delhi.

1664) . Which of the following launched its Express Wi-Fi internet services in India on May 4, 2017?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook*
- d) Twitter

Facebook on May 4, 2017 officially announced its Express Wi-Fi internet services in India. Facebook has partnered with 500 local entrepreneurs who will sell these services through vouchers that are priced ranging Rs. 10-20 for a day or Rs. 200-300 for a month. The Express Wi-Fi offers internet at upwards of 10Mbps speeds without any per day limit or restrictions on accessing any part of the internet. Express Wi-Fi will not even require a user to have or set up a Facebook account.

1665) Punj Lloyd on May 4, 2017 announced its collaboration with Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) to manufacture small weapons in which state?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh*
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Punj Lloyd on May 4, 2017 announced its collaboration with Israel Weapon Industries (IWI) to manufacture small weapons at in Malanpur, Gwalior (MP). The facility will produce small weapons such as TAVOR assault rifle. Other small arms such as Galil sniper rifle and NEGEV light machine gun will also be made under the Make In India campaign.

1666) ONGC Videsh reported finding of hydrocarbon reserves in its Mariposa-1 well in which of the following in May 2017?

- a) Chile
- b) Brazil
- c) Argentina
- d) Colombia*

ONGC Videsh has found hydrocarbon reserves in its **Mariposa-1 well**, which is under drilling in CPO-5 block of Colombia. ONGC Videsh is the operator of the block and holds 70 per cent participating interest and Amerisur Resources holds the remaining 30 per cent. (May 5, 2017)

1667) Which of the following private sector banks developed its first digital village at Akodara in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat?

- a) ICICI Bank*
- b) Axis Bank
- c) HDFC Bank
- d) Federal Bank

ICICI Bank has created 100 'digital villages' across the country within 100 days and now plans to add 500 more to the list by year-end, its chief Chanda Kochhar said on May 2, 2017. The ambitious project, which began in November 2016, was inspired by the success of India's first digital village created by ICICI Bank at Akodara in Gujarat in 2015.

1668) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launched its Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) in which of the following cities on April 29, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Chennai
- c) Kolkata
- d) Hyderabad*

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) launched its Disaster Recovery Centre (DRC) in Hyderabad on April 29, 2017.

1669) The Alfred High School, where Mahatma Gandhi studied, has been shut down by the authorities to make way for a museum. The school was in which city of Gujarat?

- a) Rajkot*
- b) Vadodara
- c) Junagadh
- d) Bhavnagar

The Alfred High School in Rajkot - the 164-year-old institution where Mahatma Gandhi studied - has been shut down by the authorities to make way for a museum. The proposal to convert this state-run Gujarati medium school, also known as Mohandas Gandhi High School, into a museum was accepted by the Gujarat government in 2016. Mahatma Gandhi passed out from the school in 1887 at the age of 18. (May 5, 2017)

1670) India's first "Village of Books" was inaugurated in Bhilar village of which district in Maharashtra in May 2017?

- a) Satara*
- b) Hingoli
- c) Nanded
- d) Nandurbar

India's first "Village of Books" was inaugurated and opened for public reading at Maharashtra's Bhilar village on May 4, 2017. Bhilar is located in Satara district, about 250 kilometres from Mumbai. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said it is a proud moment as a village which until recently was famous for its strawberries will now be recognised as "Pustakanche Gaon" or "Village of Books" across India.

1671) India started adopting the April-March financial year from which year?

- a) 1867*
- b) 1887
- c) 1907
- d) 1927

1672) Which of the following became the first state to switch to the January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh*
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Haryana

Madhya Pradesh has become the first state to switch to the January-December financial year from the existing April-March cycle, with the state cabinet endorsing the move on May 2, 2017. The move breaks a 150-year tradition as India started adopting the **April-March financial year from 1867**. "The state cabinet in its meeting chaired by CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan decided to shift the financial year to January-December. So, now the Budget session of the next financial year will be held either in December 2017 or January 2018," said state Public Relations Minister Narottam Mishra in Bhopal. Earlier the Central government had constituted a high-level committee under former Chief Economic Advisor Shanker Acharya to examine "desirability and feasibility" of having a new financial year. The report hasn't been made public yet.

1673) Which state launched "Gauvansh Chikitsa Mobile Vans" service that will transport ill and injured cows for treatment in May?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

An ambulance service catering exclusively to cows was launched in Lucknow on May 1, 2017. The "Gauvansh Chikitsa Mobile Vans" service will transport ill and injured cows to gau shalas or take them to a veterinary for treatment. A veterinarian along with an assistant will be present in the ambulance. The service is being run in collaboration with the MNREGA Mazdoor Kalyan Sanghathan, an organisation that claims to work for labourers and others employed in the informal sector.

1674) **Banaganapalle**, which got Geographical Indication (GI) registration from the GI Registry in Chennai in May 2017, is a variety of _____ grown in Andhra Pradesh.

- a) Orange
- b) Guava
- c) Tobacco
- d) Mango*

The succulent Banaganapalle mango has got Geographical Indication (GI) registration from the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai on May 3, 2017. The Andhra Pradesh government is the registered proprietor of the GI tag for mangoes. GI is covered under the Intellectual Property Rights and the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). A GI tag certifies the origin of a product or produce from a particular region as the quality or other features of the product are attributable only to the place of its origin. The tag helps farmers and manufacturers get a better price in the market.

1675) Which district in Kerala got India's first digitalised panchayat ward in April 2017?

- a) Kochi
- b) Kannur
- c) Kollam
- d) Kottayam*

A ward in the Kottayam district of Kerala has become India's first digitalised panchayat ward. Union minister of state for social justice and empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar inaugurated the website of the first digitalised panchayat ward number 15 of Aymanam gram panchayat on April 29, 2017. The minister also launched its website.

1676) Hindustani classical singer Kishori Amonkar passed away on April 3 at the age of 84. Which state launched 'Gaansaraswati Kishoritai Amonkar Research Fellowship' in Indian classical music in May 2017?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat
- c) Goa*
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The Goa government on May 3, 2017 announced a research fellowship in the name of late legendary Hindustani classical singer Kishori Amonkar. The renowned vocalist passed away on April 3 in Mumbai at the age of 84. "The fellowship scheme would be called Gaansaraswati Kishoritai Amonkar Research Fellowship in Indian classical music," Goa Art & Culture minister Govind Gawade said in Panaji. He said the scheme has already come into force and it will remain till March 31, 2022.

1677) Kashmir Super-40 provides coaching for the youth for Engineering Entrance Exams. It is a joint initiative of the Army and which PSU?

- a) IOC
- b) ONGC Videsh
- c) GAIL
- d) **Petronet LNG***

After achieving success with its Kashmir Super-40 initiative, which provides coaching for the youth for Engineering Entrance Exams, the Indian Army has further expanded the coaching programme to 50 students with immediate effect. Under this flagship scheme, the candidates are selected by the Army through an entrance test and interview process conducted at various colleges throughout the state in the month of April to May. The entire coaching and stay is free for the students and is sponsored under the CSR initiative by Petronet LNG. (April 30, 2017)

1678) Oinam Bembem Devi is India's well-known player in which of the following?

- a) Wrestling
- b) Boxing
- c) Archery
- d) **Football***

Oinam Bembem Devi, Jeje Lalpekhlu and Gurpreet Sandhu were nominated for Arjuna Awards by the AIFF on May 2, 2017.

1679) International _____ Day was observed on April 29, 2017.

- a) **Dance***
- b) Poetry
- c) Music
- d) Theatre

International Dance Day was celebrated on April 29, 2017. It was introduced in 1982 by the International Dance Council (CID-Conceal International de la Danse), a UNESCO partner NGO, and is celebrated yearly, on April 29.

1680) Assam got its first Shatabdi Express in April 2017. It will run between Guwahati and _____.

- a) Nagaon
- b) Tinsukia
- c) **Dibrugarh***
- d) Jorhat

Assam got its first Shatabdi Express that will run between Dibrugarh and Guwahati on April 30, 2017. The 12085/12086 Dibrugarh-Guwahati Shatabdi Express train will operate three days a week.

1681) Who among the following has authored the forthcoming book "Sita: Warrior of Mithila"?

- a) Aman Sethi
- b) Devdutt Pattanaik
- c) Ashwin Sanghi
- d) Amish Tripathi*

Amish Tripathi launched cover of his new book titled "Sita: Warrior of Mithila" on May 3, 2017.

1682) A book titled "Women Who Work: Rewriting the Rules for Success" was released in May 2017. It has been written by the daughter of who among the following?

- a) Angela Merkel
- b) Rodrigo Duterte
- c) Theresa May
- d) Donald Trump*

"Women Who Work: Rewriting the Rules for Success", written by Donald Trump's daughter Ivanka Trump, was released in May 2017.

1683) Which of the following became the first city in the world to get its own Microsoft font in April 2017?

- a) Seattle
- b) Doha
- c) Dubai*
- d) Abu Dhabi

Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai's Crown Prince and Chairman of the Executive Council, launched the Dubai Font on April 30, 2017, the Khaleej Times reported. The font, now available to more than 100 million users of Microsoft Office 365 around the world, is the first font to be created by a city and named after it. Designed for more than 180 countries and 23 languages integrating Arabic and Latin typefaces, the Dubai Font, which will expand over the next phase to include more languages, is aimed to reflect the city's symbols of tolerance, happiness and respect, enabling people to express, communicate and connect.

1684) PM Narendra Modi unveiled translated volumes of Vachanaas. Who among the following social reformers penned them?

- a) Basavanna*
- b) Vallabha Acharya
- c) Ramanujar
- d) Thiruvalluvar

PM Narendra Modi unveiled translated volumes of Vachanaas, penned by 12th century Kannada social reformer Basavanna, on Basava Jayanthi on April 29, 2017. 1000th birth anniversary of Vaishnavite saint Sri Ramanuja was celebrated on May 1, 2017. PM Modi released a commemorative stamp on this occasion.

1685) Shanto Mitra died on April 30, 2017 at the age of 75. He had served as India's coach in which sport?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Basketball
- c) Football*
- d) Badminton

Former Indian national team assistant coach and East Bengal captain Shanto Mitra died in Kolkata on April 30, 2017 at the age of 75. After his retirement, Mitra was part of coaching squad for the Indian team when Yugoslav coach Ciric Milovan was in charge. Along with Karnataka's Amjad Khan, Mitra served as India's assistant coach during the 1984 Nehru Cup competition.

1686) Which milestone in FIFA rankings was achieved by India after 21 years?

- a) In top 150
- b) In top 125
- c) In top 100*

d) In top 75

The Indian football team has made it into the top 100 of the FIFA world rankings for the first time in 21 years. As per the updated rankings, released on May 4, 2017, the Stephen Constantine-coached side has climbed a rung and is now placed at the 100th spot along with Nicaragua, Lithuania and Estonia. The last time India were in the top 100 of the rankings was in 1996, with the 94th spot in February 1996 being the country's best ever FIFA ranking. Meanwhile, Brazil remained at the top of the latest FIFA world rankings followed by Argentina and Germany.

1687) Which of the following was crowned I-League champion in April 2017?

- a) East Bengal
- b) Shillong Lajong
- c) Bengaluru FC
- d) Aizawl FC*

Aizawl FC were crowned I-League champions on April 30, 2017 in one of the most remarkable achievements in Indian football history. Aizawl FC drew with Shillong Lajong 1-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Shillong as they clinched the title. Mohun Bagan defeated Hyderabad City FC 2-1 in a simultaneous match in Kolkata to settle for a runners-up finish in the tournament.

1688) Who among the following won the WBA (World Boxing Association) heavyweight title in London in April 2017?

- a) William Daley
- b) Robert Gibbs
- c) Pete Rouse
- d) Anthony Joshua*

Britain's Anthony Joshua defeated Ukrainian Wladimir Klitschko in the WBA (World Boxing Association) heavyweight title at Wembley in London on April 30, 2017, taking victory on an 11th round stoppage. Joshua added the WBA title to his IBF belt.

1689) Who among the following Indian golfers bagged the Yeangder Heritage tournament in Chinese Taipei in April 2017?

- a) Shiv Kapur*
- b) Anirban Lahiri
- c) Gaganjeet Bhullar
- d) Chiragh Kumar

Shiv Kapur of India claimed a convincing victory at the inaugural Yeangder Heritage golf tournament in Miaoli (Chinese Taipei) on April 30, 2017. The 35-year-old Kapur defeated Malaysia's Gavin Green at the National Golf Country Club.

1690) Who among the following won the World Snooker Championship organised in UK in May 2017?

- a) Ali Carter
- b) Mark Selby*
- c) John Higgins
- d) Stephen Hendry

England's Mark Selby successfully defended his world snooker championship in Sheffield (United Kingdom) on May 1, 2017, beating four-time champion John Higgins 18 frames to 15 in a thrilling contest.

1691) Who among the following Indian table tennis players won the Seamaster 2017 ITTF Challenge Chile Open in April 2017?

- a) Soumyajit Ghosh*
- b) Anthony Amalraj
- c) Sourav Saha
- d) G. Sathyan

Soumyajit Ghosh as he bagged both the singles and doubles gold at the Seamaster 2017 ITTF Challenge Chile Open in Santiago on April 30, 2017. Ghosh defeated compatriot Anthony Amalraj 4-2 (8-11 13-11 11-6 11-9 4-11 11-7) in the

men's singles final to clinch the title, he combined with Amalraj earlier to win the men's doubles title. The Indian duo defeated Philipp Floritz (Bulgaria) and Hunor Szocs (Romania) 4-0 (13-11 10-12 14-12 11 -9).

1692) Valtteri Bottas won the Formula 1 Russian Grand Prix on April 30, 2017. Where was the race held?

- a) St. Petersburg
- b) Volgograd
- c) Samara
- d) Sochi*

Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas won the Formula One Russian Grand Prix at Sochi on April 30, 2017.

1693) Who among the following became the first Indian woman to clinch the Asian Squash title in Chennai in April 2017?

- a) Aparajitha Balamurukan
- b) Anaka Alankamony
- c) Joshna Chinappa*
- d) Sachika Ingale

1694) Who among the following Indian men's player lost in the final of Asian Squash Championship in Chennai May 2017?

- a) Kush Kumar
- b) Saurav Ghosal*
- c) Harinderpal Sandhu
- d) Ramit Tandon

Joshna Chinappa on April 30, 2017 scripted history by becoming the first Indian to clinch the Asian Squash title with a 13-15, 12-10, 11-13, 11-4, 11-4 win over compatriot Dipika Pallikal Karthik in the women's final in Chennai. In the men's final, however, Saurav Ghosal went down fighting against Hong Kong's Max Lee 11-5, 4-11, 8-11, 7-11 to finish second best.

1695) The Supreme Court has appointed a three-member commission to review pay structures of judges with respect to civil servants. Who among the following former judges is the head?

- a) Justice P. Venkatarama Reddy*
- b) Justice Mukul Mudgal
- c) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- d) Justice Madan B. Lokur

The Supreme Court has appointed a three-member commission headed by its former judge Justice P. Venkatarama Reddy to review and rationalise the pay structures and other emoluments of judicial officers of the subordinate judiciary across the country with respect to civil servants. (May 11, 2017)

1696) Which of the following was launched by the Election Commission in May 2017 with a toll-free number for voters to call for any query of complaint?

- a) National Call Centre
- b) National Alert Centre
- d) National Contact Centre*

The Election Commission on May 11, 2017 announced the launch of National Contact Centre with a toll-free No. 1800111950. Callers can enquire on subjects such as elections, voting dates, electoral roll, etc. and lodge a complaint by simply dialling in to the toll free number. Also executives can make outbound calls for educating the electors and spreading voter awareness.

1697) Which of the following was launched by the Prime Minister in May 2017 to serve as a digital repository for case-related information for the Supreme Court?

- a) Indian Case Management Information System
- b) Important Case Management Information System
- c) Individual Case Management Information System
- d) Integrated Case Management Information System*

PM Modi on May 10, 2017 launched the Integrated Case Management Information System (ICMIS) to help the Supreme Court go paperless. The new system, aimed at serving as a digital repository for case-related information, can be accessed at www.sci.gov.in.

1698) The Union Home Ministry NGOs to open their accounts in banks that:

- a) Have low levels of NPAs
- b) Have core banking facilities*
- c) Have branches in both rural and urban areas
- d) Have branches in areas where they operate

In a move to keep a tab on errant NGOs, especially those receiving funds from foreign countries, the Union Home Ministry has asked as many as 5,845 organisations to open their accounts in banks that have core banking facilities and furnish details so that security agencies could have real-time access in case of any discrepancies. The ministry took the decision after it found that many NGOs have bank accounts in cooperative banks or state government-owned apex banks that do not have core-banking facilities. (May 11, 2017)

1699) Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has declared 2018 as the Year of the:

- a) War survivor
- b) War martyred
- c) War disabled*
- d) War displaced

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat on May 7, 2017 attended a disabled soldiers rally organised by the Delhi-based War Wounded Foundation at the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, **declared 2018 as the “year of war disabled”, a defence release said.**

1700) The 112 feet tall bust of ‘Adiyogi’ Lord Shiva on the outskirts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu was declared the world’s largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records recently. It was set up by which of the following organisations?

- a) Sahaj Yog
- b) Isha Yoga Foundation*
- c) Chinmay Mission
- d) Yogoda Satsang Math

The 112 feet tall bust of ‘Adiyogi’ Lord Shiva at the Isha Yoga Foundation led by spiritual guru Jaggi Vasudev has been declared the world’s largest bust by the Guinness Book of World Records. The Guinness had made the announcement in its website recently. The bust at the Isha Yoga Foundation on the outskirts of Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu was unveiled by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 24, 2017.

1701) Who among the following is the author of ‘The Small-Town Sea’ released recently?

- a) Jeet Thayil
- b) Anees Salim*
- c) Pankaj Mishra
- d) Jerry Pinto

1702) Who among the following well-known sportspersons is the author of ‘Unprecedented: The Masters and Me’ released recently?

- a) Roger Federer
- b) LeBron James
- c) Tiger Woods*
- d) Kevin Durant

1703) Who among the following is the author of the novel ‘Baaz’ released recently?

- a) Sonora Jha
- b) Anuja Chauhan*
- c) Nilanjana Roy

d) Anita Nair

1704) Who among the following was named as the next Chancellor of JNU by the HRD Ministry in May 2017?

- a) Bibek Debroy
- b) U. R. Rao
- c) V. K. Saraswat*
- d) Avinash Chander

The HRD Ministry selected former DRDO chief Vijay Kumar Saraswat as the next chancellor of JNU. He will be replacing ISRO chief Krishnaswamy Kasturirangan whose five-year term ended on March 30. Saraswat was conferred Padma Shri in 1998, Padma Bhushan in 2013 and had served as a chief scientific advisor to the Minister of Defence.

1705) The World Health Organisation appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its goodwill ambassador for which of the following in South-East Asia region in May 2017?

- a) Malaria
- b) Leprosy
- c) Diabetes
- d) Hepatitis*

The World Health Organisation on May 12, 2017 appointed Amitabh Bachchan as its goodwill ambassador for hepatitis in South-East Asia region to boost awareness and intensify action to arrest the epidemic. Announcing the decision in New Delhi, WHO's Regional Director for South-East Asia, Poonam Khetrpal Singh termed it a "historic association".

1706) Who among the following was appointed as the new Tourism Secretary in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle announced on May 10, 2017?

- a) Anant Kumar Singh
- b) Jagdish Prasad Meena
- c) Rashmi Verma*
- d) Leena Nair

The government made several appointments in a top-level bureaucratic reshuffle announced on May 10, 2017. These include-Sanjay Mitra: Defence secretary, Rajive Kumar: Road Transport and Highways Secretary, Rashmi Verma: Tourism secretary, Anant Kumar Singh: Textiles secretary, Jagdish Prasad Meena: Consumer Affairs secretary, Leena Nair: Tribal Affairs Secretary, Rakesh Srivastava: Women and Child Development Secretary.

1707) Who among the following will be India's Permanent Representative to the Organisation for Prevention of Chemical Weapons based in The Hague?

- a) S. Jaishankar
- b) Pavan K. Varma
- c) Sandeep Kumar
- d) Venu Rajamony*

Venu Rajamony, named India's Ambassador to the Netherlands, will also be India's Permanent Representative to the Organisation for Prevention of Chemical Weapons based in The Hague and cover the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration and other international organisations based in the Netherlands. He is expected to take up his new assignment in the first week of June 2017.

1708) Who among the following was the first woman chief justice of a state high court in the country? She died on May 6 at the age of 86.

- a) Justice Ruma Pal
- b) Justice Leila Seth*
- c) Justice Usha Mehra
- d) Justice Gyan Sudha Misra

Eminent jurist and the first woman chief justice of a state high court in the country Justice (retd) Leila Seth passed away in Noida at the age of 86 on May 6, 2017. Justice Seth was first woman judge of the Delhi High Court and also the Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.

1709) Lt Umar Fayaz Parray, who was killed in Shopian district of Jammu & Kashmir in May 2017, belonged to which regiment?

- a) Kumaon Regiment
- b) Dogra Regiment
- c) The Grenadiers
- d) Rajputana Rifles*

Militants kidnapped Lt Umar Fayaz Parray, a 23-year old lieutenant in the army, who was on leave and was unarmed, from his uncle's house in Shopian district on the night of May 9, 2017 and later killed him, the Army said on May 10, 2017. Parray, who was commissioned as lieutenant on December 10, 2016, was posted at the Army's 2 Rajputana Rifles at Akhnoor.

1710) Eighth meeting of the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) was held in New Delhi in May 2017. Who among the following is the Chairperson of IDF-OI?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Narendra Modi
- d) Sushma Swaraj*

Welcoming the new members at the eighth meeting of the India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI), External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj sought their support and guidance in encouraging and enabling overseas Indians to make contributions, an official release said in New Delhi on May 12, 2017. IDF-OI is a not-for-profit trust set up by the government to facilitate contributions by the overseas Indian community to social and development projects in India. Swaraj is the chairperson of the IDF-OI.

1711) Indian students are the second largest beneficiary of the **Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme**. These scholarships are given by:

- a) AU
- b) OAS
- c) SAARC
- d) EU*

Indian students, with 63 scholarships, are the second largest beneficiary of the European Union-funded Erasmus Mundus Scholarship Programme. Around 5,000 Indian students have already received the scholarships between 2004 and 2016. .

1712) India was on May 8, 2017 unanimously elected as the President of UN–Habitat. It is also known as United Nations Human _____ Programme.

- a) Rehabilitation
- b) Development
- c) Settlements*
- d) Dimension

1713) UN–Habitat is headquartered at:

- a) Algiers
- b) Addis Ababa
- c) Nairobi*
- d) Tunis

India was on May 8, 2017 unanimously elected as the President of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN–Habitat), an organ of the United Nations' Organisation (UNO) that promotes socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements across the world. Since the UN-Habitat came into being in 1978, it is only the third time that India has been elected to lead this important organization after 2007 and 1988. Minister of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation M. Venkaiah Naidu chaired the four day meeting of the 58-member Governing Council of UN-Habitat in Nairobi, Kenya on May 8-11, 2017. "Opportunities for effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda" was the theme of meeting. UN-Habitat maintains its headquarters at the United Nations Office at Nairobi, Kenya.

1714) Which of the following hosted the 50th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in May 2017?

- a) Kyoto
- b) Saitama

- c) Osaka
- d) Yokohama*

1715) Who among the following is the President of Asian Development Bank?

