More At @Aj_ebooks

GKTODAY

Current Affairs [PDF] -October 1-15, 2018

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

This is a dynamic PDF E-book by GKToday. The latest version of this book can be downloaded from this link
Published by: GKTODAY.IN
GKToday © 2018 | All Rights Reserved

This document is a property of GKToday. Unauthorized Duplication is not allowed.

More At @AJ_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

Contents

News Headlines: October 1-15, 2018 3
October 1, 2018 15
October 2, 2018 18
October 3, 2018 23
October 4, 2018 28
October 5, 2018 33
October 6-7, 2018 37
October 8, 2018 42
October 9, 2018 46
October 10, 2018 51
October 11, 2018 55
October 12, 2018 59
October 13, 2018 63
October 14-15, 2018 67
Multiple Choice Questions 70

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

News Headlines: October 1-15, 2018

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 1, 2018

INDIA

- Monsoon season ends with a 9% deficit in rainfall, highest deficiency in Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and NE states: India Meteorological Department (IMD)
- AICTE to set up four teacher training academies at Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Baroda and Jaipur: Chairman Anil Dattatraya Sahasrabudhe
- President gives assent to a bill providing legal protection to Samaritans in Karnataka, who help accident victims with emergency medical care within the golden hour
- Kerala: K. V. Mohankumar wins Vayalar Ramavarma Memorial Literature Award
- Gujarat: PM inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot and Amul's Chocolate Plant at Anand
- Gujarat: PM inaugurates LNG terminal and pipeline projects at Anjar
- MP: 'Niwari' announced as 52nd district of the state
- UP: BJP MLA from Nighasan, Patel Ram Kumar Verma, dies in Lucknow at 64
- United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres from October 1 to 3
- UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore visiting India from September 30 to October 6

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- forms Competition Law Review Committee to ensure that the legislation is in tune with the changing business environment
- Govt owes Air India over Rs 1146.86 crore for VVIP charter flights
- Non-subsidised LPG cylinder price hiked by Rs 59; subsidised to cost Rs 2.89 more

WORLD

- Report "Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth" launched collectively by the IMF, the World Bank and the WTO
- Indonesia: Death toll from earthquake and tsunami on Sulawesi Island crosses 800
- International Translation Day celebrated on September 30
- October 1 is World Coffee Day
- China to celebrate its 69th National Day on October 1
- Elon Musk steps down as Chairman of Tesla; to continue as CEO
- Legendary Chicago blues guitarist Otis Rush dies at 84

SPORTS

- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes wins Formula One Russian Grand Prix at Sochi
- Japan's Yoshihito Nishioka wins Men's singles title at Shenzhen Open tennis in China
- Australia's Bernard Tomic wins Men's singles title at Chengdu Open tennis in China
- India clinch 3 medals at the Archery World Cup Final in Samsun, Turkey: Deepika Kumari-bronze in women's recurve, Abhishek Verma: bronze in men's compound & Abhishek Verma and Jyothi Surekha Wennem in mixed team compound
- Yuvraj Wadhwani wins 25th Asian junior individual squash championship title in Chennai

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 2, 2018

INDIA

- India, Uzbekistan sign 17 agreements for cooperation in various sectors after talks between PM Narendra Modi and President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in New Delhi
- Vice President Confers "Vayoshreshtha Samman – 2018" on Eminent Senior Citizens & Institutions on International Day of Older Persons
- Foundation stone of the first world-class educational institute established with the assistance of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, laid in Alwar district of Rajasthan
- Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry
- CMs of Jharkhand and West Bengal resolve to end the dispute over Massanjore Dam on Mayurakshi River

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- Meghalaya: CM Conrad K. Sangma releases Mission Jackfruit document
- MP: CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announces the setting up of a Ministry for cows
- Krishna Raj Kapoor, wife of late actor Raj Kapoor, dies in Mumbai at 87

AGRICULTURE CENSUS

- 53% decline in total operated area at 157.14 million hectare in 2015-16 as compared to 2010-11 data
- Average size of operational holding declined to 1.08 hectares (ha) in 2015-16 compared to 1.15 ha in 2010-11
- Percentage share of female operational holders increases from 12.79% in 2010-11 to 13.87% in 2015-16
- In terms of operated area, the share of women increased from 10.36% in 2010-11 to 11.57% in 2015-16

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- IPO of PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers subscribed 1.02 times on the last day
- SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) initiative launched to promote Compressed Bio-Gas production
- Growth of 8 infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.2% in August
- SBI lowers ATM cash withdrawal limit to Rs 20,000 a day from October 31
- Rajesh Agrawal Takes over charge as a New Member (Rolling Stock), Railway Board

WORLD

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

- International Day of Older Persons observed on October 1 with its theme as 'Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions'
- World Habitat Day (first Monday in October) observed on October 1 with its theme as 'Municipal Solid Waste Management'
- 2018 Nobel Prize for Physiology/Medicine awarded to James Allison (USA) and Tasuku Honjo (Japan) for discoveries leading to breakthroughs in cancer therapy
- Referendum in Macedonia approves country's name change to North Macedonia ending a decades-long spat with Greece
- United States, Mexico and Canada agree on a new free trade pact to replace the 25-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)
- USA, Philippines and Japan holding "Kamandag 2" military exercises in Subic Bay from October 1 to 10
- India ranks 5th in the world terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs with 85% of both sides of the packets covered
- Timor-Leste has the largest warnings on cigarette packages in the world with 92.5% on front and back
- Indian-American Gita Gopinath appointed as Chief Economist of the IMF

SPORTS

- BCCI covered under RTI Act, rules Central Information Commission
- Shooter Manu Bhaker is flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for Youth Olympic Games in Buenos Aires on October 6-18
- Mohd Mushtaque Ahmad named as the new President of Hockey India (HI)
- Athlete Hima Das joins PSU major Indian Oil Corp as an officer
- Europe defeats United States 17.510.5 to win Ryder Cup golf in Paris

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 3, 2018

INDIA

- PM addresses concluding session of 4-day Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention in New Delhi
- PM inaugurates first Assembly of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi
- Nation pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi (149th) and former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri (114th) on their birth anniversaries
- Supreme Court judge Madan Bhimarao Lokur appointed Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- All India Radio celebrates its 1st External Broadcast Day to mark the launch of service in Pashto language on October 1, 1939
- Odisha govt. launches food security scheme to cover people left out from the benefits of the National Food Security Act
- Noted Malayalam film director Thampi Kannanthanam dies in Kochi at 65
- Noted violinist Balabhaskar dies in Thiruvananthapuram at 40

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- NAREDCO signs agreement with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide skill training and jobs in the construction sector

WORLD

- 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi observed as the International Day of Non-Violence on October 2
- Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada) win 2018 Nobel Physics Prize for inventing optical lasers
- IBSAMAR-VI, a joint Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies, being held at South Africa from October 1 to 13
- India releases special commemorative stamps to mark the beginning of the year-long celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary in the Netherlands
- Russian investigators looking into the origin of a hole that caused an oxygen leak on the International Space Station say it was caused deliberately
- Nicole Kidman to receive Hollywood Career Achievement Award at Hollywood Film Awards (HFA) in Los Angeles on November 4
- North and South Korea start removing landmines in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which separates the two nations
- Google announces "Project Stream" that allows Google Chrome users to stream full video games
- Do Muoi, former General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam, dies in Hanoi at 101

SPORTS

- Manipur defeat Odisha in final 2-1 in Cuttack to win 24th Senior Women's National Football Championships
- Rio Paralympic gold medallist Thangvellu Mariyappan named as flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for Paralympic Asian Games in Jakarta from October 6 to 13

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 4, 2018

INDIA

- PM conferred Champions of the Earth Award 2018 for Policy Leadership by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in New Delhi
- Justice Ranjan Gogoi sworn in as the 46th Chief Justice of India
- Justice Surya Kant appointed Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court
- Safety tool 'Panic Button' — a women's safety-oriented mobile application by WCD Ministry (WCD) — successfully completes trial run in UP: Union Minister Maneka Gandhi
- Development trials of Astra BVRAAM (Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile) completed by IAF during Sept 26-Oct 3
- SC cautions Centre over the death of 21 lions in Gir forest in Amreli district of Gujarat in the last 1 month
- JK Lakshmipat University (JKLU) confers the JKLU Laureate Award on ex-President Pranab Mukherjee in Jaipur
- Centre approves setting up of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore district of MP

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- Cabinet approves Redevelopment of Railway Stations by IRSDC (Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited) as Nodal Agency