- a) Kikuo Iwata
- b) Hiroshi Tanaka
- c) Masayoshi Son
- d) Takehiko Nakao*

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has asked the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to set up a regional hub in New Delhi for the South Asia region to expedite the process of project preparation and delivery for India and other countries in the region. He was addressing the Board of Governors of the ADB at its 50th Annual Meeting at Yokohama, Japan on May 7, 2017. ADB was established in August 1966 and is headquartered in Manila. Takehiko Nakao is the current President of ADB.

1716) What is the joint military exercise between India and Indonesia in May 2017 named?

- a) SIMBEX
- b) Foal Eagle
- c) Iron Claw
- d) CORPAT*

The 29th series of India–Indonesia CORPAT is scheduled from 09 – 25 May 17 with the opening ceremony being conducted from 09 -12 May 17 at Port Blair under the aegis of Andaman and Nicobar Command.

1717) Who among the following lawyers is representing India before International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case?

- a) Gopal Subramaniam
- b) Harish Salve*
- c) Lalit Bhasin
- d) Satish Maneshinde

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) on May 11, 2017 directed Pakistan to participate and cooperate in the proceedings on the Kulbhushan Jadhav case filed by India to stop his execution. Earlier on May 10, 2017, the ICJ had stayed the hanging of Indian national Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was sentenced to death by a Pakistani military court on charges of “spying”. **Harish Salve**, Senior Advocate is representing India before International Court of Justice in the Kulbhushan Jadhav case.

1718) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Bert Koenders of Netherlands who came on an official visit to New Delhi in May 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Dharmendra Pradhan
- d) Sushma Swaraj*

1719) **DIWALI** refers to Dutch-Indo Water _____ Leadership Initiative.

- a) Alliance*
- b) Association
- c) Assistance
- d) Application

India and the Netherlands on May 9, 2017 voiced deep concern over the threat of terrorism and resolved to work bilaterally and globally to fight the menace in all its forms and manifestations during talks between External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and her Dutch counterpart Bert Koenders in New Delhi. In the context of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Swaraj appreciated the ongoing joint project **LOTUS** [Local Treatment of Urban Sewage Streams for Healthy Re-use] to clean-up the Barapullah drain in Delhi and the **DIWALI** [Dutch-Indo Water Alliance Leadership Initiative] waste water project in Baroda.

1720) Who among the following selected to succeed Abdul Basit as Pakistan’s new High Commissioner to India in May 2017?

- a) Rizwan Akhtar
- b) Salman Bashir
- c) Jalil Abbas Jilani
- d) Sohail Mahmood*

Career diplomat Sohail Mahmood will be Pakistan's new High Commissioner to India and is set to take charge at the end of this month, Foreign Office sources said in Islamabad on May 8, 2017. Mahmood, now Pakistan's Ambassador to Turkey, will succeed Abdul Basit. The Indian High Commission in Islamabad issued visa to Mahmood on May 5.

1721) Which international treaty signed in 1996 formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States?

- a) Oslo Declaration
- b) Ottawa Declaration*
- c) Alaska Declaration
- d) St. Petersburg Declaration

The US will consider its interests first as it reviews its climate change policy, said Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson in a meeting of the eight Arctic nations in Alaska on May 11, 2017. He added that the US would not rush to make a decision and would consider their views. The Arctic Council has eight states as members: Canada, Russia, the U.S., Norway and Denmark (through Greenland), Sweden, Iceland and Finland. The Ottawa Declaration of 1996 formally established the Arctic Council as a high level intergovernmental forum to provide a means for promoting cooperation, coordination and interaction among the Arctic States, with the involvement of the Arctic Indigenous communities and other Arctic inhabitants on common Arctic issues.

1722) Which of the following tested its first home-made long-range missile called Bora in May 2017?

- a) Iran
- b) Oman
- c) Lebanon
- d) Turkey*

Turkey on May 11, 2017 tested its first home-made long-range missile in its northern region. The missile called Bora was successfully tested in the northern city of Sinop. It has range of 280 kilometres.

1723) Which of the following is the annual military exercise between the Philippines and the United States organised in May 2017?

- a) Eager Lion
- b) Balikatan*
- c) Iron Claw
- d) Juniper Cobra

Philippine and US troops began annual joint exercises "Balikatan" or "Shoulder-to- Shoulder" exercises at the Philippine military's headquarters in metropolitan Manila on May 8, 2017.

1724) Which of the following is the annual military exercise between Jordan and the United States organised in May 2017?

- a) Eager Lion*
- b) Balikatan
- c) Iron Claw
- d) Juniper Cobra

Jordan and the United States kicked off annual military exercises on May 7, 2017 known as "Eager Lion", with about 7,400 troops from more than 20 nations taking part, officials said in capital Amman. The exercises end on May 18.

1725) Postal agency of which of the following is issuing a first-of-its-kind postage stamp that changes from the image of a total solar eclipse to that of the Moon when touched?

- a) United States*
- b) Canada
- c) Ireland

d) Russia

The US postal agency is issuing a first-of-its-kind postage stamp that morphs when touched - changing from the image of a total solar eclipse to that of the Moon. The Total Solar Eclipse stamps go on sale on June 20, 2017.

1726) Which of the following terrorist groups is active in Nigeria? It recently released 82 of the more than 200 Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped in 2014.

- a) Hamas
- b) Boko Haram*
- c) al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)
- d) Abu Sayyaf

Nigeria has said it had negotiated the release of 82 of the more than 200 schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram Islamists more than three years ago, securing their freedom in a prisoner swap deal. The presidency announced that months of talks with the jihadists had “yielded results”, just over six months after 21 of their classmates were freed with the help of international mediators. “Today 82 more Chibok girls were released,” it said on May 6, 2017. The girls were taken to Abuja to meet President Muhammadu Buhari. The presidency thanked security agencies, the Swiss government and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in helping to secure the release of the girls. Boko Haram fighters stormed the Government Girls Secondary School in the remote town of Chibok on the evening of April 14, 2014 and kidnapped 276 girls.

1727) German police on May 7, 2017 evacuated some 50,000 people from _____ in one of the largest post-war operations to defuse World War II era bombs.

- a) Bonn
- b) Berlin
- c) Hanover*
- d) Frankfurt

German police on May 7, 2017 evacuated some 50,000 people from the northern city of Hanover in one of the largest post-war operations to defuse World War II era bombs.

1728) . World Migratory Bird Day was observed on:

- a) May 2
- b) May 4
- c) May 6
- d) May 10*

The World Migratory Bird Day was observed on May 10, 2017. Initiated in 2006, the World Day is celebrated each year to highlight the need for international cooperation to conserve migratory birds and their habitats for the benefit of mankind. The theme this year is ‘Their Future is Our Future – A Healthy Planet for Migratory Birds and People.

1729) United Nations observed the **Day of Vesak** on May 10, 2017. Which of the following regarding Vesak is/are correct?

- I. Day of on which the Buddha was born
 - II. Day on which the Buddha passed away
 - III. Day on which the Buddha attained enlightenment
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) I, II and III*

Observing the Day of Vesak on May 10, 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on the global community to draw inspiration from the journey of Lord Buddha and embrace his message of compassion. **Vesak, the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May**, is the most sacred day to millions of Buddhists around the world. It was on the Day of Vesak two and a half millennia ago, in the year 623 BC that the Buddha was born. It was also on the Day of Vesak that the Buddha attained enlightenment, and it was on this Day that the Buddha in his eightieth year passed away.

1730) The World Health Organization (WHO) observed the Global Road Safety Week from _____, 2017.

- a) May 4 to 10
- b) May 5 to 11
- c) May 6 to 12
- d) May 8 to 14*

The World Health Organization (WHO) observed the Global Road Safety Week from May 8 to 14, 2017 urging countries to take measures to curb dangerous driving behaviour.

1731) World Thalassaemia Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 8*
- b) May 10
- c) May 12
- d) May 14

With International Thalassaemia Day was observed across the world on May 8, 2017 to raise awareness about this disease, prevention and measures to avoid its transmission. Thalassaemia, a blood disorder that originated in the Mediterranean region, involves the production of abnormal amounts of haemoglobin in the body.

1732) Who among the following was elected as the new President of France in May 2017?

- a) Benoît Hamon
- b) François Fillon
- c) Marine Le Pen
- d) Emmanuel Macron*

1733) Presidential elections were organised in France recently. Which of the following statements are correct?

- I. The President is elected directly by the people
 - II. The President is elected for a seven year term
 - III. A president cannot serve for more than two consecutive terms
- a) I only
 - b) I and II only
 - c) II and III only
 - d) III and I only*

The 2017 French presidential election was held on 23 April and 7 May 2017. As no candidate won a majority in the first round on 23 April, a run-off was held between the top two candidates, Emmanuel Macron of En Marche! and Marine Le Pen of the National Front (FN), which Macron won by a decisive margin on 7 May. Macron won 66.1 per cent of the vote against 33.9 per cent for Marine Le Pen. The French President is elected for a five year term by universal adult suffrage. A president cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. French presidential elections are conducted via run-off voting which ensures that the elected President always obtains a majority: if no candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round of voting, the two highest-scoring candidates arrive at a run-off.

1734) Who among the following was elected new President of South Korea in May 2017?

- a) Roh Tae-woo
- b) Moon Jae-in*
- c) Hong Jun-pyo
- d) Jung Hong-won

South Korea has chosen its new President. Moon Jae-in was elected by a landslide on May 9, 2017 to replace ousted President Park Geun-hye, who was impeached in December on charges of bribery and abuse of power. Moon, candidate of the Democratic Party of Korea, won the election with 41.1% of the vote.

1735) Who among the following took charge as the new Prime Minister of Bahamas following general elections in May 2017?

- a) Hubert Minnis*
- b) Patricia Beneby
- c) Peter Turnquest

d) Marguerite Pindling

1736) Bahamas is an archipelago in which of the following?

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean
- d) Atlantic Ocean*

Hubert Minnis of the Free National Movement emerged as the next prime minister of Bahamas in general elections that saw incumbent Perry Christie, leader of Progressive Liberal Party, concede defeat in capital Nassau on May 11, 2017. The island archipelago consists of more than 700 islands, cays, and islets in the Atlantic Ocean. It gained independence from Britain in 1973. More than 180,000 people are registered to cast their ballots for the 39 seats in the House of Assembly.

1737) Who among the following was appointed as the Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at UN in May 2017?

- a) David Omand
- b) Brian Bender
- c) Mark Lowcock*
- d) Richard Mottram

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on May 12, 2017 appointed Mark Lowcock, the head of Britain's international development department, as the world body's new humanitarian aid chief. His official designation will be the Head of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at UN.

1738) Which country's husband-wife team set a record as the first couple to conquer the world's 14 highest mountains in May 2017?

- a) Italy*
- b) Serbia
- c) Greece
- d) Norway

Two Italian climbers on May 11, 2017 made it to the top of Nepal's Annapurna peak, and at the same time set a record as the first couple to conquer the world's 14 highest mountains. Romano Benet and his wife Nives Meroi, both 55, reached the 8,091-metre (26,545-foot) Annapurna summit, without using oxygen or porters just as they have in all their ascents.

1739) India-born Ustad Raees Khan died in Lahore on May 6, 2017 at the age of 77.

- a) Sitar*
- b) Flute
- c) Sarangi
- d) Violin
- e) Shehnai

Legendary sitar player Ustad Raees Khan died in Lahore on May 6, 2017. He was 77. Ustad Raees was born in 1939 in Indore, India in a family of musicians. He belonged to the Mewati Gharana of Indian classical music. He was honoured with Presidential award and Sitara-e- Imtiaz in 2005 and 2017, respectively.

1740) What was the theme of the National Technology Day celebrated on May 11, 2017?

- a) Technology for inclusive and equitable growth
- b) Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth*
- c) Technology for indigenous and inclusive growth
- d) Technology for inclusive and sustainable development

National Technology Day was celebrated on May 11, 2017. The Day commemorates India's success in using science and technology to address the challenges facing the country. The first, indigenous aircraft "Hansa-3" was test flown at Bangalore on this day. Not only this, India also performed successful test firing of the Trishul missile on the same day. India also executed three successful nuclear tests, carried out at Pokhran, in Rajasthan on May 11. Every year since

1999, the Technology Development Board (TDB) commemorates the day by honouring technological innovations that have added to the nation growth. The board also selects a theme for each year's event, and the 2017 National Technology Day theme is 'Technology for inclusive and sustainable growth'.

1741) The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) was in news for recommending the commercial use of genetically modified variety of which crop recently?

- a) Barley
- b) Gram
- c) Linseed
- d) Mustard*

The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), India's GM crop regulator, on May 11, 2017 recommended the commercial use of genetically modified mustard in a submission to the environment ministry. The GEAC has also put a number of conditions to the ministry while recommending its commercial use. GEAC, which comes under the purview of the environment ministry, reviewed a report of a sub-committee constituted to look at the safety angle. The ministry has to now take a final call on this.

1742) National Florence Nightingale Awards were presented to 35 nursing personnel by the President on International Nurses Day on _____, 2017.

- a) May 10
- b) May 11
- c) May 12*
- d) May 13

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Florence Nightingale Awards to 35 nurses from across the country on the occasion of International Nurses Day at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on May 12, 2017. The Award carries Rs.50000 cash, a certificate, a citation certificate and a Medal.

1743) "Mukti Bhawan", directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani, won the Best Film at the _____ Indian Film Festival organised from April 30 to May 7, 2017.

- a) Boston
- b) Toronto
- c) Montreal
- d) New York*

"Mukti Bhawan", directed by Shubhashish Bhutiani, won the Best Film at the New York Indian Film Festival (NYIFF) organised from April 30 to May 7, 2017. The fest also saw Konkona Sen Sharma win two awards -- Best Director for "A Death In The Gunj" and Best Actress for "Lipstick Under My Burkha".

1744) Who among the following won the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal in the Young Scientist category for 2017 for his research on capturing carbon dioxide and preventing it from getting released into the atmosphere?

- a) Rishikesh Narayanan
- b) Parthasarathi Mukherjee
- c) Avinash Kumar Agarwal
- d) Vikram Vishal*

Vikram Vishal, an assistant professor in the Department of Earth Sciences at IIT Bombay, won the prestigious Indian National Science Academy (INSA) medal in the Young Scientist category for 2017. The award carries a bronze medal and a cash prize of Rs 25,000, a release from the IIT Bombay said on May 8, 2017. His research looks at capturing the carbon dioxide released when coal is burnt or created as a by-product in other industries and injecting it back into the rock deep underground so that it is not released into the atmosphere.

1745) Who among the following won the 2016 Wisden-MCC Cricket Photograph of the Year for an image taken by him in Srinagar?

- a) Waseem Ahmad
- b) Arslan Qadir

- c) Saqib Majeed*
- d) Umair Sarfaraz

Saqib Majeed, a Srinagar-based freelance photographer, pocketed the prestigious 2016 Wisden-MCC (Melbourne Cricket Council) Cricket Photograph of the Year for a stunning image, which captured boys playing cricket in the outskirts of the city, clicked by him. Saqib Majeed, an engineer by profession clicked the award-winning picture at the Nishat garden in Srinagar. Every year MCC publishes a book titled Wisden Cricketer Almanack, which includes best sports pictures from across the globe. This year's edition includes Majeed's picture who was chosen among 450 participants. (May 6, 2017)

1746) Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, was conferred with the World Health Organisation's gold medal in May 2017. He won this medal for his work in elimination of which disease across the globe?

- a) Tuberculosis
- b) Diabetes
- c) Leprosy*
- d) Malaria

Yohei Sasakawa, Chairman of The Nippon Foundation, has been conferred with the World Health Organisation's gold medal at the Global Partners Meeting on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), held in Geneva. Director General, WHO, Dr Margaret Chan awarded the gold medal, which bears the inscription "Health for All," to Sasakawa for his eminent contribution as WHO Goodwill Ambassador since 2001 for leprosy elimination across the globe.

1747) Which of the following statements about Masala bonds is not correct?

- a) The exchange rate fluctuation risk is borne by the issuer*
- b) They are issued by Indian entities only
- c) Overseas investors invest in them
- d) They raise funds in Indian currency

The Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari on May 11, 2017 launched the NHAI Masala Bond issue at the London Stock Exchange (NSE). The initial benchmarked issue of INR 1500 crore was upsized to INR 3000 crore at a price yielding 7.30% annually in view of the highly positive response from the investor market. Gadkari started the day's trading at LSE on May 11, and also addressed the media at India House, London.

Masala bonds are debt instruments issued by Indian corporates for raising money from overseas investors. Before masala bonds, corporates have had to rely on avenues such as external commercial borrowings or ECBs. In case of ECBs, the entity raising money is faced with a currency risk - they have to be raised and repaid in dollar terms. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers and the repayment is also in Rupees. So risk of currency fluctuation is borne by the buyer not the seller (issuer).

1748) Which government-owned entity following successfully launched an Initial Public Offer (IPO) to raise Rs. 1200 crore in May 2017?

- a) HUDCO*
- b) NHAI
- c) SIDBI
- d) NHPC

The HUDCO Initial Public Offering (IPO) saw an exceptional level of interest and the Issue as a whole was oversubscribed by more than 79 times. Bids worth Rs. 97,000 crores were received for an issue size of Rs. 1,200 crores. The HUDCO IPO was open for subscription from May 8 to 11, 2017. The price band was fixed at Rs. 56– Rs.60 per equity share of the face value of Rs.10, with a discount of Rs. 2 for retail investors and the employees of the Company.

1749) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) in May 2017?

- a) Ajay Tyagi
- b) Rakesh Mohan
- c) Vikram Limaye
- d) Ashish Kumar Chauhan*

South Asian Federation of Exchanges (SAFE) has appointed BSE Managing Director and Chief Executive Ashishkumar Chauhan as the new Chairman at the SAFE conference in Mumbai on May 12, 2017.

1750) Who among the following quit as member of the Bank Board Bureau (BBB) recently?

- a) H. N. Sinor*
- b) Anil K. Khandelwal
- c) Rupa Kudwa
- d) All the above

In a surprise move, veteran banker H N Sinor has quit as member of **Bank Board Bureau which was constituted in 2016 by the Prime Minister to advise the government on top-level appointments in state-owned lenders.** After exit of Sinor, Anil K Khandelwal, former CMD at Bank of Baroda and Rupa Kudwa, former MD & CEO at CRISIL are the only two members left at BBB.

1751) The government announced a change in the base year of WPI (Wholesale Priced Index) from 2004-05 to ____ in May 2017.

- a) 2008-09
- b) 2009-10
- c) 2010-11
- d) **2011-12***

The government on May 12, 2017 announced a change in the base year of All-India WPI (Wholesale Priced Index) from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The aim is to align the WPI with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

New Weighting Structure has been introduced. Primary Articles, Fuel & Power and Manufactured Products had weights of 20.12%, 14.91% and 64.97% respectively when the base year was 2004-05. In the new base year, 2011-12, Primary Articles, Fuel & Power and Manufactured Products have weights of 22.62%, 13.15% and 64.23% respectively.

The index basket of the new series has a **total of 697 items** including 117 items for Primary Articles, 16 items for Fuel & Power and 564 items for Manufactured Products.

Some items have been included while some others deleted from all three groups. As many as 199 new items, including natural gas, tissue paper, conveyer belt, rubber tread, steel cables, pointed gourd, cucumber, bitter gourd and jack fruit, are included in the new series of WPI to make the inflation data more broad-based. While 146 items, including Coke (Coal), papad, video CD player, khandsari and light diesel oil, were dropped under the new series.

1752) What was the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in April 2017?

- a) 2.85%
- b) **3.85%***
- c) 4.85%
- d) 5.85%

Inflation based on the wholesale price index slipped to a four—month low of 3.85 per cent in April as both food articles and manufactured items showed cooling in prices, government data revealed on May 12, 2017. The WPI inflation readings, reflecting the annual rate of price rise, as per the new base stood at 5.29 per cent in March, 5.51 per cent in February, 4.26 per cent in January, 2.10 per cent in December and 1.82 per cent in November.

1753) What was the Retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for April 2017?

- a) 1.99%
- b) **2.99%***
- c) 3.99%
- d) 4.99%

India's retail inflation decelerated to 2.99 per cent in April 2017 from 3.89 per cent for March 2017 as food prices reported a massive plunge, official data showed on May 12, 2017. According to data furnished by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, retail inflation rate in April 2017, based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), was lower from 5.47% recorded during April 2016.

1754) The government announced a change in the base year of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2004-05 to _____ in May 2017.

- a) 2008-09
- b) 2009-10
- c) 2010-11
- d) 2011-12*

The government on May 12, 2017 announced a change in the base year of the all-India Index of Industrial Production (IIP) from 2004-05 to 2011-12. The objective is to not only reflect the changes in the industrial sector but to also align it with the base year of other macroeconomic indicators like the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Wholesale Price Index (WPI).

IIP in the revised series will continue to represent the Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity sectors. Some items have been included while some others deleted from all three sectors. In the new series of IIP, items like gutka, calculators and colour TV picture tubes have been removed, while steroids and refined palm oil are among those that have found place in it. The total number of items in the index has increased to 809 as compared to 620 earlier.

1755) What was the change in Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in March 2017?

- a) +2.7%*
- b) +1.5%
- c) +0.8%
- d) -1%

Industrial output growth slipped to 2.7 per cent in March, chiefly because of poor performance of the manufacturing sector, showed the IIP data based on the revised base year of 2011-12. The index of industrial production (IIP) growth was 5.5 per cent in March 2016. For 2016-17, factory output grew by 5 per cent as against 3.4 per cent in 2015-16.

1756) The levy on air tickets on major routes imposed to fund the Centre's regional connectivity scheme UDAN has been reduced to _____ from June 1, 2017.

- a) Rs. 3,000 per flight
- b) Rs. 4,000 per flight
- c) Rs. 5,000 per flight*
- d) Rs. 6,000 per flight

In a relief to passengers flying on major domestic routes, the Civil Aviation Ministry on May 9, 2017 decided to significantly reduce the levy on air tickets imposed to fund the Centre's new regional connectivity scheme UDAN. From June 1, it will only charge a uniform levy of Rs. 5,000 per flight on major routes, down from Rs. 7,500-Rs. 8,500 per flight it had ordered to charge earlier. The move will come as a relief to passengers taking flights on major domestic routes as each passenger will have to bear about Rs. 30 as cess against about Rs. 50 as per government's previous order in November 2016.

1757) Which of the following was in news in May 2017 for its report titled 'India Leaps Ahead: Transformative Mobility Solutions for All'?

- a) CMIE
- b) NCAER
- c) FICCI
- d) NITI Aayog*

Electric vehicles are the future of India's transportation system and could save billions of dollars in fuel cost while also reducing pollution, said the report titled 'India Leaps Ahead: Transformative Mobility Solutions for All'. The report, jointly published with Rocky Mountain Institute, was released by NITI Aayog on May 12, 2017. The report is based on inputs from 75 stakeholders across government and private sectors which came together in February to share their vision.

1758) What is the foodgrain production in 2016-17 according to the third Advance Estimates of production of major crops released in May 2017?

- a) 243.78 million tonnes

- b) 253.78 million tonnes
- c) 263.78 million tonnes
- d) 273.78 million tonnes*

1759) Which of the following foodgrains' output has improved over 2015-16 according to the third Advance Estimates of production of major crops in 2016-17 released in May 2017?

- a) Rice
- b) Wheat
- c) Pulses
- d) Oilseeds
- e) All the above*

The third Advance Estimates of production of major crops for 2016-17 was released on May 9, 2017 by the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. As per Third Advance Estimates for 2016-17, total Foodgrain production in the country is estimated at 273.38 million tonnes which is higher by 8.34 million tonnes (3.15%) than the previous record production of Foodgrain of 265.04 million tonnes achieved during 2013-14.

Highlights: • Total production of **Rice** is estimated at record 109.15 million tonnes which is also a new record. • Production of **Wheat**, estimated at 97.44 million tonnes is also a record. • Production of **Coarse Cereals** estimated at a new record level of 44.39 million tonnes. • Total production of **pulses** during 2016-17 is estimated at 22.40 million tonnes which is also a record. • Total **Oilseeds** production is estimated at 32.52 million tonnes, 28.80% more than in previous year. • Production of **Sugarcane** is estimated at 306.03 million tonnes which is lower by 12.17% than the last year's production. • **Cotton** has seen higher production of 32.58 million bales (of 170 kg each), i.e. an increase of 8.57%, during 2015-16. • Production of **Jute & Mesta** estimated at 10.27 million bales (of 180 kg each) is marginally lower (-2.39%) than their production during the last year.

1760) Which of the following is the internet-based interface launched by the government in May 2017 to provide solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector?

- a) e-Krishi Sewa
- b) e-Krishi Saral
- c) e-Krishi Mitra
- d) e-Krishi Samvad*

The e-Krishi Samvad, an internet-based interface that will provide direct and effective solutions to the problems faced by farmers and stakeholders in the agriculture sector, was launched by Radha Mohan Singh, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in New Delhi on May 11, 2017. People can directly connect to the ICAR website <http://icar.org.in> and get the appropriate solutions from the subject matter specialists and institutes through web or SMS. Those who have internet facility on the mobile phone can also avail this facility.

1761) The government has set up a task force to recommend ways to deal with employment data discrepancies and come up with reliable solutions to promote job creation. This task force will be headed by:

- a) Arvind Subramanian
- b) Deepak Parekh
- c) Bimal Jalan
- d) Arvind Panagariya*

The government has set up a task force headed by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Arvind Panagariya to recommend ways to deal with employment data discrepancies and come up with reliable solutions to promote job creation. "A task force has been created under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog Dr Arvind Panagariya with Labour Secretary M Sathiyavathy, Secretary Statistics Dr T C A Anant, Prof Pulak Ghosh of NITI Aayog and Manish Sabharwal (Member RBI Board) as members," Prime Ministers' Office said in a statement on May 9, 2017.

1762) Who among the following bankers received the Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship in USA in May 2017?

- a) Aditya Puri
- b) Uday Kotak
- c) Arundhati Bhattacharya

d) Chanda Kochhar*

ICICI Bank chief Chanda Kochhar became the **first Indian woman to be conferred with the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Award for Global Corporate Citizenship**. The award was conferred by the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC on May 10, 2017.

1763) The North Eastern Frontier Railway started Shatabdi Express train service between Naharlagun in _____ and Guwahati in Assam in May 2017.

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh*

The North Eastern Frontier Railway (NF Railway) introduced super fast Shatabdi Express train service between Naharlagun and Guwahati. The train was flagged by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu from Naharlagun Railway Station on May 7, 2017. The train will depart from Naharlagun at 5am on every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. It will leave for Naharlagun from Guwahati on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

1764) The 'Chief Minister's Free Diagnostics Services' was launched in which state in May 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Assam*
- c) Kerala
- d) Telangana

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal on May 11, 2017 launched the **'Chief Minister's Free Diagnostics Services' in Guwahati. All patients of government health institutions such as public health centres (PHC), Child Health Centres and District Hospital will be provided X- ray and Laboratory services free of cost.**

1765) Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of Bharat Sevashram Sangha in which state in May 2017?

- a) Meghalaya*
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the centenary celebrations of Bharat Sevashram Sangha being organized at Shillong, Meghalaya on May 7, 2017 through video conferencing. Bharat Sevashram Sangha was founded in 1917 by the Acharya Srimat Swami Pranavanandaji Maharaj.

1766) Which state launched five mobile quality control labs in May 2017 that will evaluate the quality of various central and state government road and infrastructure projects in five districts?

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

Tamil Nadu government on May 10, 2017 launched five mobile quality control labs that will evaluate the quality of various central and state government road and infrastructure projects in five districts. Chief Minister K Palaniswami flagged off the mobile quality control units, valued at Rs 2.35 crore, at an event held in Chennai. These mobile labs were equipped with over 20 required tools and equipment that could enable officials to undertake 15 types of quality assessments on the spot. These five units will be used in Tiruvallur, Erode, Madurai, Nagapattinam and Tirunelveli districts.

1767) The country's first bio refinery plant which produces ethanol from variety of biomass was inaugurated by Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari on May 7, 2017 in which district?

- a) Pune*
- b) Satara
- c) Nashik
- d) Nanded

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari on May 7, 2017 inaugurated the country's first bio refinery plant which produces ethanol from variety of biomass. The project is situated at Rahu in Pune district. The plant can

produce one million litre of ethanol per annum by processing a variety of agro-residue like rice and wheat straw, cotton stalk, cane trash, corn cobs with superior product yields.

1768) Who among the following Indian players became the highest wicket-taker in women's ODIs in May 2017?

- a) Mithali Raj
- b) Ekta Bisht
- c) Archana Das
- d) Jhulan Goswami*

Leading woman fast bowler Jhulan Goswami became the highest wicket-taker in the history of ODIs as India beat South Africa by seven wickets in the Women's Quadrangular Series in Potchefstroom (South Africa) on May 9, 2017. Goswami, thus, eclipsed the decade-long record in the name of Australian Cathryn Fitzpatrick. Goswami claimed her 181st victim in her 153rd match, breaking Fitzpatrick's record of 180 wickets from 109 matches.

1769) The only gold medal for India at the Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017 Shooting Championship in Czech Republic in May 2017 was won by:

- a) Heena Sidhu
- b) Neeraj Kumar*
- c) Harpreet Singh
- d) Deepak Sharma

Heena Sidhu claimed a bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol as India ended the Grand Prix of Liberation Plezn 2017 Shooting championships with seven medals on May 7, 2017. India returned from the championship in Czech Republic with a haul of one gold, two silver and four bronze medals. There were also impressive performances by the Indian men's 25m Standard Pistol team, which swept the medals in the event, with Neeraj Kumar winning gold, Harpreet Singh silver and Deepak Sharma the bronze medal. Veteran women's Rifle shooter Tejaswini Sawant also won silver in the 50m Rifle Prone event while Pemba Tamang won bronze in the Men's 25m Centre Fire Pistol.

1770) Which of the following statements on Sultan Azlan Shah Cup men's hockey tournament that concluded in Malaysia in May 2017 are correct?

- I. Great Britain won the tournament
- II. India was the losing finalist
- III. Australia won the bronze

- a) I only*
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only
- d) III and I only

Great Britain won the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup title with a rousing 4–3 victory in the final against defending champions Australia in Ipoh (Malaysia) on May 6, 2017. India outplayed New Zealand 4-0 to claim the bronze medal.

1771) Divya Kakran (69 kg) won silver medal at the Asian ____ Championship in New Delhi in May 2017.

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing
- c) Wrestling*
- e) Weightlifting

Three Indian women wrestlers Sakshi Malik (60 kg), Vinesh Phogat (55 kg) and Divya Kakran (69 kg) bagged silver medals in their respective categories in the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi on May 12, 2017 after losing out their final bouts.

1772) Sumit Sangwan (91 kg) won silver medal at the Asian ____ Championship organised in Tashkent in May 2017.

- a) Judo
- b) Boxing*
- c) Wrestling
- e) Weightlifting

Shiva Thapa (60kg) and Sumit Sangwan (91kg) won silver medals at the Asian Boxing Championship in Tashkent on May 6, 2017. Shiva lost to local favourite Elnur Abduraimov while Sumit lost to Kazakhstan's Vassiliy Levit.

1773) Who among the following retired Indian judges was elected head of FIFA Governance Committee in May 2017?

- a) Justice P. Venkatarama Reddy
- b) Justice Mukul Mudgal*
- c) Justice B. N. Srikrishna
- d) Justice Madan B. Lokur

Justice (Retd.) Mukul Mudgal was elected as head of FIFA's Governance committee at the world football governing body's 67th Congress in Bahrain's capital city of Manama on May 11, 2017.

1774) US-based National Basketball Association (NBA) on May 9, 2017 opened its first academy in India at:

- a) Chandigarh
- b) Greater Noida*
- c) Gurugram
- d) Faridabad

The National Basketball Association (NBA) on May 9, 2017 opened its first academy in India. An elite basketball training center at Jaypee Greens Integrated Sports Complex in Greater Noida was officially thrown open for the upcoming male and female talent of the country. Twenty-one elite male prospects, who were selected following a three-month nationwide talent search, will receive scholarships and training at NBA Academy India

1775) The cabinet approved maternity benefit programme in May 2017. The Rs. 5000 cash incentive will be given to mothers in how many instalments?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3*
- d) 4

The cabinet on May 17, 2017 gave its nod to the maternity benefit programme. The mother will receive the initial Rs 1,000 after early registration of pregnancy, Rs 2,000 after at least one antenatal check-up (after six months of pregnancy) and Rs 2,000 after the child birth is registered and has received the first cycle of BCG, OPV, DPT and Hepatitis-B or its equivalent. The eligible beneficiaries would continue to receive the remaining cash incentive as per approved norms towards Maternity Benefit under existing programmes after institutional delivery so that on an average, a woman will get Rs 6,000.

1776) The government introduced pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) in May 2017. PCV will protect children against pneumonia and:

- a) Ebola
- b) Rubella
- c) Rotavirus
- d) Meningitis*

J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare on May 13, 2017 announced the introduction of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) in the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh. PCV protects children against severe forms of pneumococcal disease, such as pneumonia and meningitis.

1777) Health Ministry's programme of Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) covers all of the following except:

- a) Cervix cancer
- b) Oral cavity cancer
- c) Breast cancer
- d) Cardiovascular Diseases*

1778) Health Ministry's programme of Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is applicable to everyone above the age of:

- a) 25 years
- b) 30 years*
- c) 35 years
- d) 40 years

J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, inaugurated the National Training for Universal Screening and Control of five Common Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in New Delhi on May 16, 2017. The NCDs covered are: hypertension, diabetes and three common cancers: cervix, breast and oral cavity. Under the universal screening of common NCDs program, everyone above the age of 30 years will be screened in the 100 districts of the country in the first phase. Gradually, it will cover the entire country and around 50 crore people will be covered so that timely intervention can reduce the disease burden in the country.

1779) National _____ Day was observed on May 16, 2017.

- a) Yellow fever
- b) Dengue*
- c) Japanese encephalitis
- d) Malaria

National Dengue Day was observed on May 16, 2017 by AIIMS, New Delhi, and National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) in New Delhi.

1780) Which of the following ranked India 154th in its GBD (Global Burden of Disease) rankings for healthcare access and quality (HAQ) in May 2017?

- a) Bildt
- b) The Lancet*
- c) Der Spiegel
- d) Atlantic Monthly

Newborns in India have a lesser chance of survival than babies born in Afghanistan and Somalia, according to the latest Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study published in the medical journal The Lancet. In the GBD rankings for healthcare access and quality (HAQ), India has fallen 11 places, and now ranks 154 out of 195 countries.

1781) A meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was held in New Delhi on May 15-16, 2017. Which of the following was the winning slogan on Disaster Risk Reduction?

- a) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Swacch Bharat Ki Pukar
- b) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Poora Bharat Bhagidar*
- c) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Saara Bharat Jimmedar
- d) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Swacch Bharat Jimmedar
- e) Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Jan Jan Bana Bhagidar

A two-day multi-stakeholders' second meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction concluded in New Delhi on May 16, 2017. The event was attended by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, who is also the Vice-Chairman of the NPDRR, Members of NDMA and over 1,000 delegates representing various stakeholders in the Disaster Management also attended. On the occasion, prize was given to the winner of the national slogan contest on Disaster Risk Reduction with an appreciation certificate and cash prize of Rs. 25,000. The winning slogan was, - "Aapda Prabandhan Maha Vichar: Poora Bharat Bhagidar".

1782) The Indian Army on May 18, 2017 received the first two M-777 A-2 ultra light howitzers from the US as part of an order for 145 guns. These have been manufactured by:

- a) Boeing
- b) BAE Systems*
- c) Elbit Systems
- d) Soltam Systems

The Indian Army on May 18, 2017 received the first two ultra light howitzers from the US as part of an order for 145 long-range guns. The M-777 A-2 ultra-light howitzers (ULH), having a maximum range of 30 km and manufactured by the BAE Systems, were being taken to Pokhran firing range in Rajasthan for test firing.

1783) Indian Navy's warship INS Sharda saved a Liberian vessel MV Lord Mountbatten on May 16, 2017 from piracy in:

- a) Gulf of Aden*
- b) Straits of Hormuz
- c) Gulf of Mannar
- d) Gulf of Aqaba

The Indian Navy on May 16, 2017 thwarted a piracy attempt on a Liberian vessel in the Gulf of Aden, in a swift operation involving marine commandos and an armed chopper. The Navy's warship INS Sharda, deployed in Gulf of Aden for anti-piracy mission, swung into action after it received a distress call from MV Lord Mountbatten.

1784) Which of the following was the month-long military exercise conducted by the Indian Army's Chetak Corps in Rajasthan?

- a) Exercise Thar Shakti*
- b) Exercise Thar Prahari
- c) Exercise Thar Rakshak
- d) Exercise Thar Himmat

A month-long military exercise code named "Exercise Thar Shakti" was conducted by the Indian Army's Chetak Corps in Rajasthan. The exercise culminated on May 15, 2017.

1785) Which of the following organised Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise named as "KARAVALI KARUNYA" in May 2017?

- a) Western Naval Command*
- b) Eastern Naval Command
- c) Southern Naval Command

The Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise involving multiple agencies and being conducted by Indian Navy's Western Naval Command commenced at Naval Station Karwar on May 18, 2017 with an inaugural session. The exercise named as "KARAVALI KARUNYA" will continue till May 20.

1786) A Committee appointed by the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation for de-silting of the Ganga submitted its report recently. The committee was headed by:

- a) Madhav Chitale*
- b) Rajendra Vijayan
- c) N.M. Govardhan
- d) Radhakrishnan Nair

The Chitale Committee of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has recommended creation of sand registry for de-silting of the Ganga. This was stated in a statement from the Ministry of Water Resources on May 19, 2017. The committee, headed by expert member of National Ganga River Basin Authority Madhav Chitale, was constituted in July 2016 by the Ministry of Water Resources to prepare guidelines for desilting the Ganga from Bhimgauda in Uttarakhand to Farakka in West Bengal.

1787) Which of the following will be allocated a one hour broadcast slot on the Urdu service of the All India Radio according to a MoU signed in May 2017?

- a) Jamia Millia Islamia University
- b) Aligarh Muslim University*
- c) Maulana Azad National Urdu University
- d) Osmania University

All India Radio and Aligarh Muslim University on May 15, 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding to cooperate in different areas of programme production. The MoU was signed by the Deputy Director General of All India Radio and Registrar of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) at Aligarh. As part of the MoU, Aligarh Muslim University will be allocated a one hour broadcast slot on the Urdu service, programmes for which will be produced by the students of the Mass Communication department of the University. Giving details of the MoU, Director External Services Division of the AIR said, the MoU is part of the overall exercise of External Services to revamp its technology and content.

- 1788)** Centre has enhanced the subsidy amount to set-up Community Radio stations across the country from the existing 50 per cent to _____.
- a) 60%
 - b) 65%
 - c) 70%
 - d) 75%*

Centre has enhanced the subsidy amount to set-up Community Radio stations across the country from the existing 50 per cent to 75 per cent. This was stated by the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu who reviewed the functioning of various media units of the Ministry in Chennai on May 13, 2017. The Minister said that universities and NGOs will be encouraged to set up community radios and States in the north eastern region will be given subsidy upto 90 per cent.

- 1789)** Who among the following is the author of 'India's Indira - A Centennial Tribute' released recently?
- a) Ramchandra Guha
 - b) Karan Singh
 - c) Arundhati Roy
 - d) Anand Sharma*

- 1790)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Which of the following books was authored by him?
- a) Reasons of State
 - b) India: From Midnight to the Millennium
 - c) Nehru: The Invention of India
 - d) Creation to Cremation*

- 1791)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. He was elected to Rajya Sabha from which state in 2016?
- a) Madhya Pradesh*
 - b) Bihar
 - c) Uttarakhand
 - d) Himachal Pradesh

- 1792)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Which of the following NGOs was founded by him?
- a) Deepalaya
 - b) Parivartan
 - c) Barefoot College
 - d) Jan Abhiyan Parishad*

- 1793)** Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Who among the following has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests?
- a) Harsh Vardhan*
 - b) Prakash Javadekar
 - c) Dharmendra Pradhan
 - d) Smriti Irani

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Rajya Sabha member Anil Madhav Dave passed away in New Delhi on May 18, 2017 at the age of 60. Union Minister for Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2009. He was re-elected to the Rajya Sabha in 2016 from Madhya Pradesh. He was the founder of NGO Jan Abhiyan Parishad. He authored several books such as Shivaji & Suraj, Creation to Cremation; Rafting through a Civilisation: A Travelogue and Beyond Copenhagen; Yes I Can, So Can We.

1794) Former Principal Information Officer I. Ramamohan Rao passed away on May 13, 2017. He served as Media Advisor to who among the following Prime Ministers?

- a) Narendra Modi
- b) Indira Gandhi
- c) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- d) P. V. Narasimha Rao*

Former Principal Information Officer to the Government of India Mr. I. Ramamohan Rao passed away on May 13, 2017. He was 83. Hailing from Karnataka's South Canara district, Rao started his career with the Information Service in the 50s. He rose to become the Principal Information Officer, the top post in the information central information department. Known for his humility and efficient communication skills, Rao had served as media adviser to four former prime ministers — Rajiv Gandhi, V.P. Singh, Chandrashekhar and P.V. Narasimha Rao.

1795) Who among the following has taken over as the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University in Rajgir (Bihar) in May 2017?

- a) Maya Paul
- b) Lata Sharma
- c) Sunaina Singh*
- d) Shruti Taneja

Sunaina Singh has taken over as the Vice Chancellor of Nalanda University in Rajgir (Bihar) on May 15, 2017.

1796) Manoj Soni was appointed as Member of which of the following in May 2017?

- a) Railway Board
- b) CBFC
- c) CCI
- d) UPSC*

Gujarat-based educationist Manoj Soni was on May 19, 2017 appointed as a member in the Union Public Service Commission.

1797) Which of the following is not a joint venture partner in Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) that is implementing Ujala scheme of replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs?

- a) Power Grid
- b) NTPC
- c) BHEL*
- d) REC

1798) India launched the Ujala scheme of replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs in which European country in May 2017?

- a) Spain
- b) France
- c) Italy
- d) United Kingdom*
- e) Portugal

Minister of state for power, coal and renewable energy Piyush Goyal launched Energy Efficiency Services Limited's (EESL) expansion plans in the UK, which have been branded as 'UK Joins Affordable LEDs for All' (UJALA), in London on May 13, 2017. The target for the EESL is to replace 100 million incandescent bulbs with LEDs in the UK by March 2019. The EESL, under the Indian power ministry, is a joint venture of four state-run entities – Power Grid, NTPC, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and the Power Finance Corporation Limited. The National LED programme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in January 2015. Under this scheme, consumer can buy five LED bulbs at the rate of Rs 20 each by showing monthly electricity bills or ID cards.

1799) 25. Which of the following is Indian Navy's survey vessel that completed survey of the Southern coast of Sri Lanka in May 2017?

- a) INS Rakshak
- b) INS Darshak*

- c) INS Anveshak
- d) INS Pradarshak
- e) INS Sarvekshak

INS Darshak of the Eastern Naval Command which has been on a two month deployment to Sri Lanka has successfully completed surveys of Weligama Bay and Southern coast of Sri Lanka. The result of the surveys were formally handed over to the the Commander of Sri Lanka Navy in Colombo on May 12, 2017.

1800) Which of the following was the location of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises) in May 2017?

- a) Arabian Sea
- b) South China Sea*
- c) Gulf of Munnar
- d) Bay of Bengal

“SIMBEX-17”, the Bilateral Naval Exercise between Navies of Singapore and India commenced in South China Sea. SIMBEX is an acronym for “Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercises”. The scope of the current exercise includes wide-ranging professional interactions during the Harbour Phase scheduled from 18 May to 20 May and a diverse range of operational activities at sea during the Sea Phase to be held from 21 May to 24 May.

1801) Which of the following organised its first International Maritime Review at the Changi Naval Base in May 2017?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Singapore*

Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba on May 15, 2017 attended Singapore’s first International Maritime Review held at the country’s Changi Naval Base. Admiral Lanba also attended the International Maritime Defence Exhibition and Conference (IMDEX) 2017 on May 16.

1802) Who among the following is the President of Palestine?

- a) Salam Fayyad
- b) Sadeq Larijani
- c) Rami Hamdallah
- d) Mahmoud Abbas*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on May 16, 2017 held extensive talks on key bilateral, regional and international issues, including the Middle East peace process.

1803) India’s preferential trade agreement (PTA) with which of the following countries came into effect from May 16, 2017? It is the first Latin American country with which India has signed a trade pact.

- a) Chile*
- b) Uruguay
- c) Peru
- d) Venezuela

Indian exporters will have preferential access to the Chilean market for 1,798 products, including pharmaceuticals, ready-made garments and processed food as part of the expanded preferential trade agreement (PTA) between the two countries, which came into effect from May 16, 2017.

1804) The US government has approved the sale of clothing for the Indian armed forces that will protect soldiers from biological and chemical warfare. JSLIST stands for Joint Service Lightweight _____ Suit Technology.

- a) Immunised
- b) Infrared
- c) Individual
- d) Integrated*

The US has approved \$75 million-worth high-tech chemical protective clothing for the Indian armed forces that will protect soldiers from biological and chemical warfare. The technology used is Joint Service Lightweight Integrated Suit Technology (JSLIST). The Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) made a notification to the US Congress on May 10, 2017 after the State Department made a determination in this regard.

1805) China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) stretches from Gwadar in Pakistan to ____ in Xinjiang province of China.

- a) Ghulja
- b) Urumqi
- c) Turpan
- d) Kashgar*

1806) Which of the following hosted the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation on May 14-15, 2017?

- a) Harbin
- b) Beijing
- c) Chengdu
- d) Shanghai

1807) Which SAARC country did not send a delegation to the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation organised in China on May 14-15, 2017?

- a) Nepal
- b) India*
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Bangladesh

• China hosted 28 heads of state and government in Beijing for the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on May 14-15, 2017. The objective of the forum was to promote the Belt and Road Initiative (B&RI). Earlier known as “one belt, one road”, B&RI involves China underwriting billions of dollars of infrastructure investment in countries along the old Silk Road linking it with Europe.

• B&RI aims to connect Asia, Europe through a network of roads, railway lines, and ports.

• B&RI consists of two main components, the land-based “Silk Road Economic Belt” (SREB) and ocean-going “Maritime Silk Road” (MSR). The emphasis is on enhancing land as well as maritime routes.

• India did not attend the B&RI forum in opposition to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that passes through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The 3000 km long CPEC is an important part of B&RI. The corridor stretches from Gwadar in Pakistan to Kashgar in the Chinese region of Xinjiang.