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- Cabinet approves implementation of Indore Metro Rail Project comprising Ring Line of length 31.55 Km
- Cabinet approves implementation of Bhopal Metro Rail Project comprising two corridors of total length 27.87 Km
- announces 6% hike in wheat MSP to Rs 1,840 per quintal and up to 21% increase in other rabi crops
- RBI allows state-owned fuel retailers to raise up to USD 10 billion external debt for working capital needs
- RBI accords in principle approval to the Kerala government to set up Kerala Bank by merging district cooperative banks with state co-operative banks
- SIDBI launches national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign 'Udyam Abhilasha'
- India and ADB sign $ 150 Million loan agreement to support India's first Global Skills Park in MP
- India and ADB sign $240 million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water to people in three districts of West Bengal
- Infosys Foundation sign MoU with Criminal Investigation Department of Karnataka Police and Data Security Council of India to set up the Centre for Cybercrime Investigation Training & Research (CCITR) in Bengaluru
- Tata-Siemens consortium wins bid for Pune Metro project
- Government supersedes board of IL&FS, appoints new members with banker Uday Kotak as Chairman

WORLD

- India launches 'Operation Samudra Maitri' to help earthquake-tsunami affected Indonesia
- US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter win 2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize for applying the principles of evolution to develop enzymes
- India ranked 28th on government's adoption of e-payments in 2018, Norway ranked first among 78 countries: The Economist Intelligence Unit
- The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) orders the US to ease sanctions it re-imposed on Iran after pulling out the 2015 nuclear deal
- First India-Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue being held on Java Island from October 3 to 5
- Iraq: Parliament elects Kurdish politician Barham Salih as the new President
- SPORTS
- Cricket Australia appoints Kevin Roberts as new CEO, James Sutherland steps down

Current Affairs – NEWS HEADLINES: October 4, 2018

INDIA

- Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018: Haryana ranked Best State, Satara District of Maharashtra ranked Best District
- India deports 7 Rohingya immigrants, who were staying in Assam illegally, to Myanmar
- Centre unveils Digi Yatra initiative which will allow biometric based boarding for flyers using facial recognition technology
- "Sahyog HOP TAC -2018" joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam held in the Bay of Bengal off Chennai coast
- 'Of Counsel: The Challenges of the Modi-Jaitley Economy', written by former CEA Arvind Subramanian, to release in November
- Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets her Kazakh counterpart Nurlan Yermekbayev in Astana
- 4th India International Science Festival-2018 in Lucknow from October 5 to 8
- J&K: Cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi declared the "cleanest religious place" in the country
- Tandrust Punjab Mission destroys 75 quintals of rotten fruits and vegetables across the state
- Gujarat govt. to set up 2 safari parks near Ahmedabad and in Narmada district to accommodate growing population of lions in Gir Forest
- Education ministers of many countries and states attend a "happiness class" at a Delhi government

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

school
- R N Ravi, the government interlocutor for talks with Naga insurgents, appointed Deputy National Security Advisor

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- Chanda Kochhar quits ICICI Bank, Sandeep Bakhshi appointed as CEO & MD
- Kotak Mahindra Bank MD and CEO Uday Kotak appointed as non-executive chairman of IL&FS. Vineet Nayyar of Tech Mahindra named Vice-chairman and MD
- Gross direct tax collections grow 16.7% to Rs 5.47 lakh crore in April-September
- RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani remains richest Indian for 11th consecutive year with a net worth of USD 47.3 billion: Forbes
- 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018) organised by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Noida from October 3 to 5
- RBI slaps penalty of ₹5 crore on Federal Bank for violating norms on reporting of data on large credit, payment of compensation for delay in resolution of ATM-related complaints', and violating KYC norms
- SC upholds Constitutional validity of compensation law under GST; allows cess to be collected for compensating States for revenue shortfall
- Suzuki Motorcycle India launches V-Strom 650XT ABS priced at Rs 7.46 lakh

WORLD

- Apple displaces Google to become the top brand in the world in 2018: Interbrand's "Best 100 Global Brands 2018"
- 3-week Cervantino International Festival in Mexico from October 10 to see India participating as a guest of honour
- October 4 celebrated as World Animal Day
- Vietnam's ruling Communist Party agrees to nominate its general secretary, Nguyen Phu Trong, as President

SPORTS

- Chess: Former Russian deputy PM Arkady Dvorkovich elected FIDE President
- FC Barcelona has become the first sports club to post annual revenues exceeding $1 billion in 2017-18

Current Affairs – NEWS HEADLINES: October 6, 2018

PUTIN VISIT

- PM Modi and President Vladimir Putin participate in 19th India-Russia Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi
- Agreement to buy five S-400 Triumph air defence missile systems from Russia signed
- Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), Indian Potash Ltd and PhosAgro announce joint investments in mineral fertiliser production in Russia and India
- Cochin Shipyard signs agreement with United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) to boost water transportation in India
- MoU signed between ISRO and ROSCOSMOS for cooperation in Human Spaceflight Programme

INDIA

- India Post issues stamp on Udaipur-based NGO Narayan Seva Sansthan
- Task force, co-chaired by Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Infosys MD & CEO Salil Parekh, launched to develop an action plan to address skills gaps in India
- Canine Distemper Virus responsible for Gir lion deaths: Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology
- Bihar: National Dolphin Research Centre will be set up at Patna University premises
- Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra – Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad – given Geographical Indication (GI) tag
- 21 IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) countries adopt Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy
- Pankaj Sharma appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament in Geneva

Himani Borkar | himanijb46@gmail.com |

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- Arindam Bagchi appointed India's Ambassador to Croatia
- Veteran journalist and former PTI News Editor Pradip Chowdhury dies in Kolkata at 64
- Additional Solicitor General P. S. Narasimha tenders his resignation citing personal reasons
- Organics and Millets International Trade Fair to be held in Bengaluru on January 18-20, 2019

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.50% in monetary policy review
- RBI forecasts GDP growth of 7.4% in 2018-19 and 7.6% in 2019-20
- India and ADB sign $110 million loan agreement to upgrade all-weather rural roads in MP under PMGSY
- Former Canara Bank chief Rakesh Sharma named CEO of IDBI Bank for 6 months
- NASSCOM launches its Centre of Excellence for Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) in Gurugram, Haryana
- Aamir Khan named brand ambassador of Datsun by Nissan
- Hrithik Roshan named brand ambassador of Tata Tigor car
- Srinivasan K. Swamy, chairman RK Swamy Hansa Group, appointed Chairman & World President of International Advertising Association (IAA)

WORLD

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

- World Teachers' Day observed on October 5 with its theme as 'The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher'
- Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege & former ISIS hostage and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad jointly awarded 2018 Nobel Peace Prize
- Denis Mukwege & Nadia Murad jointly awarded Mother Teresa Memorial Award-2018 given by Mumbai's Harmony Foundation
- Sri Lanka's national air carrier, SriLankan Airlines, named the "World's Most Punctual Airline" by Flighstats
- Parker Solar Probe completes first Venus flyby: NASA
- Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena orders release of all the Tamil civilian lands held by the State by December 31

SPORTS

- 43rd World Chess Olympiad in Georgia: China won gold in both open and women sections; India 6th and 8th

More At @Aj_ebooks

Current Affairs – Headlines: October 7, 2018

INDIA

- EC announces Assembly election dates for MP: Nov 28, Rajasthan: Dec 7, Chhattisgarh: Nov 12 & Nov 20, Mizoram: Nov 28 and Telangana: Dec 7
- 4th India International Science Festival being organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati in Lucknow from October 5 to 8
- International Conference on Women's Health, Wellness and Empowerment organised in Kanpur
- National Health Agency (NHA) asks states to authorize district collectors and district magistrates to identify eligible beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyan scheme.
- Odisha Govt. launches 'Nirman Kusuma' programme for technical education of children of construction workers
- Maharashtra launches website, app 'Maha madat' to analyse drought situation
- 340 m long tunnel on NH-72 connecting Dehradun to Delhi inaugurated
- Successful night trial of Prithvi-II missile conducted by Army's Strategic Force Command
- Prominent human rights activist and lawyer Girish Patel dies in Ahmedabad at 86

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- IndiaSkills 2018, nationwide competition organized by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, concludes in New Delhi; awards presented in 46 trades to participants
- NASSCOM launches its Centre of Excellence for Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) in Gurugram,

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Haryana
- India's first Methanol Cooking Fuel Program launched at Assam Petrochemicals campus at Namrup

WORLD
- Japan: Tokyo's iconic Tsukiji fish market, considered the largest in the world, shut down permanently after 83 years
- Kamandag war games organised in Philippines involving US, Japan and Philippines defence forces
- World-renowned Spanish soprano Montserrat Caballe dies in Barcelona at 85
- Chinese head of Interpol, Meng Hongwei, reportedly detained for questioning in his home country: French Police
- Manipuri activist Binalakshmi Nepram wins Anna Politkovskaya Award with Ukraine's Svetlana Alexievich

SPORTS
- Fenesta Nationals Tennis Championship in New Delhi: Siddharth Vishwakarma (Men's) and Mahak Jain (Women's) win Singles titles
- India (649/9 declared) beat West Indies (181, 196) by an innings and 272 runs in 1st test of 2-match series at the Saurashtra Cricket Stadium in Rajkot; Prithvi Shaw named Man of the Match