• Gwadar is located on the Arabian Sea coast of Balochistan, a province in south-west Pakistan. Kashgar is located at the centre of China’s only Muslim-majority, Turkic-speaking Xinjiang region. It is populated mainly by ethnic Uighur Muslims.

1808) Which of the following has pledged to contribute \$5 million over five years to the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights office?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft*
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Microsoft has pledged to contribute \$5 million over five years to the Geneva-based United Nations Human Rights office. Microsoft plans to develop and use technology to help the U.N. Rights office “predict, analyse and respond to critical human rights situations” around the world. The partnership was quietly begun in 2016 but formally launched on May 16, 2017.

1809) The territory of Nagorno–Karabakh has led to clashes between which two countries in Europe recently?

- a) Latvia and Estonia
- b) Russia and Ukraine
- c) Georgia and Belarus
- d) Armenia and Azerbaijan*

Azerbaijan has destroyed an Armenian air defence system in the breakaway Nagorny Karabakh region, officials in Baku said on May 16, 2017. Baku and Yerevan have feuded over the Nagorny Karabakh region since Armenian separatists seized the territory in a war that claimed some 30,000 lives in the early 1990s and ended in a frail 1994 truce.

1810) The Meeting of Labour & Employment Ministers of which of the following was hosted by Germany on May 18-19, 2017?

- a) G7
- b) EU
- c) G20*
- d) G77

The Meeting of Labour & Employment Ministers of G20 was organised on 18-19, May, 2017 at Bad Neuenahr, Germany. Bandaru Dattatreya, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Labour & Employment led the Indian delegation to the Meet. Topics discussed included "Shaping the Future of Work", "Reducing Gender Gaps in Labour Force Participation", "Labour Market Integration of Regular Migrants and Recognized Refugees" and Boosting Youth Employment."

1811) Which of the following launched LIVE (Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship) – a business incubator and entrepreneurship development center in May 2017?

- a) IIM, Indore
- b) IIM, Bangalore
- c) IIM, Kozhikode*
- d) IIM, Lucknow

IIM-Kozhikode on May 15, 2017 launched LIVE (Laboratory for Innovation, Venturing and Entrepreneurship) – a business incubator and entrepreneurship development center.

1812) The World Hypertension Day was observed on____, 2017.

- a) May 14
- b) May 15
- c) May 16
- d) May 17*

World Hypertension Day (WHD), observed on May 17, 2017, is a day designated and initiated by The World Hypertension League (WHL), which is itself an umbrella to organizations of 85 national hypertension societies and leagues. The day was initiated to increase the awareness of hypertension. This was especially important because of the lack of appropriate knowledge among hypertensive patients. Since 2006, the WHL has been dedicating May 17 of every year as WHD.

1813) International Museum Day (IMD) was celebrated on_____, 2017.

- a) May 17
- b) May 18*
- c) May 19
- d) May 20

1814) What was the theme of the International Museum Day (IMD) celebrated in May 2017?

- a) Museum and memory
- b) Museums and universal heritage
- c) Museum collections make connections
- d) Museums as agents of social change and development
- e) Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums

International Museum Day was observed on May 18. The theme was: 'Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums'

1815) 41. The World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed on____ 2017.

- a) May 14
- b) May 15
- c) May 16

d) May 17*

1816) . What was the theme of the 2017 World Telecommunication and Information Society Day?

- a) Broadband for Sustainable Development
- b) Big Data for Big Impact*
- c) Women and Girls in ICT
- d) ICT Entrepreneurship for Social Impact

1817) Who among the following is the Secretary-General of the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union?

- a) Xu Xiang
- b) Jin Liqun
- c) Tang Yuhan
- d) Houlin Zhao*

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day was observed on May 17, 2017. The theme for 2017 is 'Big Data for Big Impact'. Houlin Zhao is the Secretary-General of the Geneva-based International Telecommunication Union which is behind the observance of this day. The day is celebrated annually on 17 May to help raise awareness of the possibilities that the use of the Internet and other information and communication technologies (ICT) can bring to societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.

1818) The International Day of Families was observed on____, 2017.

- a) May 14
- b) May 15*
- c) May 16
- d) May 17

1819) What was the theme of the 2017 International Day of Families?

- a) Families, Education and Well-being*
- b) Families, Healthy Lives and Sustainable Future
- c) The Impact of Migration on Families Around the World
- d) Mothers and Families: Challenges in a Changing World

International Day of Families was celebrated on May 15, 2017 with the theme: "Families, education and well-being".

1820) Who among the following has launched a new political action organisation 'Onward Together' in May 2017?

- a) Barack Obama
- b) Dilma Rousseff
- c) Angela Merkel
- d) Hillary Clinton*

Former Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton has launched a new political action organisation 'Onward Together' in Washington on May 16, 2017. The new group's website said it aimed to advance progressive values. "Onward Together will work to build a brighter future for generations to come by supporting groups that encourage people to organise and run for office," wrote the former Secretary of State.

1821) World Heritage-listed Henderson Island is in which ocean/sea? It was listed as the most polluted place on Earth recently.

- a) Arctic Ocean
- b) Indian Ocean
- c) Pacific Ocean*
- d) Atlantic Ocean

A remote island in the South Pacific is the most polluted place on the planet, a study published by Tasmania's Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies (IMAS) said on May 16, 2017. The beaches of the World Heritage-listed Henderson Island contained 37.7 million pieces of debris which weighed 17.6 tonnes, the highest density of plastic rubbish anywhere in the world. Henderson Island lies between Chile and New Zealand in the South Pacific.

1822) Who among the following won the Eurovision Song Contest in Kiev in May 2017?

- a) Khayyam Nisanov
- b) Salvador Sobral*
- c) Alexander Rybak
- d) Johnny Logan

Salvador Sobral (29) of Portugal, who performed the song "Amar Pelos Dois", won the Eurovision-2017 Song Contest that concluded in Kiev, Ukraine on May 14, 2017. Celebrate Diversity was the theme of the contest.

1823) Who among the following is the Emperor of Japan? He decided to abdicate his throne in May 2017.

- a) Akihito*
- b) Hirohito
- c) Naruhito
- d) Yoshihito

Japan's government on May 19, 2017 introduced a Bill in parliament that will allow 84-year old Emperor Akihito to hand over the Chrysanthemum throne to his eldest son Naruhito (57). This will be the first abdication of a Japanese emperor in 200 years, when Emperor Kokaku stepped down in 1817. The government hopes the Bill will be approved by mid-June.

1824) Who among the following, known for handing classified U.S. documents to WikiLeaks, was released from prison in the US in May 2017?

- a) Daniel Ellsberg
- b) Aaron Swartz
- c) Julian Assange
- d) Edward Snowden
- e) Chelsea Manning*

Chelsea Manning, the transgender army private jailed for one of the largest leaks of classified documents in US history, was released from prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, on May 17, 2017. In July 2010, Manning - then a male soldier known as Bradley - was arrested over the release of a huge trove of more than 700,000 classified military and diplomatic documents via WikiLeaks. Manning, now 29, was serving a 35-year sentence for the leak but President Barack Obama commuted her sentence before leaving office and on May 17 she was released after seven years in prison.

1825) Who among the following was appointed as the new Prime Minister of France in May 2017?

- a) Alain Juppe
- b) Manuel Valls
- c) Edouard Philippe*
- d) Jean-Pierre Raffarin
- e) Bernard Cazeneuve

Newly sworn-in French President Emmanuel Macron on May 15, 2017 named Edouard Philippe, the 46-year-old Mayor of Le Havre city, as his Prime Minister. Philippe is a member of the centre-right Les Republicains party.

1826) Stanley Greene died in Paris on May 19, 2017 at the age of 68. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Grammy Award
- b) Goldman Environmental Prize
- c) Abel Prize
- d) World Press Photo award*
- e) International Press Freedom Award

Stanley Greene, an award-winning American photographer of conflict, disasters and humanitarian crises across the globe, died in Paris at the age of 68 on May 19, 2017. Greene was recognised in the World Press Photo awards, in 1994, 2001, 2004 and 2008.

1827) Javier Valdez died in Mexico on May 15, 2017 at the age of 50. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Grammy Award
- b) Goldman Environmental Prize

- c) Abel Prize
- d) International Press Freedom Award*

Javier Valdez, a veteran reporter who specialised in covering drug trafficking and organised crime, was slain in the northern Mexico state of Sinaloa on May 15, 2017 at the age of 50. In 2011, Valdez was awarded the International Press Freedom Award of the Committee to Protect Journalists.

1828) Oleg Vidov died in United States at the age of 73 on May 15, 2017. He was a well-known:

- a) Actor*
- b) Banker
- c) Scientist
- d) Industrialist

Oleg Vidov, a matinee idol in the Soviet Union who defected to the U.S. at the height of the Cold War and then enjoyed a long film and TV career in Hollywood, died at the age of 73 in Westlake Village, California, U.S. on May 15, 2017.

1829) . Chris Cornell died in Detroit (USA) on May 17, 2017 at the age of 52. He was a winner of which of the following?

- a) Grammy Award*
- b) Goldman Environmental Prize
- c) Abel Prize
- d) World Press Photo award

Singer Chris Cornell, the lead vocalist for the bands Soundgarden and Audioslave, died at the age of 52 in Detroit on May 17, 2017. He formed the grunge band Soundgarden alongside guitarist Kim Thyail and bassist Hiro Yamamoto in 1984, best known for their Grammy Award-winning singles 'Black Hole Sun' and 'Spoonman'.

1830) Mauno Koivisto died on May 12, 2017 at the age of 93.

- a) Finland*
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden
- d) Iceland

Mauno Koivisto, former President of Finland, died in Helsinki on May 12, 2017. He was 93. Koivisto served two six-year terms between 1982 and 1994.

1831) Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old boy, from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, was in news recently for developing which of the following?

- a) Smoke detector
- b) Satellite for NASA*
- c) Vaccine for Malaria
- d) Low-cost water purifier

When the US' National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) launches the world's smallest satellite KalamSat on June 21, it will be the first time ever that it would be piloting an experiment by an Indian student. Developed by Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old boy, from Tamil Nadu's Pallapatti town, KalamSat weighs only 64 grammes. (May 15, 2017)

1832) Purnima Barman was selected for the prestigious Whitley Award, commonly referred to as the 'Green Oscars', in May 2017 for her efforts to save which of the following?

- a) Great Indian Bustard
- b) Indian Spot-billed Duck
- c) Indian Cormorant
- d) Greater Adjutant Stork*

1833) Sanjay Gubbi was selected for the prestigious Whitley Award, commonly referred to as the 'Green Oscars', in May 2017 for his efforts to save which of the following??

- a) Blackbuck
- b) Swamp deer

- c) Red Panda
- d) Tiger*

Two Indian activists on May 17, 2017 won the annual Whitley Awards, dubbed as the 'Green Oscars', for their works in the field of animal and bird conservation in India. The two Indians are among six global winners of the award shortlisted from 166 entries. Each of the winners receives 35,000 pounds (USD 45,374) prize money in project funding over one year. The Whitley Fund for Nature is a UK-based charity that works to highlight grassroots leaders in nature conservation across the developing world. Sanjay Gubbi won the award for his work to protect Karnataka's tiger corridors. Purnima Barman won for creating an all-female network to save the Greater Adjutant stork, known in India as Hargila, and its wetland habitat in Assam.

1834) Shrinivas Kulkarni has won Israel's Dan David prize for his work in which of the following fields?

- a) Accounting
- b) Astronomy*
- c) Archaeology
- d) Ayurveda

Indian scientist Shrinivas Kulkarni has won the prestigious Dan David prize for his contribution in the field of astronomy. He is a professor of astrophysics and planetary science at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena. The honour will be conferred at a festive awards ceremony in Tel Aviv May 21, 2017.

1835) Who among the following Chief Ministers was conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service in Jaipur in May 2017?

- a) Pawan Chamling*
- b) Sarbananda Sonowal
- c) Pema Khandu
- d) Nongthobam Biren Singh

Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling was on May 15, 2017 conferred with the first Bhairon Singh Shekhawat Lifetime Achievement Honour in Public Service by the President in Jaipur. Shekhawat was the vice-president between 2002 and 2007.

1836) Computers running on which of the following operating systems were affected by ransomware 'WannaCry' recently?

- a) Linux
- b) Tizen
- c) Mac OS
- d) Windows*

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 15, 2017 asked banks to follow the instructions of CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team) to prevent the attack by ransomware, 'WannaCry', which has impacted various IT networks in over 150 countries. It infected computers running on older versions of Microsoft operating systems like XP, locking access to files on the computer. The cyber criminals demand a fee of about USD 300 in crypto-currencies like Bitcoin for unlocking the device.

1837) Which new post has been created at RBI recruitment according to a notification issued by the Central Bank on May 15, 2017?

- a) Chief Audit Officer
- b) Chief Financial Officer*
- c) Chief Information Officer
- d) Chief Innovation Officer

In a first, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is creating a post of a chief financial officer (CFO) and has sought applications for the position in a recruitment notification on May 15, 2017.

1838) Which of the following launched the report 'Financial security for India's elderly: The imperatives' in association with PFRDA in May 2017? It says that by 2050 every fifth Indian will be in 60s as against every twelfth at present.

- a) IFCI
- b) CARE

- c) CRISIL*
- d) SEBI

1839) Who among the following is the Chairman of PFRDA?

- a) Ashok Lavasa
- b) Shaktikanta Das
- c) Anjuly Chib Duggal
- d) Hemant G. Contractor*

India will transform gradually from young to a 'greying' country and by 2050 every fifth Indian will be in 60s as against every twelfth at present. Flagging the demographic transition, a PFRDA-CRISIL report on May 15, 2017 said it is important that the development of the under-penetrated pension market in India be initiated now, when the situation is ripe. "Demographically, India will transition slowly from a 'young' to a 'greying' country, where persons above the age of 60 would increase from 8.9 per cent of the population now to 19.4 per cent by 2050," said PFRDA Chairman Hemant G Contractor in the report, 'Financial security for India's elderly - The imperatives'.

1840) Which of the following government-owned financial services organisations was in news for successful IPO in May 2017?

- a) HUDCO*
- b) NHAI
- c) SIDBI
- d) NABARD

State-run HUDCO made a remarkable stock market debut on May 19, 2017, closing the trading session with almost 21 per cent gain over the issue price of Rs 60. The IPO of Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) saw huge demand from investors and was oversubscribed 79.53 times. The price band for HUDCO, which concluded its Rs 1,224 crore initial public offer on May 11, was set at Rs 56- 60 a share.

1841) What will be tax rate on restaurants with Rs 50 lakh or below turnover according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) 0%
- b) 5%*
- c) 12%
- d) 18%

1842) Hotels with tariff less than _____ are exempt from GST.

- a) Rs 1,000*
- b) Rs 1,500
- c) Rs 2,000
- d) Rs 2,500

1843) Which of the following will be exempted from tax according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) Economy class air travel
- b) Non-AC train travel*
- c) Cab services like Ola and Uber
- d) All the above

1844) What will be tax rate on e-commerce sellers according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) 0%
- b) 0.25%
- c) 0.5%
- d) 1%*
- e) 1.25%

1845) Which of the following will not attract peak rate of 28% according to the rates finalised by GST Council in May 2017?

- a) Cinema tickets
- b) Horse race betting
- c) Business class travel on airlines*
- d) Hotels with tariff above Rs. 5000

A bulk of services will be taxed at the standard rate of 18 per cent under the four-tier rate structure for services that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council finalised at its meeting held in Srinagar, May 19, 2017. Highlights are as follows:

- The GST Council had come out with a four-tier rate structure for goods. The Council had earlier agreed on a four-tier tax structure -- 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent.
- The Council approved the tax rates for 1,211 items, of which 7 per cent will be exempted, 14 per cent will be in the 5 per cent slab, 17 per cent in the 12 per cent category, 43 per cent in the 18 per cent segment, while 19 per cent of goods will go into the top tax bracket of 28 per cent.
- There will be a cess on luxury and demerit goods such as tobacco, pan masala and aerated drinks. The cess will be used to compensate the states for revenue loss arising out of the GST implementation in first five years.
- Education, healthcare and general railway travel will be exempt from GST. All other exemptions would also continue under GST.
- Transport services will be taxed at 5 per cent. Economy class air travel will also be taxed at 5 per cent. Non-AC train travel, including in local trains and metro, as well as religious travel including Haj Yatra will remain exempted from GST. Five per cent rate will also apply to cab aggregators like Ola and Uber. AC train travel will attract 5 per cent tax. Business class travel on airlines would attract a 12 per cent tax.
- Works contracts would be taxed at 12 per cent.
- Restaurants with Rs 50 lakh or below turnover will attract 5 per cent tax. Non air-conditioned restaurants will attract a tax levy of 12 per cent whereas air-conditioned restaurants will fall in the 18 per cent tax bracket.
- Hotels with tariff between Rs 2,500 to Rs 5,000 will attract a GST of 18 per cent, whereas hotels with tariff of above Rs 5,000 will fall under the 28 per cent tax slab. However, hotels with tariff under Rs 1,000 are exempt from the GST regime.
- IT, telecom and financial services will attract 18 per cent GST.
- A peak rate of 28 per cent will be charged on five services, including five-star hotels and restaurants, cinema, gambling and horse race betting. States can also levy an additional entertainment tax on cinema that will be used for local bodies.
- The GST Council also decided to tax e-commerce sellers at 1 per cent. The Centre and the States would each levy a tax at the rate of 0.5 per cent at source on online sellers.

1846) Which of the following was named as the Cleanest Railway Station in A1 category in May 2017?

- a) Jammu Tawi
- b) Vijayawada
- c) Secunderabad
- d) Vishakhapatnam*

1847) 23. Which of the following was named as the Cleanest Railway Station in A category in May 2017?

- a) Beas*
- b) Durgapur
- c) Khammam
- d) Mancheria

1848) Which of the following was named as the Cleanest Railway Zone in May 2017?

- a) South East Central Railway*
- b) South Central Railway
- c) East Coast Railway
- d) Central Railway

Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu released Third Party Audit Report on Station Cleanliness in New Delhi on May 17, 2017. Vishakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Beas in Punjab are the Cleanest Stations in A1 and A categories respectively. South East Central Railway was the cleanest Railway Zone. The survey was conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI) at 407 major railway stations (75 A1 category and 332 A category stations) of Indian Railways.

1849) Which of the following abbreviations is expressed incorrectly?

- a) NFC: Nuclear Fuel Complex
- b) AEC: Atomic Energy Commission
- c) PHWRs: Programmed Heavy Water Reactors*
- d) NPCIL: Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd

In a significant decision to fast-track India's domestic nuclear power programme, and give a push to country's nuclear industry, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 17, 2017 gave its approval for construction of 10 units of India's indigenous Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWR). Their total installed capacity will be 7000 MW.

1850) Government announced SHAKTI to ensure adequate supply of fuel to power plants in May 2017. 'H' in SHAKTI is:

- a) Hydel
- b) Handling
- c) Heavy
- d) Harnessing*

A new coal linkage policy to ensure an adequate supply of the fuel to power plants through reverse auction received approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) in New Delhi on May 17, 2017. SHAKTI -- Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating of Koyala (coal) Transparently in India -- has been envisaged to make optimal allocation of the natural resource across power units.

1851) What was the total foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow into India in 2016-17, according to Commerce Ministry data released on May 19, 2017?

- a) \$45.08 billion
- b) \$50.08 billion
- c) \$55.08 billion
- d) \$60.08 billion*

The total foreign direct investments (FDI) inflow into India reached a new high of \$60.08 billion during 2016-17, registering an increase of 8% as compared to \$55.56 billion in 2015-17, the Commerce Ministry said on May 19, 2017. The country in the year ending March 2015 received FDI of US Dollar 45.15 billion as against US Dollar 36.05 billion in the preceding fiscal.

1852) What is India's economic growth forecast for 2017 according to the mid-year update of the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects in May 2017?

- a) 6.4%
- b) 6.7%
- c) 7%
- d) 7.3%*

The United Nations has revised downward India's economic growth forecast for 2017 but predicted an increased 7.9 per cent GDP growth in 2018. The mid-year update of the UN World Economic Situation and Prospects, launched on May 16, 2017, said India is projected to achieve a 7.3 per cent growth in 2017, a downward revision from the 7.7 per cent forecast for the year made when the report was launched in January 2017.

1853) . Which nation is ranked first in the 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' by EY released in May 2017?

- a) Canada
- b) Germany
- c) United States
- d) China*

1854) 31. What is India's ranked in the 'Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index' by EY released in May 2017?

- a) Sixth
- b) Second*

- c) Third
- d) Fifth

India has been placed in the second spot behind China in the renewable energy country attractiveness index by EY. The UK accountancy firm noted the fast pace of growth in Indian renewable energy in the past three years. Over 10 gigawatt (Gw) of solar power was added between 2015 and 2017 and wind energy capacity grew to 5.4 Gw in 2017-18.

1855) 32. Government's BIRAC stands for _____ Industry Research Assistance Council.

- a) Binary
- b) Business
- c) Biopharma
- d) Biotechnology*

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 17, 2017 gave its approval for Industry-Academia Collaborative Mission for accelerating discovery research to early development for biopharmaceuticals. The Mission will be implemented by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) - a Public Sector Undertaking of Department of Biotechnology (DBT). Total project cost to be funded by Government of India is Rs. 1500 crore for five years. 50% cost for the Mission Programme will be arranged through the World Bank loan.

1856) The government on May 13, 2017 revised the regional air connectivity levy charged from airlines flying on major routes to a uniform rate of _____.

- a) Rs 4,000 per flight
- b) Rs 4,500 per flight
- c) Rs 5,000 per flight*
- d) Rs 5,500 per flight

The government on May 13, 2017 decided to reduce the regional air connectivity levy charged from airlines flying on major routes to a uniform rate of Rs 5,000 per flight. To fund the ambitious regional connectivity scheme -- UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) -- the Civil Aviation Ministry is collecting a levy of up to Rs 8,500 per departure from airlines operating in major domestic routes, including Mumbai and Delhi.

1857) What is India's recent rank in World Bank's power accessibility list?

- a) 6
- b) 26*
- c) 46
- d) 66

India has climbed up to twenty-sixth position in World Bank's electricity accessibility ranking in the current year from 99th spot in 2014, Power Minister Piyush Goyal said in London on May 14, 2017. The Minister also attended the Vienna Energy Forum held on May 11.

1858) Who among the following is the sole Indian in the 25 'Global Game Changers' list by Forbes in May 2017?

- a) Adi Godrej
- b) Ratan Tata
- c) Azim Premji
- d) Mukesh Ambani*

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the sole Indian in the 25 'Global Game Changers' list by Forbes on May 17, 2017. The list selects people on the basis of their companies' corporate growth, innovation and international presence. includes founder of home appliances company Dyson, James Dyson, American global investment management corporation BlackRock cofounder Larry Fink, Deputy Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Mohammed bin Salman, social media company Snap cofounder Evan Spiegel and Chinese ride sharing giant Didi Chuxing founder Cheng Wei.

1859) Which of the following is India's most valuable brand, according to Brand Finance that released its 2017 report in May?

- a) Reliance
- b) Tata*

- c) Airtel
- d) LIC

Tata Group is the most valuable brand in India at an estimated \$13.1 billion, according to Brand Finance, a global brand valuation and strategy consultancy firm that released its 2017 report on May 17, 2017. Tata topped the list of India's 100 most valuable brands once again. Mobile operator Airtel, with an estimated valuation of \$7.7 billion, ranked second in the list, followed by insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) with \$6.8 billion. IT firm Infosys ranked fourth in the list with an estimated value of \$6.2 billion, up one rank from 2016. State Bank of India slipped to the fifth rank in 2017.

1860) Who among the following decided to donate 25 flats in Thane to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the April 24 Maoist attacks in Sukma?

- a) Ajay Devgn
- b) Vivek Oberoi*
- c) Tiger Shroff
- d) Boman Irani

In a philanthropic gesture, actor Vivek Oberoi on May 13, 2017 decided to donate 25 flats to the families of the CRPF personnel killed in the April 24 Maoist attacks in Sukma. While four flats have already been allotted, another 21 are being reserved in a housing complex constructed by his company, Karm Infrastructures Pvt. Ltd, in Thane.

1861) 39. Which state has decided to observe no bag days in all government schools on Saturdays?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

Saturdays will be no bag days in all government schools in Uttar Pradesh. The decision was taken at a high-level committee meeting headed by Deputy CM and Minister for Secondary Education Dr Dinesh Sharma in Lucknow on May 12, 2017. There are around 1.8 crore children studying in 1.7 lakh government schools in 75 districts of the state.

1862) 40. Which state is launching 'She Pad' scheme of providing sanitary to girls in schools?

- a) Goa
- b) Puducherry
- c) Kerala*
- d) Tamil Nadu

The Kerala government is all set to implement the 'She Pad' scheme wherein sanitary pads will be made available to girls in all the schools in Kerala. CM Pinarayi Vijayan on May 19, 2017 said that the approximate expenditure for the implementation will come to Rs 30 crore for five years. The system to dispose used pads without harming the environment will be set up as well. The funds for the scheme will be derived from local bodies under the supervision of the State Women's Development Corporation.

1863) Which of the following has decided to set up 'Maa' committees to keep an eye on quality of mid-day meals served to students in state-run primary schools?

- a) Bihar
- b) Madhya Pradesh
- c) Rajasthan
- d) Uttar Pradesh*

'Maa' committee will now keep an eye on mid-day meals served to students in state-run primary schools in Uttar Pradesh to ensure that they get nutritious food prepared in hygienic conditions. UP basic education minister Anupma Jaiswal said on May 14, 2014 that it will be a committee of six mothers, from all sections of society, whose students are studying in that school".

1864) . Which paramilitary force conducted operation 'Garam Hawa' in the western sector in Rajasthan in May 2017?

- a) BSF*
- b) CRPF
- c) Air Force

d) ITBP

The BSF has started operation 'Garam Hawa' in the western sector in Rajasthan, under which vigil along the international border with Pakistan has been stepped up. The operation, which started on May 15, 2017, will continue till May 23.

1865) Which of the following has signed MoU with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) for development of a Multimodal Logistics Park near Kamarajar Port in May 2017?

- a) Railways
- b) NHAI*
- c) Coast Guard
- d) NHPC

The National Highways Authority of India signed MoU with the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) in New Delhi on May 15, 2017, for development of a Multimodal Logistics Park in the Ponneri Industrial Node area near Kamarajar Port in Tamil Nadu.

1866) 44. S. Ramassamy died in Puducherry on May 15, 2017 at the age of 80. He was former Chief Minister of which of the following?

- a) Goa
- b) Puducherry*
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu

Former Puducherry Chief Minister S. Ramassamy died in Puducherry on May 15, 2017 at the age of 80. He became Chief Minister in 1974 heading the AIADMK-CPI coalition ministry for a brief period. He was also the Chief Minister in the AIADMK government in 1977, which lasted in office for a little over one year. He successfully contested as Independent from Karaikal in 1985 and 1990. Ramassamy joined Congress in 1992.

1867) Who among the following won the only gold medal for India at the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi in May 2017?

- a) Bajrang Punia*
- b) Sakshi Malik
- c) Vinesh Phogat
- d) Anil Kumar

India finished with 10 medals at the Asian Wrestling Championship in New Delhi on May 14, 2017. India's medals included a gold won by Bajrang Punia in men's 65kg freestyle category, five silver and four bronze.

1868) . Anshu Jamsenpa became the first Indian woman to climb Mt. Everest _____ times in May 2017.

- a) 3
- b) 4*
- c) 5
- d) 6

Arunachal Pradesh mountaineer Anshu Jamsenpa recently scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to scale Mount Everest for the fourth time. Jamsenpa started her expedition on May 13 and reached the highest peak of the world on the morning of May 16, 2017 to unfurl the national flag.

1869) Who among the following broke her own world record for the maximum number of Everest summits by a woman in May 2017?

- a) Phurba Tashi
- b) Lhakpa Sherpa*
- c) Nimdoma Sherpa
- d) Bimala Tamang

A 44-year-old Nepalese mountaineer has broken her own world record for the most Everest summits by a woman after scaling the world's tallest peak for the eighth time. Lhakpa Sherpa, the mother of three, conquered Mt Everest for the

eighth time from the North Col (Tibetan side), according to expedition organisers in Kathmandu on May 14, 2017. She bettered her own record of scaling Mt Everest seven times.

1870) Who among the following won the Formula 1 Spanish Grand Prix in Barcelona in May 2017?

- a) Pastor Maldonado
- b) Daniel Ricciardo
- c) Max Verstappen
- d) Lewis Hamilton*

Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes on May 14, 2017 won the Spanish Grand Prix in Madrid followed by Sebastian Vettel of Ferrari who finished in second place. Daniel Ricciardo finished in third place.

1871) 49. Which club was crowned champion of the English Premier League in May 2017?

- a) Chelsea*
- b) Tottenham Hotspur
- c) Liverpool
- d) Leicester City

London-based football club Chelsea grabbed their second English Premier League (EPL) title in three seasons with a 1-0 victory over West Bromwich Albion on May 13, 2017.

1872) Which of the following is the paperless document attestation service for students and others launched by the government in May 2017?

- a) eSlate
- b) ePatra
- c) eSahaj
- d) eSanad*

1873) . Which of the following is the online repository of marksheets and certificates launched by CBSE?

- a) Parinam Kosh
- b) Parinam Satya
- c) Parinam Darpan
- d) Parinam Manjusha*

The Human Resource Development Ministry and the External Affairs Ministry on May 24, 2017 launched an online verification portal to make the document verification process easier for students who planning to study abroad. This has been made possible by integration of eSanad with Parinam Manjusha. This will help the applicants avoid long travels and precious resources of time and money for getting their documents attested by the concerned authorities in States. **eSanad** is aimed at online verification of the documents with an objective to extend contactless, cashless and paperless document attestation service to applicants in India as well as abroad. **Parinam Manjusha** is a digital academic repository launched by CBSE that allows students to find their marksheets, pass and migration certificates online. It has been developed by the board in collaboration with NEGD (DigiLocker) and is available at www.cbse.digitallocker.gov.in.

1874) The first train of which of the following categories was launched on Mumbai-Goa route by the Railways Minister on May 22, 2017?

- a) UDAY Express
- b) Tejas Express*
- c) Antyodaya Express
- d) Humsafar Express

The country's first high-speed Tejas Express between Mumbai and Karmali in Goa, boasting of Wi-Fi, LCD screens, and automatic doors, was flagged off by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in Mumbai on May 22, 2017. The train -- with a speed of 130 km per hour -- is capable of clocking a maximum of 200 kmph. The coaches, manufactured at Indian Coach Factory in Chennai, include features like sensor-controlled water taps, water level indicators, hand dryers and bio-vacuum toilets.

1875) Which of the following aircrafts of the IAF crashed near border with China after taking off from Tezpur airbase in May 2017?

- a) MiG-29
- b) C-130J Super Hercules
- c) Rafael
- d) Sukhoi-30*

The wreckage of the IAF's Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet, which went missing with two pilots on board, was found on May 26, 2017 in a dense forest near Tezpur in Assam after a three-day search operation, but fate of the crew is not known.

1876) Which of the following is the survey launched on Prime Minister's NaMo App in May 2017 to find public opinion of the government's performance?

- a) Jan ki Baat*
- b) Aap ki Baat
- c) Desh ki Baat
- d) Sab ki Baat

A survey termed Jan ki Baat (voice of the people) has been launched on Prime Minister Modi's personal app, the NaMo App. Among other things, the survey (closing June 15) asks respondents to name one positive and one negative thing about the Narendra Modi government. Nearly all government schemes launched by the current dispensation have been listed for rating.

1877) 6. The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) has opened a showroom-cum-restaurant bearing the brand name "ONE" in New Delhi. ONE is:

- a) Our North East
- b) Organic North East*
- c) Onward North East
- d) Oriental North East

The Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) will make suitable arrangements for showcasing the Northeast organic products in the rest of India. Recently a showroom-cum-restaurant bearing a common brand name "ONE" (Organic North East) was opened in New Delhi. This was stated by MoS (IC) for DoNER Jitendra Singh while chairing a meeting of NERAMAC (North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation) at Guwahati, Assam on May 26, 2017.

1878) Which of the following was launched by Union Minister Uma Bharti to monitor the progress of Namami Gange programme in May 2017?

- a) Ganga Pragati Abhiyan
- b) Ganga Parikshan Abhiyan
- c) Ganga Nirikshan Abhiyan*
- d) Ganga Swachhata Abhiyan

1879) Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute is located in which state?

- a) Kerala
- b) Gujarat
- c) West Bengal*
- d) Bihar

Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti on May 26, 2017 visited Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute located at Barrackpore, West Bengal during the first leg of her Ganga Nirikshan Abhiyan. This institution is specialized in Fisheries Research on river Ganga. During her fortnight long tour the Minister will visit several places from Ganga Sagar to Gangotri along the river Ganga to monitor the progress of Namami Gange programme.

1880) Who among the following has compiled Prime Minister's speeches into a book titled 'Mann Ki Baat: A Social Revolution on Radio'?

- a) Ajit Sharma

- b) Rajesh Jain*
- c) Amit Singh
- d) Vinay Kelkar

1881) Who among the following is the author of 'Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm'?

- a) Barkha Dutt
- b) Harish Khare
- c) Shyamlal Yadav
- d) Uday Mahurkar*
- e) Sujit Chakraborty

President Pranab Mukherjee received the first copies of two books on the Prime Minister on May 26, 2017. The book 'Mann Ki Baat: A Social Revolution on Radio' is a compilation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's addresses to the nation on radio every month under the programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. The book has been compiled by Rajesh Jain. The book 'Marching with a Billion- Analysing Narendra Modi's Government at Midterm' has been authored by Uday Mahurkar.

1882) Major Leetul Gogoi, who was in news for receiving Army Chief's Commendation Card in May 2017, belongs to which of the following?

- a) Maratha Light Infantry
- b) Rajputana Rifles
- c) Rashtriya Rifles*
- d) The Grenadiers

Major Leetul Gogoi of 53 Rashtriya Rifles, who was involved in tying up a Kashmiri man to the front of a jeep to ward off stone pelters in the valley on April 9, was awarded the Army Chief's Commendation Card in May 2017.

1883) Who among the following was appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Minorities in May 2017?

- a) N. S. Hanspal
- b) H. T. Sangliana
- c) Wajahat Habibullah
- d) Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi*

Syed Ghayorul Hasan Rizvi assumed charge of the Chairman of the National Commission for Minorities in New Delhi on May 26, 2017.

1884) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. He was the President of which sport's national federation from 1994 to 2008?

- a) Table Tennis
- b) Basketball
- c) Football
- d) Hockey*
- e) Boxing

1885) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. When was the Operation Black Thunder commanded by him happened?

- a) 1991
- b) 1990
- c) 1989
- d) 1988*

1886) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. Which of the following national honours was conferred on him?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan

- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) Padma Shri*

1887) Former Punjab Police DGP K. P. S. Gill passed away in New Delhi on May 26 at the age of 82. He served as Security Advisor to who among the following Chief Ministers after retirement?

- a) Sheila Dixit
- b) Ashok Gehlot
- c) Narendra Modi*
- d) Manohar Parrikar

- K P S Gill, the former Director General of Punjab Police credited with rooting out terrorism in Punjab with an iron hand, passed away in New Delhi on May 26, 2017 at the age of 82.
- Gill headed Punjab Police from 1988 to 1990 and then again from 1991 until his retirement from service in 1995. A major feather in his crown was added when he commanded 'Operation Black Thunder' in May 1988 to flush out militants hiding in the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The operation was a huge success as little damage was caused to the holiest shrine of Sikhs. In the Operation Black Thunder, around 67 militants had surrendered and 43 were killed.
- After the 2002 Gujarat riots, Gill was appointed security adviser to the then Chief Minister Modi.
- In 2006, he was made the adviser to the Chhattisgarh government to help control Naxalites. However, the stint was not as successful as in Punjab since it was marred by a major attack by the naxals in 2007 in which 55 policemen were killed.
- Gill took over as the President of Indian Hockey Federation (IHF) – the then national body for the sport – in 1994 and held the post till 2008, when the body was suspended indefinitely.
- He received a Padma Shri award, India's fourth-highest civilian honour, in 1989 for his work in the civil service.

1888) Which of the following hosted the RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting on May 21-22, 2017?

- a) Vientiane
- b) Hanoi*
- c) Ulan Bator
- d) Yangon

1889) RCEP is Regional _____ Economic Partnership.

- a) Caucus
- b) Commerce
- c) Community
- d) Comprehensive*

Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman led the Indian delegation to the third RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting organised in Hanoi, Vietnam on May 21-22, 2017 in which Trade Ministers of 15 other RCEP countries participated.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) is a mega regional free trade agreement being negotiated amongst 16 countries including 10 ASEAN countries and six ASEAN FTA partners.

1890) Which state capital hosted the African Development Bank Meetings from May 22 to 25, 2017?

- a) Patna
- b) Bhopal*
- c) Lucknow
- d) Gandhinagar

1891) Who among the following is the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB)?

- a) Ibukun Odusote
- b) Donald Kaberuka
- c) Akinwumi Adesina*
- d) Abba Sayyadi Ruma

1892) The headquarters of the African Development Bank (AfDB) is located in which capital?

- a) Tunis
- b) Lagos
- c) Harare
- d) Abidjan*

1893) The vision document for the proposed “Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)” supported by Japan and India was unveiled on May 24, 2017. Which of the following is not among one of its four pillars?

- a) Enhancing Capacity and Skills
- b) Defence and Security Cooperation*
- c) Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity
- d) Development and Cooperation Projects

- The President of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Akinwumi Adesina thanked the Gujarat government for hosting the Annual Meetings of the bank held at Mahatma Mandir International Convention cum Exhibition Centre, Gandhinagar from May 22 to 25, 2017. AfDB is a multilateral development finance institution headquartered at Abidjan, Ivory Coast.
- The vision document for the proposed “Asia-Africa Growth Corridor (AAGC)” supported by Japan and India was unveiled on May 24. AAGC will be based on four key pillars - Enhancing Capacity and Skills, Quality Infrastructure and Institutional Connectivity, Development and Cooperation projects and people to people partnership.

1894) Which of the following was the venue of ‘India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference’ on May 25-26, 2017?

- a) Suva*
- b) Port Louis
- c) Bridgetown
- d) Kingston

India hosted the ‘India-Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference’ in the Fijian capital of Suva on May 25-26, 2017 and pledged to strengthen its partnership with the countries of the region as part of efforts to create a sustainable world. The Conference was hosted by India’s Ministry of External Affairs. The conference was held under the framework of the Forum for India Pacific Islands Co-operation (FIPIC), with India’s The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) as its key knowledge partner.

1895) Which of the following hosted the first Africa Business Summit of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) on May 20-22, 2017?

- a) Durban*
- b) Pretoria
- c) Centurion
- d) Cape Town

The first Africa Business Summit of NRI forum Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) was organised in Durban on May 20-22, 2017. GOPIO was established in New York in 1989.

1896) Who among the following was awarded the Dag Hammarskjold Medal given to UN peacekeepers posthumously in May 2017?

- a) Naik Rakesh Kumar
- b) Havildar Amal Deka
- c) Lance Naik Nand Ram
- d) Rifleman Brijesh Thapa*

1897) How many Indians were awarded UN’s Dag Hammarskjold Medal in May 2017?

- a) 1
- b) 2*
- c) 3
- d) 4

1898) The International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 27
- b) May 28
- c) May 29*
- d) May 30

1899) What was the theme of the 2017 International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers?

- a) Together for Peace
- b) A Force for the Future
- c) Adapting to New Challenges
- d) Investing in Peace Around the World*

1900) As many as 117 peacekeepers were awarded the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal posthumously in May 2017. The medal is named after the _____ Secretary General of United Nations.

- a) first
- b) second*
- c) third
- d) fourth

Two Indian peacekeepers were among 117 military, police and civilian personnel honored with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal awarded posthumously for their courage and sacrifice in the line of duty. Rifleman Brijesh Thapa who served with the UN Organisation Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Private Ravi Kumar who was deployed with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon were honoured with the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal on the International Day of UN Peacekeepers on May 29, 2017. The medals are collected by countries' Permanent Representatives to the UN on behalf of the fallen peacekeepers. The medal is named after the second UN Secretary General, who had died in a mysterious 1961 plane crash. The theme for the 2017 International Day of UN Peacekeepers is "Investing in Peace Around the World."

1901) May 25, 2017 was celebrated as World _____ Day.

- a) Liver
- b) Heart
- c) Brain
- d) Thyroid*

May 25, 2017 was celebrated as World Thyroid Day. Established in 2008, the day is celebrated on May 25 each year to increase awareness of thyroid health and promote understanding of advances made in treating thyroid disease.

1902) Which of the following hosted the "Start-Up India Summit" on May 23-24, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Abu Dhabi*

A two day "Start-Up India Summit" was organised in Abu Dhabi, UAE on May 23-24, 2017. It was organised by the Consul General of India (CGI) in Dubai and Embassy of India in Abu Dhabi in partnership with iSPIRIT, a non-profit think tank and supported by TiE, Dubai. The aim was to provide a shared platform for the Start-Up ecosystem in both India and UAE.

1903) Which of the following hosted the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue on May 22, 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) London
- c) Vienna*
- d) Berlin

1904) Who among the following is the Secretary General of OPEC?

- a) Edmund Daukoru
- b) Purnomo Yusgiantoro
- c) Abdallah Salem el-Badri
- d) Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo*

The second High-level Meeting of the OPEC-India Energy Dialogue was held in Vienna on May 22, 2017. The Meeting was co-chaired by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary General, Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo, and Dharmendra Pradhan, India's Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

1905) Which of the following organised the India Financial Conference held in New York City on May 12, 2017?

- a) India Infoline
- b) SBI Securities
- c) ICICI Securities*
- d) HDFC Securities

Ashok Lavasa, Finance Secretary, Government of India, interacted with renowned US based funds and global institutional investors with interests in the BFSI sector at the day-long India Financial Conference held in New York City on May 12, 2017. The India Financial Conference was hosted by ICICI Securities Limited. Chanda Kochhar, Managing Director, ICICI also attended the Conference along with senior officials of the finance industry of India.

1906) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Mauritius?

- a) Pravind Jugnauth*
- b) Rashid Beebeejaun
- c) Navin Ramgoolam
- d) Dinesh Ramjuttun

Mauritian PM Pravind Jugnauth arrived in New Delhi on May 26, 2017 on a three-day visit to India. Jugnauth held discussions with Home Minister Rajnath Singh, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu and Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan. The Militant Socialist Movement (MSM) leader is on his first visit abroad as PM after assuming office in 2017.

1907) India held Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise with which of the following ASEAN countries in May 2017?

- a) Indonesia
- b) Malaysia
- c) The Philippines
- d) Thailand*

Indo-Thailand Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Table Top Exercise 2017 was organised at Chiang Mai, Thailand from May 22 to 26, 2017 between the Indian Air Force and Royal Thailand Air Force (RTAF).

1908) Which of the following hosted the G7 Summit in May 2016?

- a) Taormina*
- b) Perugia
- c) Turin
- d) Bari

1909) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Italy?

- a) Lamberto Dini
- b) Paolo Gentiloni*
- c) Romano Prodi
- d) Silvio Berlusconi

The leaders of the United States, Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan - countries collectively known as the Group of Seven (G7) – met for a two-day summit in the resort town of Taormina, Italy on May 26-27, 2017. Participants:

US President Donald Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni, British PM Theresa May, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, Canadian PM Justin Trudeau and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

1910) Which of the following hosted the Summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in May 2017?

- a) Turkey
- b) Belgium*
- c) France
- d) Germany

1911) Who among the following is the Secretary General of NATO?

- a) Kjell Magne Bondevik
- b) Gunnar Gundersen
- c) Thorbjorn Jagland
- d) Jens Stoltenberg*
- e) Oyvind Korsberg

The 28th Summit of the heads of state and heads of government of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was held in Brussels, Belgium, on May 25, 2017. Montenegro was welcomed before it becomes an official member of the organization on June 5, 2017. The next summit (29th) will take place in Istanbul, Turkey in 2018. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced that member-states would begin submitting annual national plans this year in the interests of transparency.

1912) Which of the following is world's most crowded city in terms of population density according to World Economic Forum (WEF) in May 2017?

- a) Lagos
- b) Dhaka*
- c) Manila
- d) Medellin

1913) Which of the following is India's most crowded city in terms of population density according to World Economic Forum (WEF) in May 2017?

- a) New Delhi
- b) Chennai
- c) Kolkata
- d) Mumbai*

Two Indian cities -- Mumbai and Kota -- have been named among the world's most crowded in a list topped by Dhaka, said World Economic Forum (WEF) citing UN Habitat data. With a population density of 44,500 people per square kilometre, Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is the most crowded city on the planet, followed by India's financial capital Mumbai, home to 31,700 people per square kilometre at the second place. Kota in Rajasthan with 12,100 people per square kilometre was ranked seventh. Others in the list include Medellin in Columbia ranked third, Manila, Philippines (4th, 14,800), Casablanca, Morocco (5th, 14,200), Lagos, Nigeria (6th, 13,300), Singapore (8th, 10,200) and Jakarta, Indonesia (9th, 9,600). (May 25, 2017)

1914) Which of the following hosted the Arab Islamic American Summit on May 21, 2017?

- a) Riyadh
- b) Doha
- c) Kuwait
- d) Abu Dhabi*

US President Donald Trump attended the Arab Islamic American Summit organised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on May 21, 2017. He called on Muslim majority nations to do more to stamp out extremism.

1915) . Who among the following is the ruler of Saudi Arabia?

- a) Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani
- b) Sultan Qaboos Said bin Said
- c) Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud*
- d) Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud and US President Donald Trump on May 20, 2017 signed nearly 110 billion dollar in agreements to bolster the military capabilities of Saudi Arabia. King Salman presented President Trump with the kingdom's highest civilian honour – King Abdulaziz al-Saud Medal.

1916) The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was observed on:

- a) May 21*
- b) May 22
- c) May 23
- d) May 24

The World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development was observed on May 21, 2017. It was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 2002 and celebrated annually on 21 May.

1917) Which of the following hosted the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) from May 22-26, 2017?

- a) Rabat
- b) Algiers
- c) Cancun*
- d) Marrakesh

A high level Indian delegation headed by Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju participated in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR) at Cancun, Mexico from May 22-26, 2017.

1918) Who among the following was in news for a concert in Manchester (UK) on May 22, 2017 that saw a suicide bomb attack?

- a) Shakira
- b) Rihanna
- c) Mariah Carey
- d) Ariana Grande*

UK police say they have arrested a 23-year old man in connection with a suicide bomb attack in Manchester which killed 23 people, including the attacker, and wounded dozens at a concert by US pop singer Ariana Grande. An improvised explosive device went off late on May 22 as thousands of - mostly young - fans streamed out of Manchester Arena in the northern English city at the end of Grande's performance.