Current Affairs – NEWS HEADLINES: October 8, 2018

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

INDIA
- 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) in Visakhapatnam from October 7 to 15
- Gujarat starts vaccination of Gir lions against deadly canine distemper virus (CDV)
- Centre reconstitutes EPCA [Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority] which is tasked with tackling environment pollution in NCR
- 5 new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force (RAF) to be based in Varanasi (UP), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mangalore (Karnataka), Hajipur (Bihar) and Nuh (Haryana)
- UP planning to replicate 'Sujalam Suphalam' drought control programme of Maharashtra in Bundelkhand
- Ramineni Foundation's outstanding person award presented to badminton coach Pullela Gopichand in Amaravati (AP)
- Natwar Thakkar, popularly known as Nagaland's Gandhi, dies in Guwahati at 86
- 'Calcutta Then, Kolkata Now', written by Sunanda K. Datta-Ray, Indrajit Hazra along with photo editors Pramod Kapoor and Anshika Varma, released

ECONOMY & CORPORATE
- to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in select districts on an experimental basis: Agricultural Minister Radha Mohan Singh
- Flipkart ties up with Bajaj Allianz General Insurance to offer insurance on products like mobiles bought on its online shopping platform

WORLD
- Interpol officially asks China for information regarding the disappearance of the agency's President Meng Hongwei on a trip to China
- Donald Trump's controversial nominee Brett Kavanaugh sworn in as a judge of the US Supreme Court
- 666 pianos played simultaneously in Wuqiang county of China create a new Guinness World Record
- 11 killed in 5.9-magnitude earthquake in Haiti

SPORTS
- Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton wins Formula One Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka
- Daniil Medvedev of Russia wins Men's Singles title at Japan Open tennis in Tokyo
- China Open tennis in Beijing: Nikoloz Basilashvili of Georgia wins Men's Singles title; Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark wins Women's Singles title
- Shooter Tushar Mane bags silver to open India's medal account in Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires
- Chicago Marathon: UK's Mo Farah wins Men's race in 2:5:11; Kenya's Brigid Kosgei wins Women's

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

race in 2:18:35
- India's Keerthana Pandian wins girls' title in IBSF World U-16 Snooker Championships in St Petersburg, Russia

Current Affairs – NEWS HEADLINES: October 9, 2018

INDIA

- sets up panel headed by NSA Ajit Doval to assist the National Security Council
- 86th anniversary of the Indian air force celebrated on October 8
- 17th Annual Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region, Zone III, held in Guwahati
- WCD Ministry signs agreement with the NASSCOM for ensuring effective implementation of Poshan Abhiyan in States/UTs
- Eminent cancer surgeon Sultan Pradhan conferred Dhanvantari Award in Mumbai
- Team from IIT Mandi develops a material that can harvest water from fog
- Wildlife Week observed from October 2 to 8
- 1st Uttarakhand Investors Summit organised at Dehradun on October 7-8

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- BSE Sensex closes at 34,474.38 points (+0.28%), NSE Nifty at 10,348.05 (+0.31%)
- Rupee slumps by 30 paise to finish at a fresh lifetime low of 74.06 against the US dollar
- National Housing Board (NHB) raises refinance limit for housing finance companies from Rs. 24,000 crore to Rs 30,000 crore for July 2018-June 2019
- CISF, BSF, Coast Guards to be eligible for indirect tax informant reward scheme: Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)
- Optiemus Infracom launches BlackBerry Key2 LE with QWERTY keyboard at Rs 29,990
- Sushant Singh Rajput roped in as brand ambassador of Bata

WORLD

- President Ram Nath Kovind meets President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon in Dushanbe
- US duo William Nordhaus and Paul Romer win 2018 Nobel Economics Prize for integrating innovation and climate with economic growth
- Ukraine holding 'Clear Sky 2018' air force exercises with NATO countries from October 8 to 19
- Pakistan tests 1300-km range nuclear-capable Ghauri ballistic missile
- Jailed Chechen activist Oyub Titiev wins Council of Europe's Vaclav Havel Prize for defending human rights in the troubled Russian Caucasus republic
- Brazil: Jair Bolsonaro wins first round of presidential election with 46% vote, to face runoff against rival Fernando Haddad who got 29%
- Two craters on the Moon named Anders's Earthrise and 8 Homeward to commemorate 50th anniversary of the Apollo 8 lunar mission
- Researchers at RMIT University in Australia create a new font called Sans Forgetica to help people remember more of what they read
- Interpol (International Criminal Police Organization) receives resignation of its Chinese president Meng Hongwei who has been detained in China
- Idiocracy — a government formed of people considered ignorant or idiotic — among 1,400 new words added in Oxford English Dictionary
- Facebook launches AI-powered video-calling device 'Portal'
- Sikkimese film 'Pahuna' wins two awards at Germany's SCHLINGEL International Children's Film Festival

SPORTS

- Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary wins gold for India at the Asian Para Games in Jakarta with a throw of 60.01 m

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 10, 2018

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

INDIA

- External Affairs Ministry launches "India for Humanity" initiative under which the Jaipur Foot artificial limb will be distributed free of cost to the needy across the world
- IAF launches mobile health app 'MedWatch' for all citizens
- Haryana: PM unveils 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his native village Sampla in Rohtak district
- Sarvagya Singh Katiyar, a Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awardee scientist, dies in Kanpur at 86
- Sahitya Akademi award winning Malayalam poet M N Paloor dies in Kozhikode at 86
- Alerts sounded over developing of cyclonic storm 'TITLI' over the Bay of Bengal and 'LUBAN' over the Arabian Sea

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- BSE Sensex closes at 34,299.47 points (–174.91), NSE Nifty at 10,301.05 (–47.00)
- Rupee slumps by 33 paise to finish at a fresh lifetime low of 74.39 against the US dollar
- India projected to grow at 7.3% in 2018 and 7.4% in 2019 by IMG in its World Economic Outlook (WEO) report
- WhatsApp develops system to store payments-related data in India to comply with RBI's policy
- Mahesh Y. Reddy appointed Secretary General of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI)

WORLD

- World Post Day celebrated on October 9 to mark anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in Berne
- India ranked 147th among 157 countries on 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' by UK-based charity Oxfam International
- Nikki Haley resigns as US Ambassador to the United Nations
- IMF cuts global economic growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019 to 3.7% from 3.9% in July
- China to sell 48 'Wing Loong II' military drones to Pakistan
- Sri Lanka: Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Auditorium built with Indian grant inaugurated in Matara
- Google to shut down its social network Google+
- Microsoft-owned LinkedIn acquires Glint, a California-based employee engagement company

SPORTS

- Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India's first gold at Youth Olympics at Buenos Aires in men's 62 kg category

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 11, 2018

INDIA

- SC asks Centre to provide details of the decision making process in the Rafale deal with France in a sealed cover by October 29
- Cyclone 'Titli' over the Bay of Bengal intensifies into a very severe cyclonic storm, moving towards Odisha coast
- Tripura HC stays order of District Magistrate who stopped publication of CPI-M mouthpiece "Daily Deshar Katha" on technical grounds
- Assam: Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) to launch Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) service from Neamati to Manjuli Island on Oct 11
- 32 cases of Zika virus, transmitted through the Aedes aegypti mosquito, diagnosed in Jaipur
- Additional Solicitor General Tushar Mehta elevated to the post of Solicitor General of India
- BrahMos Aerospace engineer Nishant Agrawal arrested on the charges of espionage in Nagpur
- Social worker Sindhutai Sapkal to receive 'Maharani Ahilyabai Holkar Narishakti Puraskar' in Thane on October 14
- Film trade expert Santosh Singh Jain dies in Mumbai at 97
- Chhattisgarh: 12 people killed in gas pipeline blast in Bhilai Steel Plant

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- UP: 5 killed as New Farakka Express train going from Malda (WB) to New Delhi derails in Raebareli
- Cabinet approves establishment of National Council for Vocational Education and Training
- Cabinet approves establishment of permanent campuses of the two new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Berhampur (Odisha)
- INS Rana participating in International Fleet Review (IFR) in South Korea from October 8 to 15

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- Excise duty on ATF cut to 11% from 14%
- Cabinet approves closure of loss incurring CPSEs: National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited (NJMC) and its subsidiary Birds Jute and Exports Limited (BJEL)
- IBM partners with NITI Aayog to offer internship programme to top performing students selected by the Atal Innovation Mission
- SBI signs MoU with Nepal's National Banking Institute for human resource development of the latter

WORLD

- Pakistan: Lt Gen Asim Munir appointed new Director General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)
- India and Australia hold the second '2+2' secretary-level dialogue in Canberra
- Hurricane Michael strengthens to 'extremely dangerous' Category 4 as it rumbles toward the Gulf Coast of Florida
- World Mental Health Day observed on October 10 with its theme as 'Young people and mental health in a changing world'
- World Day Against the Death Penalty observed on October 10