1919) International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 21
- b) May 22*
- c) May 23
- d) May 24
- e) May 25

1920) What was the theme of the 2017 International Day for Biological Diversity?

- a) Biodiversity: Life Insurance for our Changing World
- b) Protect Biodiversity in Drylands
- c) Biodiversity: Food, Water and Health for All
- d) Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism*

The International Day for Biological Diversity was observed on May 22, 2017. 2017 Theme: "Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism".

1921) May 25, 2017 was observed as which of the following?

- a) Americas Day
- b) Australia Day
- c) Asia Day
- d) Africa Day*

Africa Day was observed on May 25, 2017. Africa Day was first held in 1963 in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa, when 32 countries formed the Organisation of Africa Unity (OAU).

1922) Who among the following was elected as the Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017?

- a) Kesetebirhan Admasu
- b) Demeke Mekonnen Teshome
- c) Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe
- d) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*

1923) Which of the following statements regarding the new Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is not correct?

- a) He is from Ethiopia
- b) He will succeed Margaret Chan
- c) He is the first African elected to this post
- d) None of the above*

Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus became the first African Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in the poll held in Geneva on May 24, 2017. He will succeed Margaret Chan when she completes her five-year tenure at the end of June 2017. Tedros is the first WHO head who is not a medical doctor.

1924) Who among the following won Presidential election in Iran in May 2017?

- a) Ebrahim Raeisi
- b) Hassan Rouhani
- c) Mostafa Aqa-Mirsalim
- d) Sayyed Ali Khamenei*

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani was re-elected for a 2nd 4-year term on May 20, 2017. Rouhani, representing the Moderation and Development Party (MDP) got 57.13% of the vote while rival Ebrahim Raeisi got 38.3%.

1925) Actor Sir Roger Moore died at the age of 89 on May 23, 2017. Which of the following is not among the James Bond series of films featuring him?

- a) MoonRaker
- b) Licence to Kill*
- c) Live and Let Die
- d) For Your Eyes Only

Actor Sir Roger Moore died in Switzerland at the age of 89 on May 23, 2017. He is best known for playing secret agent James Bond in seven feature films between 1973 and 1985. These are: Live and Let Die (1973), The Man With The Golden Gun (1974), The Spy Who Loved Me (1977), MoonRaker (1979), For Your Eyes Only (1981), Octopussy (1983) and A View To A Kill (1985).

1926) Scientists at NASA have named a bacteria found only on the International Space Station (ISS) after who among the following Indians?

- a) Sir C. V. Raman
- b) Swami Vivekananda
- c) APJ Abdul Kalam*
- d) Rabindranath Tagore

NASA scientists named a new organism discovered by them after former Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam. Till date, the new organism — a form of a bacteria — has been found only on the International Space Station (ISS). Researchers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) named it Solibacillus kalamii to honour Kalam, who was a renowned aerospace scientist.

1927) Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2012 was presented to who among the following in May 2017?

- a) Lok Sainik Dal
- b) Ekta Sainik Dal

- c) Apna Sainik Dal
- d) Samta Sainik Dal*

1928) Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2011 was presented to who among the following in May 2017?

- a) Sukhadeo Thorat*
- b) Kulandei Francis
- c) Bezwada Wilson
- d) Patricia Mukhim
- e) M.S.S. Pandian

1929) Babu Lal Nirmal received the Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2014 in May 2017 for his work in which state?

- a) Madhya Pradesh
- b) Bihar
- c) Uttarakhand
- e) Rajasthan*

1930) NGO Amar Sewa Sangam received the Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and Upliftment of Weaker Sections for 2014 in May 2017 for its work in which state?

- a) Goa
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Tamil Nadu*

President Pranab Mukherjee presented the "Dr. Ambedkar National Award for Social Understanding and upliftment of Weaker Sections for the year 2011, 2012 and 2014" in New Delhi on May 26, 2017. The award for the year 2011 was presented to Professor Sukhadeo Thorat on New Delhi for his contributions towards the upliftment of the downtrodden. The award for the year 2012 was presented to Samta Sainik Dal that was founded by founded by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on 25th November 1926. The award for the year 2014 was jointly presented to Babu Lal Nirmal of Rajasthan for his contributions in upholding the rights of poor persons in rural and urban areas of Baran District and to Amar Sewa Sangam of Tamil Nadu for its services for the welfare of the marginalized population of the society.

1931) . Who among the following, known for the comic strip Green Humour, has won this year's WWF International President's Award for efforts to change attitudes towards nature in May 2017?

- a) Dipali Biswas
- a) Mohit Sengupta
- c) Samar Mukherjee
- d) Rohan Chakravarty*

Rohan Chakravarty, who has started comic strip Green Humour, has won this year's WWF International President's Award for his efforts to change attitudes towards nature. The award is the top accolade given by WWF to recognise leadership in young conservationists who are under the age of 30 from around the world. (May 22, 2017)

1932) . Which of the following has won the Porter Prize 2017 award for 'Excellence in Corporate Governance and Integration' and for its exemplary contribution in 'Creating Shared Value' in May 2017?

- a) Tata Steel
- b) Reliance Industries Ltd
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) ITC Ltd*

ITC Limited has won the prestigious Porter Prize 2017 award for 'Excellence in Corporate Governance and Integration' and for its exemplary contribution in 'Creating Shared Value'. The award was presented by Prof. Michael E. Porter, the Harvard Business School Professor and a stalwart on competitive business strategies, to Sanjiv Puri, the CEO and Executive Director of ITC Ltd at a ceremony in Mumbai on May 26, 2017.

1933) Who among the following won the International Cricketer of the Year award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017 in May?

- a) Ajinkya Rahane
- b) Ravichandran Ashwin*
- c) Virat Kohli
- d) Mahendra Singh Dhoni

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on May 24, 2017 won the coveted International Cricketer of the Year award at the CEAT Cricket Rating (CCR) International awards 2017 at the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai.

1934) 13. Balance in a semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) at any point of time cannot exceed:

- a) Rs. 10000
- b) Rs. 20000*
- c) Rs. 30000
- d) Rs. 40000
- e) Rs. 50,000

1935) The total value of reloads during any given month in a semi-closed Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) cannot exceed:

- a) Rs. 10000
- b) Rs. 20000*
- c) Rs. 30000
- d) Rs. 40000

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 25, 2017 released guidelines for issuance of prepaid payment instruments (PPIs), or prepaid wallets, by cooperative banks having their own ATM network. The central bank also removed the Rs. 10,000-cap on utility bill payments through semi-closed wallets issued by eligible cooperative banks. "The matter has been revisited and it has now been decided to permit all licensed cooperative banks having their own ATM network to issue semi-closed PPIs, provided there is no restriction on acceptance or repayment of deposits," said RBI. Co-operative banks can issue open-system PPIs as long as they are core banking solution (CBS)-compliant and meet certain financial criteria.

Rules on operation of semi-closed PPIs: **1.** Balance limit in semi-closed PPI is Rs. 20,000. **2.** Total value of reloads during any given month cannot exceed Rs. 20,000. **Semi-Closed Prepaid Payment Instruments:** These are payment instruments which can be used for purchase of goods and services, including financial services at a group of clearly identified merchant locations/establishments which have a specific contract with the issuer to accept the payment instruments. These instruments do not permit cash withdrawal or redemption by the holder.

1936) Which of the following is the only Indian entity among the top 10 consumer financial services companies in the world in Forbes Global List 2017?

- a) LIC
- b) SBI
- c) ICICI Bank
- d) HDFC Ltd*

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd is the only Indian company to be named among the top 10 consumer financial services companies in the world, with American Express claiming the first position. With profits of USD 1.6 billion and sales of USD 8.1 billion HDFC was ranked seventh on the Forbes Global List 2017 in the consumer financial services sector -- same as 2016. American Express topped the list, followed by Capital One Financial and Visa in the second and third place, respectively. (May 25, 2017)

1937) Who among the following is the Chairperson of the Banks Board Bureau?

- a) Vinod Rai*
- b) Pramod Deo
- c) Ashok Chawla
- d) Gireesh Pradhan

Veteran banker H N Sinor, who had resigned as a member of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) nearly 10 days ago, has decided to re-engage himself with the body, the BBB said in a statement on May 22, 2017. Other members of the Bureau are Anil K Khandelwal, former CMD at Bank of Baroda and Rupa Kudwa, former MD & CEO at CRISIL. Former CAG Vinod Rai is the Chairperson of BBB. BBB is authorised to suggest to banks developing a robust leadership succession plan through appropriate HR processes, including performance management systems.

1938) India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project was inaugurated at which of the following places in May 2017?

- a) Delhi
- b) Rajkot
- c) Indore
- d) Nagpur*

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari and Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis launched India's first multi-modal electric vehicle project at the Nagpur airport complex on May 26, 2017. It brings together e-buses, e-cabs, e-rickshaws and e-autos on a single platform, the Ola App, which will enable commuters in Nagpur to book them.

1939) According to the policy approved by the cabinet in May 2017, only local suppliers will be eligible in government procurement of goods for _____ and less.

- a) Rs. 10 lakh
- b) Rs. 25 lakh
- c) Rs. 50 lakh*
- d) Rs. 75 lakh

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 24, 2017 approved a policy for providing preference to 'Make in India' in government procurements. Under the policy, preference in Government procurement will be given to local suppliers. Local suppliers are those whose goods or services meet prescribed minimum thresholds (ordinarily 50%) for local content. Local content is essentially domestic value addition. In procurement of goods for Rs. 50 lakhs and less, and where the Nodal Ministry determines that there is sufficient local capacity and local competition, only local suppliers will be eligible.

1940) The Union Cabinet on May 24, 2017 approved the phasing out of which of the following?

- a) Enforcement Directorate
- b) Competition Commission of India
- c) Securities Appellate Tribunal
- d) Foreign Investment Promotion Board*

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on May 24, 2017 gave its approval to the phasing out of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). The proposal entails abolishing the FIPB and allowing administrative Ministries/Departments to process applications for FDI requiring government approval.

1941) An entity (in sectors other than biotechnology) shall be considered as a Startup up to how many years from the date of its registration according to a Cabinet decision in May 2017?

- a) 6 years
- b) 7 years*
- c) 8 years
- d) 9 years

1942) An entity in biotechnology sector shall be considered as a Startup up to how many years from the date of its registration according to a Cabinet decision in May 2017?

- a) 6 years
- b) 7 years
- c) 8 years
- d) 10 years*

In order to promote entrepreneurship in the country, the Government of India has amended the definition of a Startup, said a press note issued by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry on May 25, 2017. Taking into account the long gestation

period by Startups to establish, an entity shall be considered as a Startup up to seven years from the date of its incorporation/ registration (from earlier 5 years). However, in the case of Startups in the Biotechnology sector, the period shall be up to ten years from the date of incorporation/ registration.

1943) Which country attracted maximum FDI in 2016 according to fDi Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd.?

- a) Mexico
- b) South Korea
- c) India*
- d) China

India has remained ahead of China and the US as far as FDI inflows were concerned in 2016, said the fDi Report 2017 compiled by fDi Intelligence, a division of The Financial Times Ltd on May 25, 2017. FDI by capital investment saw an increase of 2 per cent to USD 62.3 billion in 809 projects during 2016 in India. China has overtaken the US to become the second biggest country for FDI by capital investment, recording USD 59 billion of FDI, compared with USD 48 billion-worth in the US.

1944) Which of the following is the only provider of satellite phone service in India currently?

- a) Bharti Airtel
- b) Vodafone India
- c) Reliance Jio Infocomm
- d) Tata Communications*

1945) BSNL announced the launch of satellite phone service provided by INMARSAT in May 2017. 'M' in INMARSAT is:

- a) Mass
- b) Multi
- c) Micro
- d) Mobile*

The Minister of State for Communications (IC), Manoj Sinha launched BSNL's satellite phone service on May 24, 2017. It will be offered to government agencies in first phase and later opened for others in phased manner. The services will be provided by INMARSAT. International Mobile Satellite Organization (INMARSAT), which has a constellation of 14 satellites. Satellite phones in India are presently provided by Tata Communications, which inherited the licence from Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited (VSNL) (now Tata Communications Ltd). "The services of TCL will be phased out by June 30, 2017," BSNL Chairman and Managing Director Anupam Shrivastava said. All connections given by Tata Communications will be transferred to BSNL.

1946) The government announced the launch of a scheme in May 2017 to train rural youth to maintain mobile towers, repair optical fibres and fix other communication technologies across India. This scheme has been named after:

- a) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya*
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Minister of State for Communications (IC) Manoj Sinha launched BSNL's satellite phone service on May 24, 2017 announced the launch of the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Sanchar Kaushal Vikas Pratisthan Scheme. The scheme will train rural youth to maintain mobile towers, repair optical fibres and fix other communication technologies across India.

1947) The government announced the launch of Telecom Skill Excellence Award Scheme in May 2017 to reward people doing innovative work in the telecom space. This scheme has been named after:

- a) Atal Behari Vajpayee
- b) Deen Dayal Upadhyaya*
- c) Shyama Prasad Mukherji
- d) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

The Minister of State for Communications (IC) Manoj Sinha on May 24, 2017 said that the government will reward people doing innovative work in the telecom space under Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Telecom Skill Excellence Award Scheme.

1948) The government has decided to allocate _____ of the Central Road Fund (CRF) for development of National Waterways (NWs).

- a) 1%
- b) 1.5%
- c) 2%
- d) 2.5%*

To boost inland water transport, the government on May 24, 2017 approved allocation of 2.5 per cent of the Central Road Fund for development of National Waterways (NWs). CRF is a duty on excise and customs imposed on petrol and high speed diesel. The cess at present is Rs 6 per litre.

1949) The power ministry launched the SEVA mobile app that will help in tracking of coal dispatch to power plants in May 2017. 'S' in SEVA stands for:

- a) Saral*
- b) Sahaj
- c) Sugam
- d) Sulabh

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal launched the Saral Eindhyan Vitaran Application (SEVA), developed in-house by Coal India Limited (CIL) for power sector consumers, on May 23, 2017. The mobile app helps in tracking of coal dispatch to Power Plants.

1950) Which is the best ranked Indian company in Forbes magazine's annual list of the 2,000 biggest, most powerful and most valuable companies in the world in May 2017?

- a) Indian Oil
- b) Reliance Industries*
- c) SBI
- d) HDFC

1951) Which is the best ranked company in Forbes magazine's annual list of the 2,000 biggest, most powerful and most valuable companies in the world in May 2017?

- a) Industrial & Commercial Bank of China*
- b) Berkshire Hathaway
- c) JPMorgan Chase
- d) Bank of America

The number of Indian companies to feature in the Forbes 15th annual 'Global 2000' list for 2017 has risen to 58, compared to 56 the previous year. This comprehensive ranking of the world's biggest, most powerful and valuable publicly listed companies, released on May 24, 2017, is based on a mix of four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value. Forbes gave an equal weighting of all four metrics, to rank companies according to size. The Mukesh Ambani-led oil-to-yarn and retail conglomerate, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), ranked 106 (No. 121 last year) is the highest ranked Indian company in the list, with a market capitalisation of \$71.2 billion. World's Top ranked company is Industrial & Commercial Bank of China.

1952) Rajan Anandan was appointed new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). He works for which of the following companies?

- a) Google*
- b) Microsoft
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Google's vice-president for South East Asia and India, Rajan Anandan has been appointed new chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). Subho Ray continues to be the President of the Association, IAMAI said on May 25, 2017.

1953) Laura Biagiotti died in Rome on May 26, 2017 at the age of 73. She became famous for which business?

- a) Perfumes
- a) Fast Food
- c) Garments*
- d) Publishing

Laura Biagiotti, an Italian fashion designer who conquered global markets with her soft, loose women's clothes and luxurious knits that won her the title "Queen of Cashmere", died in Rome on May 26, 2017 at the age of 73.

1954) Associated Journals announced in May 2017 that it will resume publication of its Urdu newspaper 'Qaumi Awaz'.

The company is owned by which party?

- a) Congress*
- b) CPI-M
- c) IUML
- d) NCP

Congress-owned Associated Journals Ltd. (AJL) on May 24, 2017 announced its plan to resume publication of its Urdu newspaper 'Qaumi Awaz' along with its digital version and appointed veteran journalist Zafar Agha as its Editor-in-Chief. AJL is a company founded in 1937 by Jawaharlal Nehru and its Urdu newspaper 'Qaumi Awaz' is one of the pioneers of post-Independence journalism. It had temporarily suspended its publication in 2008.

1955) Which of the following launched hackathon 'Code For Banks' in May 2017 for developers, start-ups and students to come up with innovative ideas and solutions for the banking sector?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

State Bank of India (SBI) on May 24, 2017 said it has launched a national hackathon for developers, start-ups and students to come up with innovative ideas and solutions for the banking sector. The hackathon, named 'Code For Bank', will focus on the business value driven by technologies like predictive analytics, fin-tech/blockchain, digital payments, IOT, artificial intelligence, machine learning, BOTS and robotic process automation.

1956) Which of the following launched its Payments Bank in May 2017 with Renu Satti as its CEO?

- a) Paytm*
- b) BillDesk
- c) MobiKwik
- d) PayUbiz

Paytm on May 23, 2017 unveiled its payments bank, becoming the first bank to offer cash-back on deposits. It will offer Rs. 250 cash-back to customers depositing Rs. 25,000 in an account. Also, customers will not have to fork out any charges for online transactions and there will be no minimum balance requirement. For savings accounts, it will offer 4 per cent interest per annum, and the bank will offer current accounts to its merchants. Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the Chairman while Renu Satti is the CEO of Paytm Payments Bank. As a payments bank, Paytm can now accept customer deposits up to Rs. 1 lakh per customer in a savings or current account and offer other banking services, such as debit cards, online banking and mobile banking. Payments banks cannot offer financial products of their own, but partner with other banks.

1957) Which of the following signed MoU with the Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) in May 2017 to drive skill development through "Project Sangam"?

- a) Google
- b) Facebook
- c) Twitter
- d) Microsoft*

Microsoft India on May 22, 2017 signed MoU with the Telecom Sector Skill Council (TSSC) to drive skill development through "Project Sangam" which is a Cloud hosted platform that leverages Microsoft Azure services, as well as the power of LinkedIn, to provide an integrated mobile-first platform for skilling, and employment.

1958) What was India's position in the list of leading stainless steel producers in the world in 2016?

- a) First
- b) Second*
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

India has pipped Japan to become the second largest stainless steel producer in the world after China, the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) said on May 22, 2017. India overtook Japan as the second-largest producer in 2016.

1959) Japan's ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu, announced plans to build war museum in which state in May 2017?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur*
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

Japan is going to build a war museum at the hillock at Maiba Lokpa in Bishnupur district, Manipur, where a Japanese camp was located during World War II. The Japanese ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu, said about 70,000 Japanese soldiers had died in battles from March to June 1944 in Imphal and Kohima. (May 21, 2017)

1960) Which state has decided to give a unique identification number called 'Bhudhar' for plots and agricultural lands, like Aadhar for individuals?

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

Lands in Andhra Pradesh will soon get a unique identification number called 'Bhudhar', like Aadhar for individuals. 'Bhudhar' will be a 11-digit unique number that will be issued for every plot and agricultural land, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced in Amaravati on May 23, 2017.

1961) . India's longest bridge of 9.15 km length was inaugurated on river Brahmaputra on May 26, 2017. It links Assam with which state?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) West Bengal
- c) Manipur
- d) Arunachal Pradesh*
- e) Mizoram

1962) India's longest bridge of 9.15 km length was inaugurated on river Brahmaputra on May 26, 2017. It has been named after:

- a) Jahnu Barua
- b) Hiteswar Saikia
- c) Bhupen Hazarika*
- d) Gopinath Bardoloi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's longest bridge on May 26, 2017. This new, three lane, 9.15 kilometre bridge has been built at a cost of about Rs 2,056 crore over river Lohit, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, linking Dhola in Assam to Sadiya in Arunachal Pradesh. The Govt. has named the bridge after Dadasaheb Phalke awardee singer Bhupen Hazarika.

1963) BJP candidate Khetrimayum Bhabananda won which state's lone Rajya Sabha seat in May 2017?

- a) Meghalaya
- b) Sikkim
- c) Manipur*
- d) Arunachal Pradesh

BJP leader Khetrimayum Bhabananda won the state's lone Rajya Sabha seat, the election for which was held in Imphal on May 25, 2017. In the 60 member Manipur assembly BJP and its allies have 38 members.

1964) Which IIT has decided to assist the Madhya Pradesh government to develop 'Happiness Index' for measuring the well-being of residents?

- a) IIT Delhi
- b) IIT Madras
- c) IIT Bombay
- d) IIT Kharagpur*

The Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur will collaborate with the Madhya Pradesh government to chalk out a 'Happiness Index' for measuring the well-being of residents, an official statement said in Kolkata on May 22, 2017.

1965) Who among the following was said to be the inspiration of Akshay Kumar's character in Bollywood film 'Airlift'? He passed away in Kuwait on May 20, 2017 at the age of 81.

- a) M. Mathews*
- b) P. Menon
- c) A. Moopen
- d) S. Varkey

Prominent Indian businessman in Kuwait, Matthunny Mathews, who was instrumental in the safe evacuation of stranded Indians during the Iraqi invasion in 1990, passed away in Kuwait on May 20, 2017 at the age of 81. Mathews was said to be the inspiration of Akshay Kumar's character in Bollywood film 'Airlift'.

1966) Translation of Tamil classic "Thirukkural" in which language was released by CM K. Palaniswami in Chennai in May 2017?

- a) Greek
- b) Hebrew
- c) Korean*
- d) Chinese

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami on May 23, 2017 released the Korean translation of the classic "Thirukkural" in Chennai. The first copy was received by Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chennai Kim Hyung Tae.

1967) Who among the following was Man of the Match in the final of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017?

- a) Krunal Pandya
- b) David Warner
- c) Mitchell Johnson
- d) Jasprit Bumrah

1968) Who among the following was the coach of the 2016 Indian Premier League (IPL) winner Mumbai Indians?

- a) Daniel Vettori
- b) Brad Hodge
- c) Jacques Kallis
- d) Mahela Jayawardene*

1969) Who among the following won the Orange Cap for scoring most runs in the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017?

- a) Virat Kohli

- b) David Warner*
- c) AB de Villiers
- d) Gautam Gambhir

1970) Who among the following won the Purple Cap for taking most wickets in the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017?

- a) Bhuvneshwar Kumar*
- b) Shane Watson
- c) Mitchell Johnson
- d) Jasprit Bumrah

1971) Which of the following winners at the tenth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) that concluded in May 2017 is/are matched correctly?

- a) Emerging Player of the Tournament – Mustafizur Rahman
- b) Fair Play trophy – Gujarat Lions*
- c) Most Valuable Player – David Warner
- d) All the above

Rohit Sharma led Mumbai Indians were crowned the IPL champions following their thrilling one-run win over Rising Pune Supergiant captained by Steve Smith in the final in Hyderabad on May 22, 2017. Sharma opted to bat after winning the toss. Mumbai Indians' Krunal Pandya, who made 47 runs off 38 deliveries and gave away 31 runs in 4 overs, received the Man of the Match award. Brief Scores: Mumbai Indians: 129 for 8 in 20 overs. (Krunal Pandya 47, Rohit Sharma 24; J Unadkat 2/19) Rising Pune Supergiant: 128 for 6 in 20 overs. (Steve Smith 51, Ajinkya Rahane 44; Mitchell Johnson 3/26).