SPORTS

- International Olympic Committee (IOC) approves creation of the Refugee Team, which will take part in the 2020 Tokyo Games
- Saurabh Chaudhary wins gold in 10m air pistol at the Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 12, 2018

INDIA

- SC orders shutting down of illegal industrial units still operating from residential areas in Delhi within 15 days
- India suffered $79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in the last 20 years: UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
- India remains polio free, all vaccines used in govt immunisation programme safe: UNICEF, WHO
- Environmentalist and former IIT-Kanpur professor G.D. Agarwal, who was on a fast for the last 111 days demanding a clean Ganga, dies in Rishikesh at 86
- Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi launches book "Lalu Leela" on corruption by the RJD President and his family members
- 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) being held in Indonesia on October 11-27
- Nagaland: 1st 'Award for Peace and Socio-Political Service' presented to three personalities at Dimapur by Jayprakash Narayan Memorial Trust
- Cyclone 'Titli' hits Andhra Pradesh and Odisha; 8 killed
- Centre exempts Sikh women from wearing helmet in Chandigarh
- ISRO signs MoU with Central University of Jammu for setting up of the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in the University
- EAM Sushma Swaraj holds bilateral meeting with Tajikistan counterpart Sirojiddin Muhriddin in Dushanbe

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- World Economic Forum launches Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in New Delhi
- Actress Kajol named the brand ambassador of skin care brand Charmis
- Classic Legends Pvt Ltd, a part of the Mahindra Group, to relaunch Jawa motorcycle brand

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- Microsoft and former cricketer Anil Kumble's technology startup, Spektacom Technologies, launch batting performance tracking device called Power Bat

WORLD

- Sri Lanka: Parliament passes law to compensate victims of separatist war between Sri Lankan Army and LTTE
- Singapore, South Korea, Japan and Hong Kong are top 4 countries in World Bank's "Human Capital Index", India 115th among 157 countries
- Russian Soyuz rocket to International Space Station (ISS) fails mid-air, astronauts land safely
- Malaysia to abolish the death penalty for all crimes and halt all pending executions
- Stanford University named World's Most Innovative University by news agency Reuters; no Indian university in top-100
- A Singapore Airlines flight from Singapore to New York is the world's longest non-stop flight at 15,000 km and 19 hours
- International Day of the Girl Child observed on October 11 with its theme as 'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'
- World Sight Day (2nd Thursday of October) observed on October 11 with theme as 'Eye Care Everywhere'
- World Health Organisation celebrates World Obesity Day on October 11
- USA: Hurricane Michael hits Florida as Category 4 storm

SPORTS

- India clinch 13 medals – one gold, four silver and eight bronze in the Asian Para Games at Jakarta on October 11

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 13, 2018

INDIA

- NHRC, which was established on October 12, 1993 under the Protection of the Human Rights (PHR) Act, 1993, celebrates Silver Jubilee
- 13th Convention of the Central Information Commission held in New Delhi
- Prince Alois of Liechtenstein meets President Ram Nath Kovind in New Delhi
- Fifth edition of Dilli Series Seapower Seminar concludes at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala on October 11-12
- Sikkim wins FAO's Future Policy Gold Award for becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state
- Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra minister Anandrao Devkate dies in Solapur at 86
- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries observes World Egg Day on October 12

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- Retail inflation, based on consumer price index (CPI), rises 3.77% in September: CSO
- Industrial production, measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP), grows 4.3% in August
- Country's foreign exchange reserves declined by USD 915.8 million to USD 399.609 billion in the week to October 5: RBI
- fixes price at Rs 3,146 per gram for the new series of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) opening on October 15
- 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC) held on 11-12 October in New Delhi
- Microsoft India signs agreement with NITI Aayog to deploy AI to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare
- United Breweries Limited (UBL) forays into the non-alcoholic beverage segment with the launch of Kingfisher Radler
- Rahul Dravid named by Philips India as brand ambassador for its air purifiers

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |
More At @AJ_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

- Ranveer Singh appointed brand ambassador of direct-to-home company Dish TV

WORLD

- India elected to the United Nations' Human Rights Council for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019
- International Energy Agency lowers its growth forecast in global oil demand for 2018 (1.3 million bpd) and 2019 (1.4 million bpd) by 110,000 barrels per day
- World Arthritis Day observed on October 12 with its theme as 'It's in your hands, take action'
- South Africa's apartheid-era foreign minister Pik Botha dies aged 86

SPORTS

- Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires: India's Lakshya Sen enters men's singles badminton finals

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 14, 2018

INDIA

- Renowned Hindustani classical musician Annapurna Devi dies in Mumbai at 92
- Vice President releases biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna, a pioneer in the construction sector, in Chennai
- IIT-Madras signs agreement with Swinburne University of Technology, Australia, to set up a joint research centre in Chennai
- Ministry for Women and Child Development to constitute group of legal experts to study issues raised by #MeTooIndia

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- Auto components-maker Sundram Fasteners Ltd of the TVS group chosen for Deming Prize for Total Quality Management

WORLD

- India and Sri Lanka sign MoUs for construction of 1200 houses under Model Villages Housing Program in the Southern and Northern Provinces
- India and China launch their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats
- US pastor Andrew Brunson released by Turkey after two years of detention over alleged support for 2016 coup
- 8 climbers killed in massive landslide in Mount Gurja base camp in Nepal
- World Migratory Bird Day observed on October 13 with its theme as 'Unifying our Voices for Bird Conservation'
- International Day for Disaster Reduction observed on October 13 with its theme as 'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'
- India ranked at 103 out of 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index 2018 by Welthungerhilfe and Concern Worldwide
- Hurricane Michael kills 11 in Panama City, Florida
- An Airbus jetliner arrives in New York after a nearly 18-hour 16,500 km trip from Singapore, completing the world's longest commercial flight

SPORTS

- UK beat India 3-2 in final to win Sultan of Johor Cup U-18 men's hockey tournament in Malaysia
- India records best-ever performance in the Asian Para Games at Jakarta by bagging 72 medals, including 15 gold
- Former India captain and spin legend Bishan Singh Bedi honoured with the Dr. M.A. Chidambaram birth centenary award, instituted by MAC Charities in memory of the former BCCI president, in Chennai

Current Affairs – News Headlines: October 15, 2018

INDIA

- Assistant Commandant Pramod Kumar Satpathy of the Odisha Police's Special Operations Group (SOG) conferred with the Ashok Chakra posthumously
- 6th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida from

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

October 14 to 18

- Delhi Government launches Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme
- Vaishno Devi pilgrims will get free insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh: Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (MVDSB)
- 'The Sarkari Mussalman', book written by Lieutenant General Zameer Uddin Shah (Retired), released
- Shekhar Mande appointed as Director-General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

ECONOMY & CORPORATE

- ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company MD and CEO Nimesh Shah elected Chairperson of Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)
- Assam: Bill proposing to allow companies to retrench up to 300 employees without seeking prior approval of the government receives presidential assent

WORLD

- Vatican City: Slain Salvadoran archbishop Oscar Romero and Pope Paul VI elevated to sainthood by Pope Francis
- Saudi Arabia dismisses threats of sanctions over the disappearance of journalist Jamal Khashoggi from its Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2
- 6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting (IMM) held in Singapore on 12-13 October, 2018
- RCEP: Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership

SPORTS

- Serbia's Novak Djokovic wins Men's Singles title at Shanghai Masters tennis
- India (367, 75/0) beat West Indies (311, 127) by 10 wickets in 2nd test at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad to clinch the series 2-0; Umesh Yadav (6/88 and 4/45) declared Man of the Match

October 1, 2018

International Coffee Day: October 1

The International Coffee Day is observed every year on October 1 to promote and celebrate coffee as beverage. Observance of this day marks global celebration of coffee's journey from farm to your local shop and opportunity to honour men and women who grow and harvest coffee.

This year International Coffee Organization had chosen special theme: **'Women in Coffee'**. It was aimed at highlighting important role played by women in whole coffee chain as men, from planting seeds to processing to trading to brewing and drinking it. It also highlights need for equity and equality in coffee sector from bean to cup and that can only be achieved by empowering women to benefit of whole coffee sector.

Background

The exact origin of International Coffee Day is unknown. An event was first promoted in Japan in 1983 by The All Japan Coffee Association. The official date was agreed by International Coffee Organization and was launched in Milan, Italy in 2015 to promote fair trade coffee and to raise awareness for the plight of the coffee growers.

Coffee production in India

India is 6th largest coffee producer in the world with 4% share after Brazil, Vietnam, Colombia, Indonesia and Ethiopia. In India, coffee is cultivated in India in about 4.54 lakh hectares by 3.66 lakh coffee farmers and 98% of them are small farmers. Karnataka (54%), Kerala (19%) and Tamil Nadu (8%) are largest coffee producing states. India accounts for only 4-5% of world's coffee output, but exports 70-80% of its produce. Italy, Russia and Germany are the top three buyers of Indian coffee. In India, two coffee varieties robusta (or Coffea canephora) and Coffea arabica are grown on large scale.