Awards: David Warner of Sunrisers Hyderabad won the **Orange Cap** for making most runs (641) in the tournament. Bhuvneshwar Kumar of Sunrisers Hyderabad won the **Purple Cap** for taking most wickets (26). Ben Stokes of Rising Pune Supergiant was named **Most Valuable Player** of the tournament. He took 12 wickets in with an average of 26.33 and also scored 316 runs. **Stylish Player of the Season** award went to Kolkata Knight Riders' skipper Gautam Gambhir while Basil Thampi of Gujarat Lions who took 11 wickets on **Emerging Player** award. **Fair Play** award went to Gujarat Lions.

1972) Who among the following won the 38th edition of the Federation Cup football in May 2017?

- a) East Bengal
- b) Shillong Lajong
- c) Bengaluru FC*
- d) Mohun Bagan

JSW Bengaluru FC were crowned champions of the 38th edition of the Federation Cup after the Blues defeated Mohun Bagan 2-0 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack on May 21, 2017. The 2 goals came from C.K Vineeth in 107th and 119th minutes.

1973) Who among the following won the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in China in May 2017?

- a) Padmini Rout
- b) K. Humpy
- c) Harika Dronavalli
- d) R. Vaishali*

India's R. Vaishali won the women's title with eight points from nine rounds in the Asian Continental Blitz Chess Championship in Chengdu, China, on May 21, 2017.

1974) Who among the following won the Moscow Grand Prix Chess tournament in May 2017?

- a) Ding Liren*
- b) Sergey Karjakin
- c) Shakhriyar Mamedyarov
- d) Viswanathan Anand

Ding Liren of China clinched the Moscow Grand Prix on May 21, 2017. Ding finished with 6 points, a half point ahead of Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan.

1975) Who among the following was elected Member of the BWF Athletes' Commission in May 2017?

- a) Jwala Gutta
- b) P. V. Sindhu*
- c) Kidambi Srikanth
- d) Ashwini Ponnappa

India's PV Sindhu, Kirsty Gilmour (Scotland), Akvile Stapusaityte (Lithuania) and Germany's Marc Zwiebler became new members of the BWF Athletes' Commission after voting in Gold Coast (Australia) on May 24, 2017. The new members join Shintaro Ikeda of Japan; Koen Ridder of the Netherlands; and India's Saina Nehwal on the players' representative body.

1976) Alex Korio (Men's) and Irene Cheptai (Women's) won 10 km race organised by which of the following in Bengaluru on may 21, 2017?

- a) Wipro
- b) Infosys
- c) HCL
- d) TCS*

Alex Korio (Men's) and Irene Cheptai (Women's) made it a Kenyan double at the TCS World 10K run, clocking 28:12 and 31:51 respectively in the race in Bengaluru on May 21, 2017. Korio and Cheptai collected the winner's cheque for USD 26,000 each.

1977) Which of the following won the ice hockey world championship by beating Canada in the final played in Cologne, Germany on May 21, 2017?

- a) Finland
- b) Norway
- c) Sweden*
- d) Iceland

Sweden won the ice hockey world championship by beating Canada in the final played in Cologne, Germany by a penalty shootout on May 21, 2017. In the bronze medal game, Russia beat Finland 5-3.

1978) Indian women's hockey team lost all matches in 5-test series hosted by which of the following in May 2017?

- a) New Zealand*
- b) Canada
- c) Chile
- d) Argentina

There was no end to the Indian women's hockey team's misery as it went down 2-6 to New Zealand in the final match for a 0-5 whitewash in the series, which concluded in Hamilton on May 20, 2017.

1979) Consider the following statements on Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules 2017.

- I. Cattle cannot be bought for slaughter
- II. Cattle cannot be bought for slaughter from animal markets
- III. Cattle can be bought for slaughter from the farmers at the farms

Which of the above is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) II and III only*
- d) III only

The union environment ministry on May 27, 2017 said that the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Regulation of Livestock Markets) Rules 2017, which were notified on May 23 by the Harsh Vardhan-led ministry of environment, forest and climate change, ban trade of cattle for slaughter at animal markets. Animals for slaughter will have to be bought from the farmers at the farms. Meanwhile the Madurai bench of the Madras High Court on May 30, 2017 stayed for four weeks the operation of new central government rules on cattle trade.

1980) What is the strike range of the Prithvi-II missile that was successfully test-fired on June 2, 2017?

- a) 150 km
- b) 350 km*
- c) 550 km
- d) 750 km

1981) Consider the following statements on Prithvi-II missile that was successfully test-fired on June 2, 2017.

- I. It can carry warheads upto 1000 kg
 - II. It is a surface to air missile
 - III. It is capable of carrying nuclear warheads
- Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a) I only
- b) I and II only
- c) I and III only*
- d) II and III only

1982) Prithvi-II, developed under the IMGDP by DRDO, was successfully test-fired for its full strike range on June 2, 2017. IMGDP stands for:

- a) Indian Guided Missile Design Program
- b) Integrated Guided Missile Development Program*
- c) Indigenous Guided Missile Development Program
- d) Integrated Ground Missile Development Program

The indigenous nuclear-capable Prithvi-II missile was successfully test-fired from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha on June 2, 2017. The launch was carried out by the specially formed strategic force command (SFC), which was monitored by scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The Prithvi-II missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1,000 kg of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines. The missile was inducted into Indian armed forces in 2003. It is the first missile to have been developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

1983) Navy's Khanderi submarine sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017. It is a submarine of which class?

- a) Viking
- b) Agosta
- c) Sturgeon
- d) Scorpene*

1984) Navy's Khanderi submarine, which sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, was built with transfer of technology from DCNS of:

- a) Japan
- b) United Kingdom
- c) Portugal
- d) France*

1985) Navy's Khanderi submarine, which sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, was built at which of the following shipyards?

- a) Goa Shipyard

- b) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders*
- c) Hindustan Shipyard
- d) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

1986) Navy's Khanderi submarine, which sailed out for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, was built under which project of the Indian Navy?

- a) Project 25
- b) Project 50
- c) Project 75*
- d) Project 100

Khanderi, the second of the six Scorpene class submarines, has sailed out from Mumbai harbour for its maiden sea sortie on June 1, 2017, in a step closer to its induction into the Indian Navy. The submarine will now be put through a rigorous set of trials. The construction of six Scorpene submarines is presently being progressed at Mazagon Dock Shipyard Limited (MDL), under Project 75 with Transfer of Technology from M/s DCNS, France as the collaborator. The first of the class submarine, Kalvari is presently undergoing sea trials and likely to be commissioned into Navy by Mid 2017.

1987) Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated the newly built Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of DRDO in which state on May 28, 2017?

- a) Odisha
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Kerala
- d) Karnataka*

The Defence Minister Arun Jaitley on May 28, 2017 inaugurated the newly built Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) at Chitradurga in Karnataka. The ATR is the first of its kind range in the country exclusively meant to conduct flight-tests of indigenous unmanned and manned aircrafts, developed by the DRDO including the naval and trainer versions of the Light Combat Aircraft, the unmanned air vehicles- Rustom-I and Rustom-II (Tapas); the Airborne Early Warning & Control Systems (AEW&C), Air-to-Ground weapons, parachutes and aerostats, etc. This outdoor testing and evaluating facility has been set up by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE).

1988) Which are the two hydrographic survey and inspection vessels launched by Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on June 1, 2017 for the Haldia-Allahabad stretch of National Waterway-1?

- a) SL Godavari and SL Sindhu
- b) SL Ganga and SL Jhanvi*
- c) SL Krishna and SL Pratibha
- d) SL Brahmaputra and SL Sarita

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) on June 1, 2017 unveiled two hydrographic survey and inspection vessels for deployment in Ganga along the Haldia-Allahabad stretch of National Waterway-1. The vessels - SL Ganga and SL Jhanvi were constructed a cost of Rs 3.24 crore. IWAI chairman Nutan Guha Biswas said these specialised survey vessels will help identify exact nature of dredging requirements and sites to get assured three meters draft. Coming under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), National Waterway-1 will link Haldia and Varanasi.

1989) Which advertising agency has produced the advertisements for 'Darwaza Band' campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS) to promote toilet use in June 2017?

- a) JWT India
- b) Lowe Lintas*
- c) Ogilvy & Mather India
- d) Taproot India

1990) Who among the following features in the advertisements for 'Darwaza Band' campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS) to promote toilet use in June 2017?

- a) Priyanka Chopra

- b) Deepika Padukone
- c) Vidya Balan
- d) Anushka Sharma*

1991) Who among the following features in the advertisements for 'Darwaza Band' campaign of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS) to promote toilet use in June 2017?

- a) Aamir Khan
- b) Salman Khan
- c) Amitabh Bachchan*
- d) Akshay Kumar

The centre on May 30, 2017 launched an aggressive new campaign titled 'Darwaza Band' to promote toilet use and freedom from open defecation across the country's villages. The campaign has been produced for Swachh Bharat Mission of Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation (MDWS). It was launched in the presence of Amitabh Bachchan and Union Minister for Drinking Water and Sanitation, Narendra Singh Tomar in Mumbai. Advertisements for the 'Darwaza Band' campaign have been developed by Lowe Lintas, Mumbai under a World Bank Project. The Amitabh Bachchan series of ads encourages behaviour change in men who have toilets but are not using them. The Anushka Sharma series of ads encourages women who are more affected by this problem to stand up for this issue in their village and influence a positive change.

1992) Which of the following is related to disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in 1945?

- a) Justice M. G. Sikri Commission
- b) Justice G.D. Khosla Commission*
- c) Justice T. S. Sengupta Commission
- d) Justice V. N. Malimath Commission

Days after it said in an RTI response that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose died in 1945 in a plane crash in Taiwan, the Home Ministry said on June 2, 2017 that the reply was based on a "conclusion arrived at by the then UPA government in 2006" and it was willing to examine any new facts if they came up in future. "After considering the reports of the Shah Nawaz Committee, the Justice G.D. Khosla Commission and Justice Mukherjee Commission of Enquiry, the Government has come to the conclusion that Netaji has died in a plane crash in 1945," said the reply to an RTI query.

1993) Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed on:

- a) May 27
- b) May 28*
- c) May 29
- d) May 30

The Menstrual Hygiene Day was observed on May 28, 2017. NGOs across the country are endeavouring to break the silence around menstruation.

1994) World No Tobacco Day was observed on _____, 2017.

- a) May 27
- b) May 28
- c) May 29
- d) May 31*

1995) What was the theme of the WHO-sponsored World No Tobacco Day observed in May 2017?

- a) Tobacco: deadly in any form or disguise
- b) Raise taxes on tobacco
- c) Tobacco kills, don't be duped
- d) Tobacco – a threat to development*

1996) Who among the following Ministers has won the 'Director General's Special Recognition Award' given by The World Health Organisation (WHO) in May 2017 for accelerating India's tobacco control initiatives?

- a) Maneka Gandhi
- b) Smriti Irani
- c) Rajnath Singh
- d) Jagat Prasad Nadda*

The World No Tobacco Day was observed on May 31, 2017, highlighting the health and additional risks associated with tobacco use, and advocating for effective policies to reduce tobacco consumption. The theme for this year is "Tobacco – a threat to development." The World Health Organisation (WHO) has selected Union Health Minister J P Nadda for the 'Director General's Special Recognition Award' for accelerating India's tobacco control initiatives and taking bold measures to protect people against hazards of tobacco use. Nadda is among the two recipients of the special global award this year. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs of the Republic of the Gambia is the other awardee.

1997) Food and Agriculture Organization's World Milk Day was observed on:

- a) June 1*
- b) June 2
- c) June 3
- d) June 4

World Milk Day was celebrated on June 1, 2017. This day is celebrated every year on June 1 and was established by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to recognise the importance of milk as a global food. This year's theme was "Raise a Glass". In India, National Milk Day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Dr. Varghese Kurien on November 26.

1998) Who among the following is the author of 'Dialogue of the Deaf: The Government and the RBI' released recently?

- a) Nitin Desai
- b) Kaushik Basu
- c) Rajeev Malhotra
- d) Raghuram Rajan*

1999) Who among the following is the author of 'Lone Fox Dancing: My Autobiography' released recently?

- a) Amish Tripathi
- b) Chetan Bhagat
- c) Kiran Nagarkar
- d) Ruskin Bond*

2000) 22. Who among the following UPA Ministers and Congress leader is the author of 'Indira Gandhi: A Life in Nature' released recently?

- a) Kapil Sibal
- b) Shashi Tharoor
- c) Jairam Ramesh*
- d) P. Chidambaram

2001) Who among the following was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati in June 2017?

- a) Sunil Singhi
- b) George Kurian
- c) Sulekha Kumbhare
- d) Shashi Shekar Vempati*

Shashi Shekar Vempati was on June 2, 2017 appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Prasar Bharati.

2002) Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) in May 2017?

- a) Nihalchand
- b) Sanwar Lal Jat

- c) Mohanbhai Kundaria
- d) Ram Shankar Katheria*

The President approved the appointments in the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) on May 31, 2017, for a period of 3 years. Prof (Dr) Ram Shankar Katheria is the Chairman and L. Murugan is the Vice-Chairman. K. Ramulu, Dr. Yogendra Paswan and Dr. (Ms) Swaraj Vidwan are Members.

2003) Manipur Governor Najma Heptulla was appointed as the Chancellor of which university in May 2017?

- a) Jamia Millia Islamia University*
- b) Aligarh Muslim University
- c) Maulana Azad National Urdu University
- d) Osmania University

Manipur Governor and former minority affairs minister Najma Heptulla has been appointed as the chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia. Jamia Vice Chancellor Talat Ahmad confirmed the development on May 29, 2017, saying she has been appointed for a term of five years. The 77-year-old Heptulla is the first woman chancellor of the university since its establishment in 1920.

2004) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. He was Minister of State for which of the following in Manmohan Singh' Cabinet at the Centre?

- a) Coal*
- b) Steel
- c) Tribal Affairs
- d) Civil Aviation

2005) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. Udhayam, founded by him in 1984, is a Telugu:

- a) FM Radio
- b) Magazine
- c) TV Channel
- d) Newspaper*

2006) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. He won election for:

- a) Lok Sabha
- b) Rajya Sabha*
- c) AP Legislative Council
- d) AP Legislative Assembly

2007) Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. His name was featured in Limca Book of Records for:

- a) Acting in most number of movies
- b) Directing most number of movies*
- c) Scripting most number of movies
- d) Producing most number of movies

2008) 30. Dasari Narayana Rao passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75. Which of the following is an award won by him?

- a) Bharat Ratna
- b) Padma Vibhushan
- c) Padma Bhushan
- d) None of the above*

Former Union Minister for Coal and one of the pillars of Telugu cinema industry, Dasari Narayana Rao, passed away on May 30, 2017 at the age of 75 in Hyderabad. Rao commenced his acting career in 1952 with "Manavathi" and later donned the director's hat for "Tata Manavadu" in 1972. In a career spanning 45 years, Dasari excelled as a director, actor, script writer, and producer. Dasari also etched his name in the Limca Book of Records for directing the highest number of films — 151. He also produced 53 films, including a few Hindi movies. In the UPA-2 government led by Manmohan Singh, he was elected to Rajya Sabha in 2006 and became the Union Minister of State for Coal. He launched the popular Telugu daily Udhayam in 1984. However, he could not sustain it and had to sell it.

2009) Who among the following is India's Ambassador to Russia?

- a) Ranjit Rae
- b) Manpreet Vohra
- c) Ashok Tomar
- d) Pankaj Saran*

2010) Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented over 100 volumes of 'Urga Kanjur' during his Russia visit in June 2017.

The volumes are sacred texts of:

- a) Jews
- b) Jains
- c) Parsees
- d) Buddhists*

2011) India's GJEPC entered onto an agreement with ALROSA for cooperation in the field of diamond trade during PM Modi's visit to Russia in June 2017. Who among the following is the Chairperson of GJPEC?

- a) Krishna Lal Chadha
- b) Lokesh Kumar Singhal
- c) Arun Hastimal Firodia
- d) Praveen Shankar Pandya*

2012) NPCIL and ROSATOM signed agreement for construction of Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam nuclear plant during PM Modi's visit to Russia in June 2017. Who among the following is the CMD of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)?

- a) Sekhar Basu
- b) Ratan Kumar Sinha
- c) Srikumar Bannerjee
- d) Satish Kumar Sharma*

2013) Railways of India and Russia signed a contract for high-speed service linking which of the following to Secunderabad during PM Modi's visit to Russia in June 2017?

- a) Nagpur*
- b) Ernakulam
- c) Mysore
- d) Kota
- e) Bhopal

2014) Which of the following is a member of the five-nation Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)?

- a) Tajikistan
- b) Uzbekistan
- c) Kyrgyzstan*
- d) Azerbaijan
- e) Turkmenistan

2015) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) decided to rename the Officers' Mess Road in New Delhi's Chanakyapuri after Russia's former _____ in June 2017:

- a) Defence Minister
- b) Foreign Minister
- c) President
- d) Ambassador to India*

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin at the 18th Annual India Russia Summit at St. Petersburg on June 1, 2017. Modi was on a two-day visit to Russia on June 1-2.
- An agreement for of cultural exchanges between Russia's Ministry of Culture and India's Ministry of Culture was signed by India's Ambassador to Russia Pankaj Saran and Vladimir Medinskyii, Russia's Minister for Culture.
- An agreement for the construction of Units 5 and 6 of the Kudankulam nuclear plant along with the Credit Protocol was signed by Satish Kumar Sharma, Chairman NPCIL and Alexei Likhachev, CEO ROSATOM. Each of the two units will have a capacity to produce 1,000 MW of power.
- A contract between Russian Railways and Indian Railways on high-speed service at the Nagpur-Secunderabad section was signed by Saran and Oleg Beloseroov, President of Russian Railways.
- Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between ALROSA and the Council for the Promotion of the Export of Precious Stones and Jewellery of India was signed by Praveen Shankar Pandya, Chairman, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) and Sergei Ivanov, President ALROSA. The MoC covers areas like trade development, generic promotion of diamond and synthetic diamond detection.
- Marking 70 years of diplomatic ties, Modi and Putin on June 1 signed the St Petersburg Declaration, envisaging an action plan for deepening relations in all areas, including political and economic development of the two countries.
- Chairman of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) Tigran Sargasyan called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in St. Petersburg on June 2, 2017. The EAEU comprises Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia.
- PM Modi attended the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum, an annual business and economic event hosted by the Russian President, in St. Petersburg on June 2.
- PM Modi on June 2 presented over 100 volumes of 'Urga Kanjur' to the head priest of the Datsan Gunzechoinei Buddhist Temple in St. Petersburg. 'Urga Kanjur' is a sacred Tibetan Buddhist text.
- The Officers' Mess Road in New Delhi's Chanakyapuri area now has a new name - Alexander M Kadakin Marg - with the NDMC passing a resolution to rename it after the former Russian Ambassador to India who passed away in January 2017. The decision by New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at a meeting on June 1,

2016) Who among the following is the Prime Minister of Spain, a country visited by PM Modi in May 2017?

- a) Rodrigo Rato
- b) Javier Arenas
- c) Ángel Acebes
- d) Mariano Rajoy*

2017) Who among the following is the monarch of Spain, a country visited by PM Modi in May 2017?

- a) King Diego
- b) King Felipe*
- c) King Alfonso
- d) King Michael

Answer 39:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the first Indian PM to visit Spain since 1992, held wide-ranging talks with Spanish President Mariano Rajoy in Madrid on May 31, 2017. Modi also met King Felipe VI at the Zarzuela Palace in Madrid.

2018) Who among the following is the President of Germany, a country visited by PM Modi in May 2017?

- a) Horst Kohler
- b) Roman Herzog
- c) Angela Merkel
- d) Frank-Walter Steinmeier*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Angela Merkel held talks in Berlin on May 30, 2017. Modi also paid a courtesy call to German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier at his official residence.

2019) Government-run Prasar Bharati got into an agreement with Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT) to step up cooperation in the broadcasting sector. SNRT is the government media organisation in which country?

- a) Ethiopia
- b) Algeria
- c) Morocco*
- d) Tunisia

Government-run Prasar Bharati has got into an agreement with Morocco's Societe Nationale de Radiodiffusion et de Television (SNRT) to step up cooperation in the broadcasting sector. The MoU was signed during the fifth India Morocco Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) in Rabat, Morocco's capital in May 2017.

2020) Who among the following is the Indian counterpart of Ratu Inoke Kubuabola of Fiji who came on an official visit to New Delhi in May 2017?

- a) Arun Jaitley*
- b) Prakash Javadekar
- c) Pranab Mukherjee
- d) Sushma Swaraj

The Minister of Defence and National Security of Fiji, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola accompanied by his delegation met the Minister of Defence, Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley in New Delhi on May 29, 2017.

2021) India is supporting the National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius in augmenting its capacity through which of the following?

- a) Project Spear
- b) Project Hammer
- c) Project Arrow
- d) Project Trident*

India and Mauritius on May 27, 2017 signed an agreement for maritime security as New Delhi extended a \$500-million credit line to the Indian Ocean island nation for various projects following delegation level talks in New Delhi by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Mauritian counterpart Pravind Jugnauth. India would support the National Coast Guard (NCG) of Mauritius in augmenting its capacity through Project Trident, an integrated development project.

2022) Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on May 29, 2017 gifted 10 ambulances and 15 sniffer dogs to which neighbouring country's army during his visit there?

- a) Nepal
- b) Bhutan
- c) Sri Lanka
- d) Myanmar*

Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat on May 29, 2017 handed over keys of 10 ambulances and gifted 15 sniffer dogs to the Myanmar Army. Myanmar shares a 1,640-km-long border with a number of northeastern States.

2023) Who among the following Indian woman lawyers was selected by the UN in May for a fact-finding mission on human rights violations of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine state?

- a) Indira Jaising*
- b) Pinky Anand
- c) Sheela Murthy
- d) Pramila Nesargi

The United Nations on May 30, 2017 appointed an Indian human rights lawyer and two other experts to a fact-finding mission investigating alleged killings, rape and torture by security forces against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine

state. The mission will be led by Indira Jaising, an advocate of the Supreme Court of India. The other two members are Harvard-trained Sri Lankan lawyer Radhika Coomaraswamy and Australian consultant Christopher Dominic.

2024) Who amongst the following retired Indian diplomats was appointed as a public policy fellow at Washington-based think-tank Wilson Centre in June 2017?

- a) Shivshankar Menon
- b) Hardeep Singh Puri
- c) Nirupama Rao*
- d) Shyam Saran

Former Indian Ambassador to US Nirupama Rao has been appointed as a public policy fellow to a Washington-based think-tank where she will work on a project on the Sino-India ties. Rao will be affiliated with the Wilson Centre's Asia programme and spend three months in residence at the Wilson Centre beginning in June 2017.

2025) Which of the following are the best and the worst ranked countries respectively in the Global Peace Index of 163 countries produced by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in June 2017?

- a) New Zealand, Iraq
- b) Iceland, Syria*
- c) Japan, Afghanistan
- d) Austria, Sudan

2026) . What is India's rank in the Global Peace Index of 163 countries produced by the Sydney-based Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in June 2017?

- a) 111th
- b) 121st
- c) 131st
- d) 151st

The 11th edition of the Global Peace Index (GPI) was published by Sydney-based international think-tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) on June 1, 2017. India experienced a slight improvement in peace, rising four places in the GPI to rank 137 among 163 countries. Iceland was named the world's most peaceful nation this year, ahead of New Zealand, Portugal, Austria and Denmark. At the opposite end of the scale, unsurprisingly, peace levels were lowest in Syria whose civil war is still raging unabated. It is preceded in the ranking by Afghanistan, Iraq, South Sudan and Yemen.