Niwari announced as 52nd district of Madya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh Government has announced creation of new district Niwari. It will be 52nd district of the state and came into effect from October 1, 2018. The proposal to this effect was cleared by state Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Key Facts

Niwari district has been carved out of the Tikamgarh district. It will include three tehsils of present Tikamgarh district viz. Niwari, Orchha and Prithvipur. IAS officer Akshay Kumar Singh (2010-batch) will hold interim charge as first District Collector of new district. The decision of forming new district comes ahead of Madhya Pradesh assembly elections, which is scheduled to be held by year end.

IMF, World Bank and WTO launch Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth Report

International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank and World Trade Organization have collectively launched report "Reinvigorating Trade and Inclusive Growth". In this report all three international organisations have sought liberalisation of global service sector, asserting that barriers to these services trade currently is roughly as high as those to trade in goods about a half century ago.

Key Highlights of Report

Services comprise some two-thirds of global GDP and employment. The limited opening of service sectors to foreign competition impedes trade and productivity growth throughout sector and broader economy. Countries should open up to international competition in services provided in other ways, including through foreign direct investment (FDI) and operation of foreign affiliates and temporary movement of workers across borders for the purpose of supplying services.

The full services trade liberalisation can raise manufacturing productivity by average of 22% across sample of 57 countries with larger benefits for countries with stronger institutional environments. Moreover, service sector has enormous contributor to growth and to trade including manufacturing trade.

Improved access to services from trade reform promotes economy-wide productivity and income growth, and given sector's size, role of services productivity in overall economic performance is evident. There is interplay between services reform and manufacturing performance

Services comprise significant shares of value added of all sectors in economy and this is reflected in trade figures also. Only quarter of global trade is traded as services, on value-added basis half of the value of global trade originates in service sectors.

The trade in services sector has potential of contributing particularly strongly to productivity growth and economic growth overall. Prolonged slowdown in pace of trade reform is leading to widespread trade distortions and putting at risk strength and durability of global economic recovery, despite recent rebound in trade.

Digital economy revolution is opening new opportunities for cross-border trade and investment and this is changing nature of trade, elevating roles of policies relating to electronic commerce, investment and services trade.

More At @Aj_ebooks

International Translation Day: September 30

The second International Translation Day was observed by United Nations on 30 September 2018. Observance of this day seeks to recognize contribution of unsung heroes behind international diplomacy who work as language professionals to facilitate dialogue and contribute to development and strengthens world peace and security. It also recognises transposition of literary or scientific work from one language into another language as indispensable to preserve clarity, climate and productiveness in international public communication.

Background

The International Translation Day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in May 2017 by adopting resolution 71/288 after considering importance of role played by language professionals role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security. The date 30 September was chosen to celebrate feast of Bible translator St Jerome, who is considered as patron saint of translators.

AICTE to establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur

All India Council for Technical Education will establish country's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy in Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. Moreover, tree more ATAL academies will come at Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Guwahati (Assam) and Baroda (Gujarat) by next year.

ATAL Academy

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

These academies will provide upgraded teaching methods and modules to make technical education more effective and accountable. Faculties will be trained on the eight-module course in these academies in five months. The training will be mandatory for new teachers from 2019 and it will be necessary for existing teachers and assistant teachers while applying for promotions. For building these academies states had provided infrastructure and land for free of cost.

AICTE

AICTE is statutory body established in November 1945. It comes under aegis of Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resources Development. It is national-level council for technical education responsible for planning and coordination of technical education and management of education system in the country. It accredits graduate and post graduate programs at Indian institutions. It is headquartered in New Delhi.

Government constitutes Injeti Srinivas Competition Law Review Committee

Union Finance Ministry has constituted nine-member Competition Law Review Committee to ensure that legislation is in tune with changing business environment. It will be chaired by chaired by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas and includes Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) Chairperson M S Sahoo and Competition Commission of India (CCI) Chairperson as members. The committee was constituted in pursuance of Government's objective of ensuring that legislation is in sync with needs of strong economic fundamentals.

Committee's Terms of references

The committee will review competition regulations in view of changing business environment and suggest the necessary changes to strengthen and re-calibrate existing law to promote best practices. It will also look into international best practices in competition field with thrust on anti-trust laws, merger guidelines and handling cross-border competition issues. It will also study other regulatory regimes, institutional mechanisms and government policies which overlap with Competition Act. It will submit its report within three months of the date of its first meeting.

Background

The Competition Act was passed in 2002 and Competition Commission of India (CCI) was set up in 2009. However, since inception of the commission, the size of the economy has grown immensely making it one of the fifth largest economies in the world. In this context, it was seen necessary to that Competition Law is strengthened and re-calibrated to promote best practices which result in the citizens of this country achieving their aspirations and value for money.

President gives assent to Karnataka Good Samaritan Protection Bill, 2016

President Ram Nath Kovind has given assent Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation during Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016 under Article 200 of Constitution. With this, Karnataka became first state give legal protection to good Samaritans who help accidents victims with emergency medical care within golden hour. This law will ensure that good samaritans are not harassed in any manner and face any criminal or civil liability.

Key Features of Bill

The legislation aims to give protection to good samaritans and ensure immediate medical assistance for road accident victims within golden hour. It also seeks encourage people to offer first aid to victims without fear of harassment in hands of police and investigations. Golden hour in medical term is the first hour after traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial.

This law makes mandatory for all government as well as private hospitals are bound to give first aid to the accident victims. It also provides protection to medical professionals during their examination as a witness. It also mentions that after admitting accident victim to hospital, good samaritan can leave immediately.

Under this law, Karnataka government will provide financial help to good samaritans who help victims in timely manner. They will be also exempted from repeated attendance in courts and police stations, in case attendance is mandatory. Good Samaritan Fund will be used for meeting expenses of good samaritans such running around to courts and police stations.

Background

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

There were 4,80,652 road accidents across the country in 2016 in which 1,50,785 people were killed. Karnataka is one of top five states which saw large number of people getting killed in road accidents in 2016 and 2015. It has been proved that number of road accident victims can be saved if medical treatment is immediately administered during golden hours after accident. There is no central law to protect good samaritans. However, Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways had issued set of guidelines in 2015 following Supreme Court order for framing guidelines to protect the good Samaritans or bystanders who reach out to aid of victims of road accidents.

October 2, 2018

International Day of Older Persons: October 1

The International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) is observed every year on October 1 to raise awareness about issues affecting elderly and to appreciate contributions that older people make to society. It also seeks to raise awareness about issues affecting elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse.

The theme for this year is "Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions". The theme reaffirms commitment to promoting full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons to celebrated 70th anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR).

Background

The International Day of Older Persons was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution 45/106 in December 1990 for raising awareness about issues affecting elderly, such as senescence and elder abuse. It is also day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society. The observance of the day is also focus of ageing organizations and the United Nations Programme on Ageing

Indian-American Gita Gopinath appointed as Chief Economist of IMF

India-born economist Gita Gopinath was appointed Chief Economist of International Monetary Fund (IMF). She will take over as IMF chief economist after Maurice Obstfeld retires in December 2018. It makes her second Indian after former RBI governor Raghuram Rajan to hold the position.

Gita Gopinath

Gita Gopinath was born and brought up in India. She is US citizen and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI). She had received her Ph.D in economics from Princeton University in 2001 after earning BA from Delhi University and MA degrees from both Delhi School of Economics and University of Washington.

She joined the University of Chicago in 2001 as Assistant Professor before moving to Harvard in 2005. She became tenured Professor there in 2010. She is John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and of Economics at Harvard University. Her research focuses on International Finance and Macroeconomics.

She is co-director of International Finance and Macroeconomics program at National Bureau of Economic Research, visiting scholar at Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, member of economic advisory panel of Federal Reserve Bank of New York, co-editor of American Economic Review, co-editor of current Handbook of International Economics. She was managing editor of Review of Economic Studies.

She is currently Economic Adviser to Chief Minister of Kerala and also had served on advisory panel for G-20 issues for India's Ministry of Finance. In 2014, she had made into IMF's list of 25 economists under 45. She was also chosen as Young Global Leader by World Economic Forum (WEF) in 2011.

World Habitat Day observed on October 1

The World Habitat Day was observed every year on first Monday in October all over the world. This year it was observed on 1 October 2018 with theme '*Municipal Solid Waste Management*'. The purpose of day is to reflect on state of cities and towns and basic human right to adequate shelter. It also aims to remind world of its collective responsibility for habitat of future generations.

This year's theme aims to highlight issue of solid waste management as global issue that affects everyone. It seeks to bring change in public attitudes to minimize waste and stop littering, regularization of informal waste pickers, increase recycling and reusing, solid waste planning including adequate landfill sites to improve current state of solid waste management in cities across the world and save money to become 'Waste-Wise Cities'.