2027) . Who among the following is the former dictator of Panama, in news for his death at the age of 83 on May 30, 2017?

- a) Arnulfo Arias
- b) Vernon Alberto
- c) Manuel Noriega*
- d) Francisco Rodríguez

Former Panama dictator General Manuel Antonio Noriega died in Panama City on May 30, 2017 at the age of 83. Juan Carlos Varela, president of Panama, announced his death. Noriega had spent the last two and a half decades behind bars after being convicted on drug-trafficking and money laundering charges. He was first imprisoned in Florida, then in France, before being flown back to Panama in 2011. He was Panama's de facto leader from 1983 until 1989.

2028) Who among the following is the former Prime Minister of Greece, in news for his death at the age of 98 on May 29, 2017?

- a) Antonis Samaras
- b) Xenophon Zolotas
- c) Christos Sartzetakis
- d) Konstantinos Mitsotakis*

Former Greek Prime Minister Konstantinos Mitsotakis died in Athens on May 29, 2017 at the age of 98. Conservative Mitsotakis served as Prime Minister from 1990 to 1993. He quit politics in 2004.

2029) Zbigniew Brzezinski died at the age of 89 on May 26, 2017. He served as which of the following in US government?

- a) NASA Administrator
- b) National Security Advisor*
- c) CIA Director
- d) Secretary of State

Zbigniew Brzezinski, who helped topple economic barriers between the Soviet Union, China and the West as President Jimmy Carter's National Security Adviser, died at the age of 89 on May 26, 2017.

2030) Who among the following was appointed as the next United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President on May 31, 2017 to lead the 72nd session in September?

- a) Robert Fico
- b) Mikulas Dzurinda
- c) Miroslav Lajcak*
- d) Robert Fico

Slovakian Foreign Minister Miroslav Lajcak was on May 31, 2017 appointed as the next United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) President to lead the 72nd session in September.

2031) Which of the following is the wireless technology developed by IIT- Kharagpur for remote monitoring of patients' condition ferried in ambulances?

- a) AmbuEye
- b) AmbuSens*
- c) AmbuTrack
- d) AmbuScene

Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, on June 2, 2017 said it has come up with a wireless technology for remote monitoring of patients' condition ferried in ambulances. The technology called 'AmbuSens' has been developed in the SWAN lab of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) of the institute.

2032) Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) on May 27, 2017 said it has developed a grain moisture analyser which will help growers harvest crops at the right time after ensuring correct moisture levels. CSIO is based at:

- a) Chandigarh*
- b) Greater Noida
- c) Gurugram
- d) Faridabad

Chandigarh-based Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO) on May 27, 2017 said it has developed a grain moisture analyser which will help growers harvest crops at the right time after ensuring correct moisture levels. "CSIR-CSIO, Chandigarh developed Impedance based Grain Moisture Analyser (IGMA) which rapidly detects moisture levels on the spot without any need for chemical analysis," an official release said. CSIO is a unit of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

2033) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for achievements in Carnatic Music in May 2017?

- a) R. Vedavalli*
- b) M. Manjunath
- c) K. Omanakutty
- d) Neela Ramgopal

2034) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for achievements in Sitar in May 2017?

- a) Arvind Parikh*

- b) Kala Ramnath
- c) Ahmad Hussain
- d) Ratikant Mohapatra
- e) Arvind Mulgaonkar

2035) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for achievements in Theatre in May 2017?

- a) Bipin Kumar
- b) Kusum Kumar
- c) Rajkamal Nayak
- d) Ram Gopal Bajaj*

2036) Who among the following was named Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna) for authoring books on the history of Dance in May 2017?

- a) Sunil Kothari*
- b) Geeta Chandran
- c) Jitendra Maharaj
- d) Maisnam Kaminikumar Singh

The Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships (Akademi Ratna) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the Year 2016 were declared on May 24, 2017.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow: Four eminent persons in the field of performing arts, namely **Arvind Parikh** (a Hindustani classical musician and sitar player), **R. Vedavalli** (Carnatic vocalist), Ram Gopal Bajaj and **Sunil Kothari** (a noted Indian dance historian, scholar and critic) were selected as Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellow (Akademi Ratna). The Fellowship of the Akademi is restricted to 40 numbers at any given time. **Ram Gopal Bajaj** is a noted Indian theatre director, academician, and a Hindi film actor. He has also been a faculty member and a former director of National School of Drama, New Delhi.

Sangeet Natak Awards: The General Council of the Akademi also selected forty-three (43) artists from the field of Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional/Folk/Tribal Music/Dance/Theatre, Puppetry and Overall contribution/scholarship in Performing Arts for the Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards (Akademi Puraskar) for the year 2016.

2037) Kerala Governor Justice (retd) P. Sathasivam on May 27, 2017 gave away "Sansad Ratna" awards to nine best performing parliamentarians in Chennai. The awards have been instituted by which NGO?

- a) Plus Point
- b) View Point
- c) Focus Point
- d) Prime Point*

Kerala Governor Justice (retd) P. Sathasivam on May 27, 2017 gave away "Sansad Ratna" awards to nine best performing parliamentarians in Chennai. The awards, instituted by Chennai-based non-governmental organisation (NGO) Prime Point Foundation, were presented to Members of Parliament from both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. This was the eighth edition of the Sansad Ratna awards.

2038) Which of the following won the Palme d'Or award at the annual Cannes Film Festival in May 2017?

- a) The Square*
- b) Personal Shopper
- c) The Lobster
- d) I, Daniel Blake

2039) Which of the following awards given at the Cannes Film Festival in May 2017 is matched correctly with its winner?

- a) Best Director – Ken Loach
- b) Best Actress – Diane Kruger*
- c) Best Actor – Asghar Farhadi

d) 70th Anniversary Award: Julia Roberts

Ruben Ostlund's "The Square", a satire on the contemporary art world and what it reveals about modern society, took home the **Palme d'Or** as the Cannes Film Festival rounded off its highlights-studded 70th edition in Cannes on May 28, 2017. Other winners were: Sofia Coppola bagged the **Best Director** Prize for "The Beguiled". Three acting prizes were awarded. Nicole Kidman won the **70th Anniversary Award**. Joaquim Phoenix won the prize for the **Best Actor** for his role in "You Were Never Really Here". German-American Diane Kruger won the **Best Actress** prize for he role in "In the Fade".

2040) Who among the following won the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story in May 2017?

- a) Kiran Desai
- b) Anita Nair
- c) Arundhati Roy
- d) Jhumpa Lahiri*

Two short fiction collections by Jhumpa Lahiri have convinced prize judges that she's a worthy recipient of the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. Lahiri will receive \$5,000 and will read at a December ceremony in Washington, D.C. The award selection committee on May 17, 2017 praised her for "deep introspection" and "meticulous attention" to language.

2041) The RBI initiated 'prompt corrective action' for which of the following in view of high net NPA and negative ROA (return on asset) in May 2017?

- a) Central Bank of India
- b) Dena Bank*
- c) IDBI Bank
- d) Indian Overseas Bank

The RBI on June 2, 2017 put Dena Bank under watch by initiating prompt corrective action against it, a move that will place various restrictions on the lender, including on fresh loans and dividend distribution. "The RBI has initiated 'prompt corrective action' for Dena Bank in view of high net NPA and negative ROA (return on asset)," the bank said in regulatory filing. Dena Bank had reported widening of losses to Rs 575.26 crore for the quarter ended March 31, as bad loans rose sharply.

2042) Which of the following announced financing of rooftop solar projects of 100 MW worth Rs 400 crore for private developers under a World Bank programme in June 2017?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) State Bank of India*

State Bank of India (SBI) on June 2, 2017 announced financing of rooftop solar projects of 100 MW worth Rs 400 crore for private developers under a World Bank programme. The World Bank-Clean Technology Fund (CTF) loan will support a number of solar PV business models, to expand the reach of rooftop PV systems to a variety of customer groups.

2043) Which of the following signed a \$100 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) on May 30, 2017 to finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial and commercial buildings?

- a) ICICI Bank
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Bank of Baroda
- d) Punjab National Bank*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Punjab National Bank (PNB) on May 30, 2017 signed a \$100 million loan — to be guaranteed by the Government of India — that will finance large solar rooftop systems on industrial and commercial buildings throughout India. The PNB will use the ADB funds to make further loans to various developers and end users to install rooftop solar systems.

2044) Who among the following was appointed as Independent Member to the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) in June 2017?

- a) Chitra Ramkrishna
- b) Vijayalakshmi R. Iyer
- c) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- d) Shubhlakshmi Panse*

The government has expanded the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) headed by former CAG Vinod Rai by adding two more members. Former Allahabad Bank chairperson and managing director Shubhalakshmi Panse and private equity veteran Pradip Shah have been inducted into the board as independent members. Former CMD, Bank of Baroda, A K Khandelwal, former Joint MD H N Sinor and former CRISIL MD Roopa Kudva are other three independent members. Members in BBB from the government and the central bank side are secretary, Department of Financial Services, secretary, Department of Public Enterprises, RBI Deputy Governor N S Vishwanathan.

2045) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) observed financial literacy week from June 5 to 9, 2017. The four broad themes covered did not include:

- a) Know Your Customer
- b) Exercising Credit Discipline
- c) Merging for Consolidation*
- d) Grievance Redressal

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will observe financial literacy week from June 5-9 across the country. The financial literacy week will focus on four broad themes—know your customer (KYC), Exercising Credit Discipline, Grievance Redressal and Going Digital (UPI and *99#). The main objective of observing the week is to emphasize the importance of financial literacy.

2046) What was the GDP growth in fourth quarter of 2016-17 as per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017?

- a) 6.1%*
- b) 6.3%
- c) 6.5%
- d) 6.7%

2047) What was the GDP growth in 2016-17 as per data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017?

- a) 6.5%
- b) 6.8%
- c) 7.1%*
- d) 7.4%

The Gross Domestic Product during the fourth quarter fell sharply to 6.1 per cent from 7 per cent in the previous quarter while growth for the year as a whole also declined correspondingly. Data released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017 revealed that GDP during 2016-17 grew at 7.1 per cent, at a rate lower than the 8 per cent achieved in 2015-16. GDP growth was 6.1 per cent in Q4.

2048) What is the per capita net national income during 2016-17 estimated at current prices by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) on May 31, 2017?

- a) Rs. 93,219
- b) Rs. 1,03, 219*
- c) Rs. 1,13, 219
- d) Rs. 1,23, 219

India's per capita income grew by 9.7 per cent to Rs 1,03,219 in 2016-17 from Rs 94,130 a year ago. In 2015-16, the rate of growth of the country's per capita net income stood at 7.4 per cent. "The per capita income at current prices during 2016-17 is estimated to have attained a level of Rs 1,03,219 as compared to the estimates for the year 2015-16 of Rs 94,130 showing a rise of 9.7 per cent," an official released on May 31, 2017 said.

2049) Which of the following cut its growth forecast for the economy in 2017-18 to 7.2% in its India Development Update in May 2017?

- a) UNCTAD
- b) IMF
- c) WEF
- d) WB*

The World Bank on May 29, 2017 cut its estimate of India's growth in gross domestic product (GDP) for the current and earlier financial years. It cited the impact of demonetisation and a slower than expected revival in the investment cycle. The growth estimate for the ongoing 2017-18 year (it began on April 1) was reduced to 7.2 per cent from the previous 7.6 per cent. That for 2016-17 was toned down to 6.8 per cent, from the earlier seven per cent, said its bi-annual India Development Update.

2050) Which country was the top source of FDI in India in 2016-17, according to a report released by the RBI in June 2017?

- a) Mauritius*
- b) United States
- c) United Kingdom
- d) Singapore

Mauritius elbowed out Singapore to emerge as the top source of foreign direct investment (FDI) into India in 2016-17. Inflow from Mauritius in 2016-17 stood at \$15.72 billion whereas that of Singapore read \$8.71 billion, showed data of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in June 2017. In 2015-16, Singapore was first.

2051) In May 2017, the Employees Provident Fund Organisation approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to:

- a) 11%
- b) 12%
- c) 13%
- d) 15%*

The Employees Provident Fund Organisation has approved hike in investment limit in exchange traded funds (ETFs) to 15 per cent, from the existing 10 per cent, Union Labour Minister Bandaru Dattatreya said on May 27, 2017. The decision was taken during the meeting of the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) at Pune.

2052) The framework for strategic partnership (SP) model in defence production was released by the defence ministry on May 31, 2017. FDI will be limited to:

- a) 33%
- b) 49%*
- c) 51%
- d) 66%

The framework for strategic partnership (SP) model in defence production was released by the defence ministry on May 31, 2017. Under the SP model, select private firms will be roped in to build military platforms like submarines and fighter jets in India in partnership with foreign entities. A 49 per cent FDI cap has been kept for setting up ventures under the SP model. The management of the applicant companies will have to be in Indian hands with majority representation on the board of directors. Chief executive of the applicant company shall be resident Indian.

2053) Which of the following is the portal launched by Road Transport & Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on June 1, 2017 to connect buyers and sellers of construction materials?

- a) GRAM-Pro+
- b) REAM-Pro+
- c) EKAM-Pro+
- d) INAM-Pro+*

The Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari launched INAM-Pro+ to connect buyers and sellers of construction materials on June 1, 2017. INAM-Pro+ is an upgraded version of INAM-Pro, the web portal

designed by National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) as a common platform to bring cement buyers and sellers together. The portal facilitates comparison of price, availability of materials etc. for the buyers to procure cement.

2054) Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) Chairman J. Satyanarayana launched 'T-Wallet' on June 1, 2017. It is the official e-wallet of which state's government for digital payments?

- a) Tripura
- b) Telangana*
- c) Tamil Nadu
- d) Chhattisgarh

Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) chairman J. Satyanarayana on June 1, 2017 launched 'T-Wallet', the official e-wallet of the Telangana government for digital payments, in Hyderabad.

2055) How much was deposited under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), launched post-demonetisation, as on June 1, 2017?

- a) Rs. 3000 crore
- b) Rs. 5000 crore*
- c) Rs. 7000 crore
- d) Rs. 9000 crore

Deposits amounting to around Rs 5,000 crore were made under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY), launched post-demonetisation, the government said on June 1, 2017. The scheme allowed deposits to be made in the form of cash or in an account with bank or post office or specified entity, with a tax, surcharge and penalty totalling up to 49.90%. Mandatory deposit of 25% of the undisclosed income is to be made in PMGKY. The deposits are interest-free and have a lock-in period of four years.

2056) Which of the following was the most profitable PSU with a net profit of Rs. 19,100 crore in 2016-17?

- a) Indian Oil*
- b) NTPC
- c) ONGC
- d) SAIL

2057) Which of the following was India's most profitable company with a net profit of Rs. 29,901 crore in 2016-17?

- a) Reliance Industries Ltd*
- b) TCS
- c) Asian Paints
- d) Larsen & Toubro

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) has overtaken Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) to become India's most profitable state-owned company. IOC posted net profit to Rs 19,106.40 crore in the financial year ended March 31, 2017. This was more than the Rs 17,900 crore net profit ONGC posted, making IOC the most profitable PSU. Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries was India's most profitable company, posting a net Rs 29,901 crore in financial year 2016-17.

2058) With advancements in the field of biometric technology, India has topped globally in adoption of biometrics techniques. This was the finding of 'Trust in Technology' report of:

- a) HSBC*
- b) Citibank
- c) Barclays Bank
- d) Bank of America

With advancements in the field of biometric technology, India has topped globally in adoption of biometrics techniques, says a report. "On an average, people in India (9 per cent) are three times more likely than any other country (3 per cent) surveyed to have used 'iris recognition' to identify themselves," said the HSBC's recent 'Trust in Technology' report. (May 28, 2017)

2059) Which of the following has tied up with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) to set up technical schools across India under its Advanced Repair and Industrial Skills Enhancement (A.R.I.S.E.) program in August 2014?

- a) Tata Steel
- b) Maruti Suzuki India
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) Samsung*

Samsung India on June 2, 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) for its Samsung Technical School initiative, renewing its partnership for 10 existing schools run across the country and adding two new MSME-Samsung Technical Schools at Bengaluru and Jamshedpur. Samsung also announced the MSME-Samsung Technical School Scholarship program for girls and differently-abled trainees. The scholarship will cover the entire fee for the Samsung Advanced Repair and Industrial Skills Enhancement 2 (A.R.I.S.E.2) program.

2060) ESPN World Fame 100 list launched in May 2017 has four Indian players: Virat Kohli, former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and _____.

- a) Ravichandran Ashwin
- b) Ravindra Jadeja
- c) Ajinkya Rahane
- d) Suresh Raina*

India captain Virat Kohli, former skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Yuvraj Singh and Suresh Raina have found places in this year's ESPN World Fame 100 list. While Kohli is placed in the 13th spot and Dhoni in the 15th, Yuvraj and Raina have been ranked 90th and 95th respectively. The list is ESPN's ranking of the 100 most famous active athletes in the world. Heading the list is top Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo. The ranking is based on a formula which combines endorsements, social media reach and other data to create a comparative ranking system. (May 31, 2017)

2061) 33. Which of the following announced the launch of a technology tool -- DigiGST -- to provide organisations with end-to-end Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance support in May 2017?

- a) EY*
- b) BCG
- c) Deloitte
- d) PwC

Global professional services organisation EY on May 31, 2017 announced the launch of a technology tool -- DigiGST -- to provide organisations with end-to-end Goods and Services Tax (GST) compliance support.

2062) Which of the following launched CreditVision in May 2017 for banks to estimate the creditworthiness of a consumer applying for loan?

- a) Dun & Bradstreet
- b) CIBIL*
- c) Equifax
- d) CRIF High Mark

Credit information company TransUnion CIBIL on May 31, 2017 launched a new solution to help banks expand their consumer base. The product, CreditVision, looks at the past credit behaviour of a consumer, predicts risks and helps banks to expand credit opportunities by studying his payment, exposure and spend behaviour.

2063) Which of the following was named as the world's most valuable football club by KPMG with an enterprise value of over €3 billion recently?

- a) Chelsea
- b) Barcelona
- c) Real Madrid
- d) Manchester United*

KPMG has named Manchester United as the world's most valuable football club, becoming the first ever club to have an enterprise value of over €3 billion. Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich and Manchester City also feature in the top

five most valuable teams. KPMG has devised an algorithm which is a combination of five factors: profitability, popularity, sporting potential, broadcasting rights and stadium ownership. The combination of all these factors produces the Enterprise Value (EV).

2064) The government has decided to shift the proposed 6,000 MW nuclear power plant in Mithivirdi village of Gujarat to which state in May 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Andhra Pradesh*
- c) Kerala
- d) Madhya Pradesh

The proposed 6,000 MW nuclear power plant in Mithivirdi village in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat will be shifted to Kovvada in Andhra Pradesh. This decision of the ministry of environment and forests (MoEF) was conveyed to the National Green Tribunal (NGT) on May 18, 2017. The plant was to be set up by state-owned Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) with technical support from Toshiba Corp's Westinghouse Electric Company (WEC).

2065) Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars were presented by the President to teachers of which state in May 2017?

- a) Goa
- b) Punjab*
- c) Uttarakhand
- d) Madhya Pradesh

President Pranab Mukherjee on May 29, 2017 presented the Malti Gyan Peeth Puraskars for the year 2017 in New Delhi. 15 distinguished teachers were bestowed with the Puraskars instituted in the name of Malti Mohinder Singh Syngle, an eminent educationist and crusader for promoting education for girls.

2066) 38. Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated Litchi processing plant at which of the following places in Bihar on May 29, 2017?

- a) Gaya
- b) Katihar
- c) Munger
- d) Muzaffarpur*

Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated Litchi processing plant at Muzaffarpur, Bihar on May 29, 2017.

2067) Which of the following organised Accessibility Summit in Hyderabad on May 30, 2017 aiming to enhance technology access for people with disabilities?

- a) Google
- b) Microsoft*
- c) Facebook
- d) Twitter

Microsoft India hosted Accessibility Summit in Hyderabad on May 30, 2017 aiming to enhance technology access for people with disabilities.

2068) Which is the first state in the country where cases of mosquito-borne Zika virus were reported by WHO recently?

- a) Karnataka
- b) Gujarat*
- c) Maharashtra
- d) Goa

The World Health Organisation (WHO) on May 27, 2017 confirmed three cases of mosquito-borne Zika virus, including a pregnant woman, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare-Government of India (MoHFW) reported three laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus disease in Bapunagar area of Ahmedabad. The virus is transmitted to people through a bite of an infected mosquito called Aedes Aegypti, which also transmits dengue and Chikungunya.

2069) 41. A stamp on who among the following writers was released by the Panjab University in Chandigarh on May 31, 2017?

- a) Gurbachan Singh Bhullar
- b) Kartar Singh Duggal
- c) Manjit Tiwana
- d) Balwant Gargi*

A stamp on noted playwright and theatre director late Balwant Gargi was released in Chandigarh on May 31, 2017. The stamp was released on the commemoration of Balwant Gargi centenary by the Panjab University. On the occasion, the stamps of two other writers -- Krishan Chander and Bhisham Sahni, who are also the Panjab University (PU) alumni -- were released. Gargi was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1962 for his book 'Rang Manch'. This was followed by the Padma Shri (1972), and the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in Punjabi Playwriting in 1998.

2070) Who among the following resigned from the Committee of Administrators (CoA) set up by the Supreme Court to implement recommendations of Lodha Committee in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) in June 2017?

- a) Vikram Limaye
- b) Ramchandra Guha*
- c) Diana Edulji
- d) Vinod Rai

Ramchandra Guha on June 1, 2017 resigned from the Committee of Administrators (CoA) appointed by the Supreme Court to implement recommendations of Lodha Committee in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), citing personal reasons. Guha has sought the apex court's permission to relieve him of his duties. Historian Guha, along with former captain of the women's cricket team Diana Edulji and Managing Director and CEO of IDFC Limited Vikram Limaye, was a part of four-member CoA, which is headed by former Comptroller and Auditor General Vinod Rai to run the BCCI.

2071) Who among the following won the Sudirman Cup Badminton tournament hosted by Australia in May 2017?

- a) Japan
- b) Denmark
- c) Indonesia
- d) South Korea*

South Korea on May 28, 2017 won badminton's Sudirman Cup with a 3-2 victory over China at Australia's Gold Coast. The victory ended China's 14-year grip on the Sudirman Cup. China won Men's Doubles and Men's Singles matches while South Korea won Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles matches.

2072) 44. Who among the following won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix on May 28, 2017?

- a) Mark Webber
- b) Jenson Button
- c) Daniel Ricciardo
- d) Sebastian Vettel*

Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel won the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix in Monte Carlo on May 28, 2017, followed by his Finnish team-mate Kimi Raikkonen in second place. Red Bull's Australian driver, Daniel Ricciardo, took the third place.

2073) Who among the following won the Golden Shoe award given to the top scorer in the European football leagues in 2016-17 season?

- a) Luis Suarez
- b) Cristiano Ronaldo
- c) Jonas Goncalves
- d) Lionel Messi*

Barcelona striker Lionel Messi won the European Golden Shoe for a record equalling fourth time on Sunday having scored 37 goals this season in the Spanish league. The award goes every season to the leading goal scorer from every top division national league in Europe. The Argentinean striker pipped Bas Dost of Sporting Lisbon who ended the season with 34 goals.

ALL THE VERY BEST
Rajaboopathy R
Founder
RADIAN IAS ACADEMY