Background

The United Nations has designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day. The

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

day was established by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) through Resolution 40/202 in 1985 and was first celebrated in 1986. Since then it is observed each year with new theme to promote sustainable development policies that ensure adequate shelter for all.

Core Infra sector growth slows to 4.2% in August 2018

As per data released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the growth of core eight infrastructure sectors slowed down to 4.2% in August 2018 against 4.4% in the year-ago in same month.

Key Facts

The decline in growth was on account of decline in production of crude oil and fertilizer which has dipped by 3.7% and 5.3%, respectively. On the other hand, other sectors like coal, natural gas and electricity production grew by 2.4%, 1.1% and 5.4%, respectively as compared with 15.4%, 4.2% and 8.3%, respectively in August 2017. Refinery products, steel and cement also recorded positive growth. During the April-August period of current fiscal, these sectors have grown 5.5% as against 3% in April-August 2017 period.

Core industries

Core industries are main or key industries of the economy. In most countries, these particular industry are backbone of all other industries. In India, there are eight core sectors comprising of coal, crude oil, natural gas, petroleum refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. The eight infrastructure sectors, constitute 40.27% of the total index of industrial production (IIP).

Revised weightage in core sectors: Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04%), Electricity generation (19.85%), Steel production (17.92%), Coal production (10.33%), Crude Oil production (8.98%), Natural Gas production (6.88%), Cement production (5.37%), Fertilizers production (2.63%).

India ranks 5th in world terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs

India was ranked 5th among 206 countries in Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018 released by Canadian Cancer Society. The ranking of the countries was in terms of largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs. In India, 85% of both sides of cigarette packets are covered with warnings.

Key Facts

In 2018 report, Timor-Leste has the largest warnings on cigarette packages in the world with 92.5% on front and back, followed by Nepal and Vanuatu with 90% and New Zealand at fourth with 87.5%. India secured the fifth rank jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand for 85% warnings.

The report documented global progress on plain packaging and ranked 206 countries and territories based on size of their health warnings on cigarette packages, and lists countries and territories that require graphic picture warnings.

It was the sixth Canadian Cancer Society international report on cigarette package health warnings. Previous reports were published in 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016. It was released in Geneva at 8th session of Conference of Parties to WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)

Key Findings of report

The report has found that 118 countries worldwide have made pictorial warnings mandatory, representing global public health achievement and 58% of the world's population is covered by this regulation. Canada was first country to make picture health warnings mandatory in 2001.

It also found that there is tremendous international momentum for plain packaging of tobacco. There are now 25 countries and territories moving forward with plain packaging, with nine having adopted measure and 16 working on it.

Total of 107 countries pictorial warnings cover at least 50% of the package, both front and back (on average), up from 94 in 2016 and 24 in 2008. 55 countries/jurisdictions have made mandatory for at least 65% (on average) of the package, front and back, be covered with warning.

India's progress

The current regulation of pictorial warnings in India on both sides of packages of cigarettes, bidis and all forms of chewing tobacco products came into effect in April 2016 upon direction of Rajasthan High Court and subsequently Supreme Court. India has demonstrated global leadership by implementing quit-line number on all tobacco packages.

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

India, Uzbekistan sign 17 agreements for cooperation in various sectors

India and Uzbekistan have inked 17 agreements including for cooperation in the fields of tourism, national security, training of diplomats, against trafficking and visa free travel for diplomatic passport holders. These agreements were signed after delegation level talks Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in New Delhi.

In was first concerted effort from India to open strategic communication channels and broadened defence and counter-terrorism cooperation with Uzbekistan. Both countries also agreed to hold joint military training exercise in area of counter-terrorism, cooperate in field of military education and military medicine, set up Joint Working Group (JWG) to support and sustain enhanced, mutually-beneficial defence-related activities. They have also decided to institute a regular dialogue on Afghanistan.

Signed Agreements are

- Agreement for visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders.
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism.
- Memorandum on cooperation in the field of military education.
- MoU on Cooperation in the sphere of Law and Justice.
- Agreement in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.
- Agreement in scientific-technical and innovation fields.
- Agreement on cooperation in the field of health and medical science.
- Agreement on mutual cooperation in combating illicit trafficking narcotic drugs
- Agreement on cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes.
- MoU between Samarkand City of Uzbekistan and Municipal Corporation of Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- MoU on establishment of mutual cooperation and partnership
- Agreement on cooperation on establishment of the India- Uzbekistan business council
- Program of Cooperation between Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan and India for 2019-2020.
- MoU on for Development of pharmaceutical industry under the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan.
- MoU on Cooperation for establishment of the Uzbek-Indian Free Pharmaceutical Zone in the Andijan Region of Uzbekistan.
- MoU for cooperation between Office of the Security Council under President of Uzbekistan and National Security Council Secretariat of India.
- MoU on Cooperation between Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) and Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies under President of Uzbekistan.

More At @Aj_ebooks

Government launches SATAT initiative to promote Compressed Bio-Gas production

Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has launched Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) aimed at providing sustainable alternative towards affordable transportation. The initiative was launched with PSU Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs i.e. IOC, BPCL and HPCL).

SATAT Initiative

The SATAT initiative has potential to boost availability of more affordable transport fuels, better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste, as well as provide additional revenue source to farmers. It will also benefit vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs. Under it, Expression of Interest (EoI) have been invited from potential entrepreneurs to set up Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants and make available biogas in market for use in automotive fuels.

Benefits

It will boost availability of more affordable transport fuels and enable better use of agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste. It will pave way for efficient municipal solid waste management and help in tackling problem of polluted urban air due to farm stubble-burning and carbon emissions.

It will boost entrepreneurship, rural economy and employment and provide additional source of revenue to farmers. It will also help achieve nation's climate change goals and bring down dependency on natural gas and crude oil imports and act as a buffer against crude oil and gas price fluctuations.

It will also help to integrated CBS networks with city gas distribution (CGD) networks to boost supplies to

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

domestic and retail users in existing and upcoming markets. Besides retailing from OMC fuel stations, CBS can at later date be injected into CGD pipelines too for efficient distribution and optimised access of cleaner and more affordable fuel.

Background

Bio-gas is produced naturally through process of anaerobic decomposition from waste and bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, municipal solid waste, sugarcane press mud, sewage treatment plant (STP) waste, etc. It is called CBG after biogas is purified and compressed, which has pure methane content of over 95%. CBG is exactly similar to commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential. It has calorific value (~52,000 KJ/kg) and other properties are similar to CNG. CBG can be used as alternative, renewable automotive fuel. It has potential to replace CNG in automotive, industrial and commercial uses in the coming years, given the abundance of biomass in the country. Advantages of converting agricultural residue, cattle dung and municipal solid waste into CBG on commercial scale are

- It results in responsible waste management, reduction in carbon emissions and pollution.
- It generates additional revenue source for farmers.
- It boosts entrepreneurship, rural economy and employment.
- It supports national commitments in achieving climate change goals.
- It also helps in reduction in import of natural gas and crude oil.
- It also serves as buffer against crude oil and gas price fluctuations.

James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo awarded 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was jointly awarded to two immunologists James P. Allison (US) and Tasuku Honjo (Japan) for their discovery of Immune checkpoint therapy i.e. cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation. It was announced by Nobel Assembly at Sweden's Karolinska Institute.

Significance of their discovery

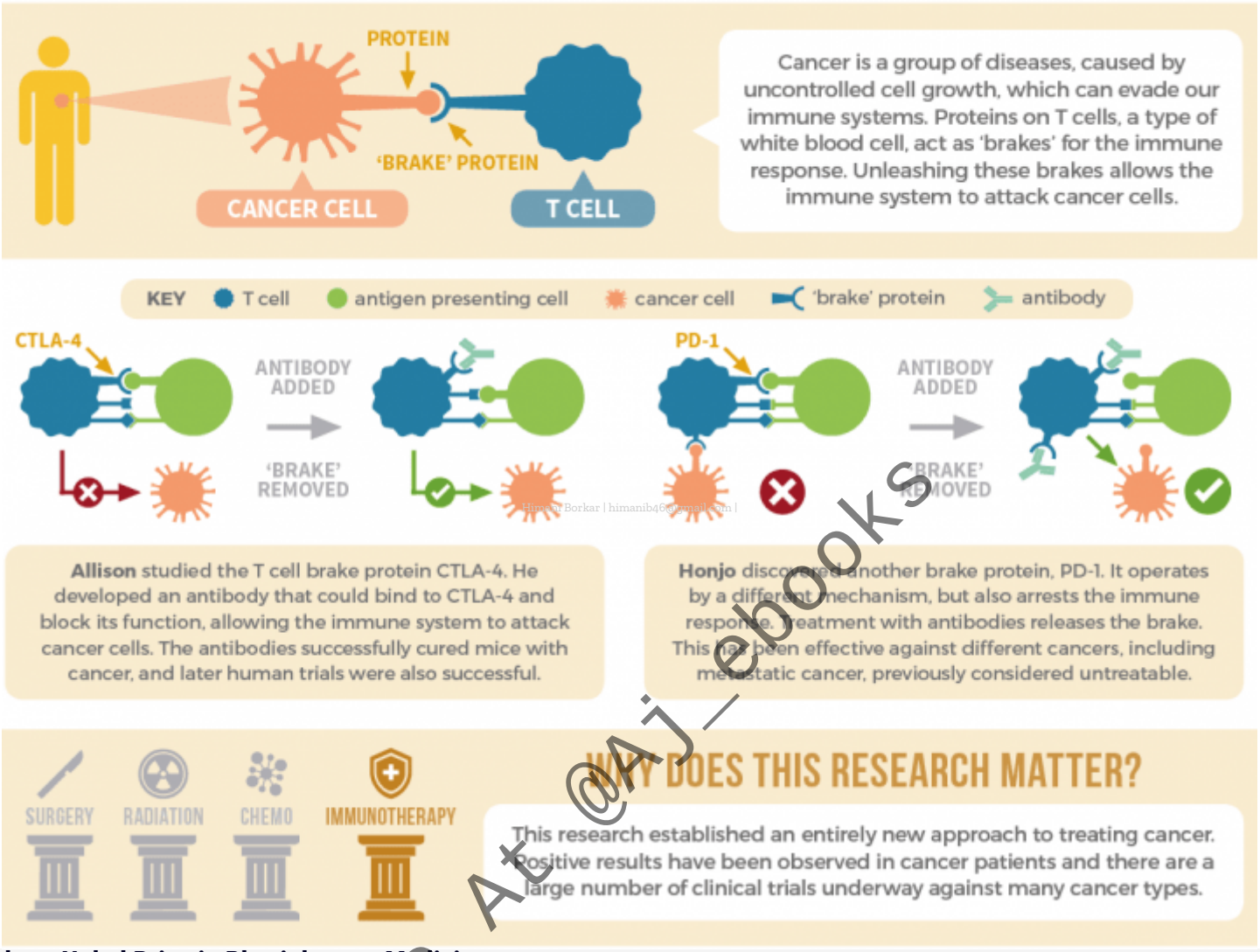
Both immunologists had figured out entirely new principle for cancer therapy by stimulating the ability of immune system to attack tumour or cance cells more quickly, unlike traditional forms of cancer treatment that directly target cancer cells. Their discovery has led to treatments targeting proteins made by some immune system cells that act as brake on body's natural defences killing cancer cells. This therapy is landmark in fight against cancer and has revolutionised cancer treatment. It also has fundamentally changed way to manage cancer.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2018 was awarded to James P. Allison and Tasuku Honjo for their discovery of cancer therapy by stimulating the immune system to attack tumour cells.



About Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

The Nobel award for physiology or medicine is given to persons whose discoveries have significantly enhanced understanding of life or practice of medicine. The winners are chosen by Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institute. The prestigious award carries prize money of 8 million Swedish kroner (US $1.1 million). Medicine is first of the Nobel Prizes awarded each year. It is one of five Nobel Prizes established by Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite in 1895 in his will. German physiologist Emil von Behring was first recipient of this award in 1901 for his work on serum therapy and development of vaccine against diphtheria. Gerty Cori was first woman to receive Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1947 for her role in elucidating metabolism of glucose.

BSE becomes first stock exchange to launch commodity derivative contracts

India's leading bourse Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) became first stock exchange in the country to launch commodity derivative contracts. It has launched contracts in popular commodities like gold (1kg) and silver (30kg). This launch comes after unified exchange regime kicked off from 1 October 2018.

The launch of commodity derivatives platform on BSE will help efficient price discovery, reduce timelines and make it cost effective. BSE also has applied for launching of crude oil and copper commodity contracts with capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Subsequently, it is also planning to launch more agri commodities

Background

So far, commodity contracts were only available on commodity exchanges like MCX and NCDEX, the two specialised commodity derivatives exchanges in the country. Recently SEBI had allowed India's top two stock exchanges BSE and NSE to launch commodity derivatives trading under unified exchange regime

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

wherein stock exchanges will be allowed to offer trading in commodities derivatives.

About Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)

BSE is the oldest stock exchange in Asia formed by eight native stock brokers association in 1875 located at Dala street, Mumbai. It had received temporary approval from Bombay government in 1927 and permanent approval by Indian Government on 31 Aug 1957. Today it is 10th largest stock market in the world by market capitalization at $1.7 trillion and has more than 5,000 companies listed in it. Its iconic building named Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers Dalal Street in Mumbai, Maharashtra has received image trademark under Trade Marks Act, 1999.

Manufacturing PMI rises to 52.2 in September 2018

According to Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI), manufacturing activity improved in September 2018 on the back of stronger gains in new orders, output, and employment. The monthly PMI grew to 52.1 in September 2018 from 51.7 in August 2018. A reading over 50 on this survey-based index indicates expansion, anything below it reflects contraction.

Key Facts

The significant driver of growth in activity in September 2018 was growth in new orders. This strong growth was linked to gains in both domestic and foreign demand. The export sales has strengthened with net gain and best recorded since the start of the year. Moreover, high product quality was noted as factor supporting total new order book growth. However, the main concern is stronger US dollar compared to rupee as it continued to raise relative price of goods such as steel and fuel, thereby raising input costs for manufacturers.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

PMI is an indicator of business activity-both in the manufacturing and services sectors. It is a survey-based measure that asks respondents about changes in their perception of some key business variables from month before. It is calculated separately for manufacturing and services sectors and then composite index is constructed. The index figure above 50 denotes expansion in business activity and anything below 50 denotes contraction. PMI is usually released at start of month, much before most of official data on industrial output, manufacturing and GDP growth is made available. It is, therefore, considered a good leading indicator of economic activity. Manufacturing growth measured by PMI is considered good indicator of industrial output.

October 3, 2018

International Day of Non-Violence: October 2

The International Day of Non-violence is celebrated every year on 2 October throughout world on birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, leader of Indian independence movement and also pioneer of philosophy of non-violence (ahimsa). Observance of this day seeks to promote principles of non-violence through education and public awareness and is observed by all countries of the UN. In India, this day is celebrated as Gandhi Jayanti. This year it was 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

International day of Non-Violence

The day was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting resolution A/RES/61/271 in June 2007 to disseminate message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness. The resolution reaffirmed universal relevance of principle of non-violence and the desire to secure a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding and non-violence.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

He is famously called as Mahatma Gandhi is known for playing main role in freeing India from clutches of British. He was born on 2 October 1869 in Porbandar, in Bombay Presidency of British India. He was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by Nathuram Godse.

Gandhiji is fondly known as 'Bapu' for his selfless contribution towards India's Independence struggle. He is unofficially called Father of the Nation. He had studied law at University College London. He later returned to India and worked with Indian Firm in South Africa.

Gandhiji returned to India in 1915 and joined Indian National Congress (INC). He led nationwide campaigns for various social causes and for achieving Swaraj or self-rule. He led peaceful protests and started creating awareness about oppress rule of British in India. His non-violent methods including

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience is known worldwide.

Some of the famous protests led by Gandhiji against British rule include Dandi March and non-cooperation movement that gave severe blows to the British government. Eventually, his fame spread all over India and in year 1921 he became leader of INC.

He lived modestly in self-sufficient residential community and wore traditional Indian dhoti and shawl, woven with yarn hand-spun on charkha. He also undertook long fasts as a means of both self-purification and political protest. At multiple times he was jailed however he continued his efforts.

NAREDCO signs MoU with Housing Ministry to provide skill training and jobs in construction sector

Realtors body National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to provide skill training and jobs in construction sector for 2.5 lakh poor people. The partnership will strengthen skill trainings and employment opportunities in construction sector for urban poor under *Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission*.

Key Facts

The two objectives of this MoU are provide employment to urban poor waiting to enter construction sector and up-skill the semi-skilled construction workers working on construction sites to skilled category. NAREDCO will ensure implementation of this initiative through training providers. It will deliver majority of fresh and upskilling training programme at construction sites. The training curriculum under this initiative will range from minimum 10 days (80 hours) to maximum of 6 months. Through this collaboration around 2,50,000 urban poor will be trained.

National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO)

It is autonomous self-regulatory body under Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It was established in 1998 and is headquartered in New Delhi. It serves as apex national body for real estate industry and provides single platform for Government, industry and public to discuss various problems and opportunities face to face for speedy resolution of issues. Its mandate also includes to induce transparency and ethics in real estate business and transform unorganized Indian real estate sector into matured and globally competitive business sector.

Supreme Court judge Madan Bhimarao Lokur appointed Executive Chairman of NALSA

President Ramnath Kovind has appointed senior judge of Supreme Court Madan Bhimarao Lokur (64) as Executive Chairman of National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA). He was appointed by President in exercise of power conferred under Clause (b) of sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Legal Authorities Act, 1987.

Madan Bhimarao Lokur

He is alumnus of Delhi's Modern School and St. Stephen's College. He had enrolled as Advocate in 1977. He has vast experience in Civil, Criminal, Constitutional, Revenue and Service laws. He got enrolled as an Advocate-on-Record in the Supreme Court in 1981.

He had served as Additional Solicitor General of India from July 1998 to February 1999. He was appointed as additional Judge of Delhi High Court in February 1999. He also functioned as Chief Justice of Gauhati High Court from June 2010 to November 2011 and then as Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. He was appointed as Judge of the Supreme Court in June 2012

National Legal Services Authority of India (NALSA)

NALSA provides for free legal aid inter-alia to all persons in custody. It has been constituted under Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. It provides services of free legal aid in civil and criminal matters for poor and marginalised people who cannot afford services of lawyer in any court or tribunal. NALSA aims to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reasons of economic or other disabilities. It also identifies specific categories of marginalised and excluded groups and formulates various schemes for implementation of legal service programmes. It also organises Lok Adalats for amicable and speedy resolution or settlement of disputes.

Odisha Government launches food security scheme

Odisha Government has launched State Food Security Scheme (SFSS) to benefit the 25 lakh poor people who were left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA). It was launched by Odisha Chief Minister

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Naveen Patnaik on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (2nd October) in four districts – Bolangir, Balasore, Sundergarh and Mayurbhanj. In the rest of the parts of state, the scheme was launched bystate's MPs and MLAs.

State Food Security Scheme (SFSS)

The main beneficiary of this scheme will be vulnerable populace of state who were excluded from coverage under NFSA. Under it, beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at rate of Rs. 1 per kg. This will be same as availed by people covered under the National Food Security Act, 2013. The distribution of rice will be carried out through e-Point of sale (e-PoS) device at designated fair price shops. In Odisha, about 78% of population (3,26,41,800 people of state's total 4, 19, 74,218 population) are availing benefits of NFSA.

National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

NFSA aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas). It converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of Central Government such as Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and Public Distribution System. Under it, grains like wheat, rice and coarse grain will be distributed at the subsidized price of 3 Rs. 3, Rs. 2 and Rs. 1. Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children are entitled to get meals under prescribed nutrition by MDM and ICDS. Under it, high nutrition food is provided to children from age group of 6 months to 14 years. Pregnant women and lactating mothers are be entitled to get maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.

World's largest dome inaugurated in Pune

The world's largest dome was inaugurated at Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus at Loni Kalbhor, Pune (Maharashtra). It was inaugurated by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu along with Peace Center on the occasion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

World Peace Monument dome

The dome has been built atop MIT World Peace Library and World Peace Prayer Hall, which are named after 13th century poet-saint and philosopher Dnyaneshwar who was pivotal figure of Bhakti movement in Maharashtra. The dome has diameter of 160 feet, overtaking earlier record holding Vatican Dome having diameter of 139.6 feet . It stands 263 feet tall with bell hanging from centre and has prayer hall with area of around 30,000 sq ft. It is supported by 24 massive columns, each 63 feet tall. The periphery of the dome and underneath — inside and outside has bronze statues of 54 of biggest names in world history stand, irrespective of nationality or religion.

IBSAMAR-VI: Joint Maritime Exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies held

The sixth edition of IBSAMAR, a joint multi–national maritime exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies was held at Simons Town, South Africa. The aim of this maritime exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies, building interoperability and mutual understanding as well as sharing of best practices.

Exercise IBSAMAR

It was initiated in 2006. It is considered as most visible manifestation of convergence of democratic values, economic interests and maritime cooperation. The last edition of IBSAMAR V was conducted off Goa, India in February 2016 and all previous exercises were held in South Africa.

IBSAMAR 2018

This edition exercise included both harbour and sea phases with various navigation and seamanship evolutions, force protection exercises, surface weapons firing, antipiracy exercise, anti-air and anti-submarine exercise and flying operations were also conducted. Apart from professional activities, sports and social engagements were also conducted.

For this exercise, Indian Navy was represented by Guided Missile Destroyer Kolkata, Guided Missile Frigate Tarkash, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I, Seaking and Chetak helicopters as well as MARCOS contingent. South African Navy was represented by SAS Amatola, SAS Protea and SAS Manthatisi along with elements of its maritime reaction squadron. Brazilian Navy was represented by frigate BNS Barroso, platoon of Special Forces and air asset of AS350 Ecureuil.

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

IBSA

It is international tripartite grouping for promoting international cooperation among India, Brazil, South Africa. It aims at galvanizing South-South cooperation and greater understanding between three important continents of developing world form Africa, Asia and South America.

The forum provides three countries with platform to engage in discussions for cooperation in field of agriculture, trade, culture, and defence among others. It also plays important role in foreign policies of India, Brazil and South Africa.

IBSA has become instrumental for promoting ever closer coordination on global issues between three large multicultural and multiracial democracies of Asia, South America and Africa. It has contributed to enhancing trilateral India-Brazil-South Africa cooperation in sectoral areas.

WHO launches first Global Guidelines on Sanitation and Health

The World Health Organization (WHO) has launched first global guidelines on sanitation and health. These guidelines summarize evidence on effectiveness of range of sanitation interventions. They also articulate role of health sector in maximizing health impact of sanitation interventions.

Key Features of WHO Guidelines

WHO's Sanitation and Health Guidelines are aimed at securing health and wellbeing for everyone, everywhere by considering sanitation as fundamental foundation of human health and development. These guidelines provide comprehensive framework for health-protecting sanitation, covering policy and governance measures, implementation of sanitation technologies, systems and behavioural interventions, risk-based management, and monitoring approaches. They also identify gaps in evidence-base to guide future research efforts to improve the effectiveness of sanitation interventions. By adopting these new guidelines, countries can significantly reduce diarrhoeal deaths due to unsafe water, sanitation and hygiene. For every US $1 invested in sanitation, it is estimated nearly six-fold return as measured by lower health costs, increased productivity and fewer premature deaths.

Background

According to WHO, 2.3 billion people worldwide lack basic sanitation and almost half of the world population is forced to defecate in the open. They are among 4.5 billion people without access to safely managed sanitation services i.e. do not have toilet connected to sewer or pit or septic tank that treats human waste. Without proper access to sanitation, millions of people across the world over are deprived of dignity, safety and convenience of decent toilet. Poor sanitation is also major factor responsible for transmission of neglected tropical diseases.

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO is specialized agency of United Nations that acts as coordinating authority on international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, it succeeded the Health Organization, which was an agency of the League of Nations. It is a member of UN Development Group (UNDP). It is headquartered at Geneva. WHO flag features the Rod of Asclepius as a symbol for healing.

PM inaugurates first Assembly of International Solar Alliance in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated first Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi. The same event also marked inauguration of second Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and second Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo). United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres was present on the occasion.

International Solar Alliance (ISA)

ISA is an alliance dedicated to the promotion of solar energy among its member countries. The ISA Framework Agreement had entered into force in December 2017 and formally became de-jure treaty based International Intergovernmental Organization. It is headquartered at Gurugram, India. The main objective of ISA is to include global deployment of over 1,000GW of solar generation capacity and mobilisation of investment of over US$ 1000 billion into solar energy by 2030. ISA also aims to serve as an action-oriented organization by bringing together countries with rich solar potential to aggregate global demand, thereby reducing prices through bulk purchase. It also seeks to facilitate deployment of existing solar technologies at scale, and promoting collaborative solar R&D and capacity building.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

IORA was set up with objective of strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

within Indian Ocean Region with 21 member states and 7 Dialogue Partners. In, 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial meet, ministers from 9 member countries and delegates from all 21 member countries participated. IORA is international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering Indian Ocean. It serves as a regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Business and Academia, for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.

RE-Invest

It is global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables. The 2nd Global RE-Invest was built upon success of RE-Invest 2015. It provided international forum to established players as well as new segments of investors and entrepreneurs to engage, ideate and innovate. It also showcased India's green energy market and Government's efforts to scale up capacity to meet national energy demand in socially, economically and ecologically sustainable ways. Globally, India stands fifth in renewable power, fourth in wind power and fifth in solar power installed capacity. India is one of world's largest green energy markets with exponential increase in demand and supply.

Arthur Ashkin, Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland win 2018 Nobel Physics Prize

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has selected three scientists Arthur Ashkin (USA), Gerard Mourou (France) and Donna Strickland (Canada) for the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics. They were selected for groundbreaking inventions in the field of laser physics. Arthur Ashkin (91) received the half prize and remaining half was shared equally by Gérard Mourou and Donna Strickland.

Arthur Ashkin: He is 96 years old which makes him oldest scientist ever to be awarded a Nobel Prize. He received prize for optical tweezers and their application to biological systems. His optical tweezers are able to grab particles, atoms, viruses and other living cells with their laser beam fingers, allowing use of radiation pressure of light to move physical objects.

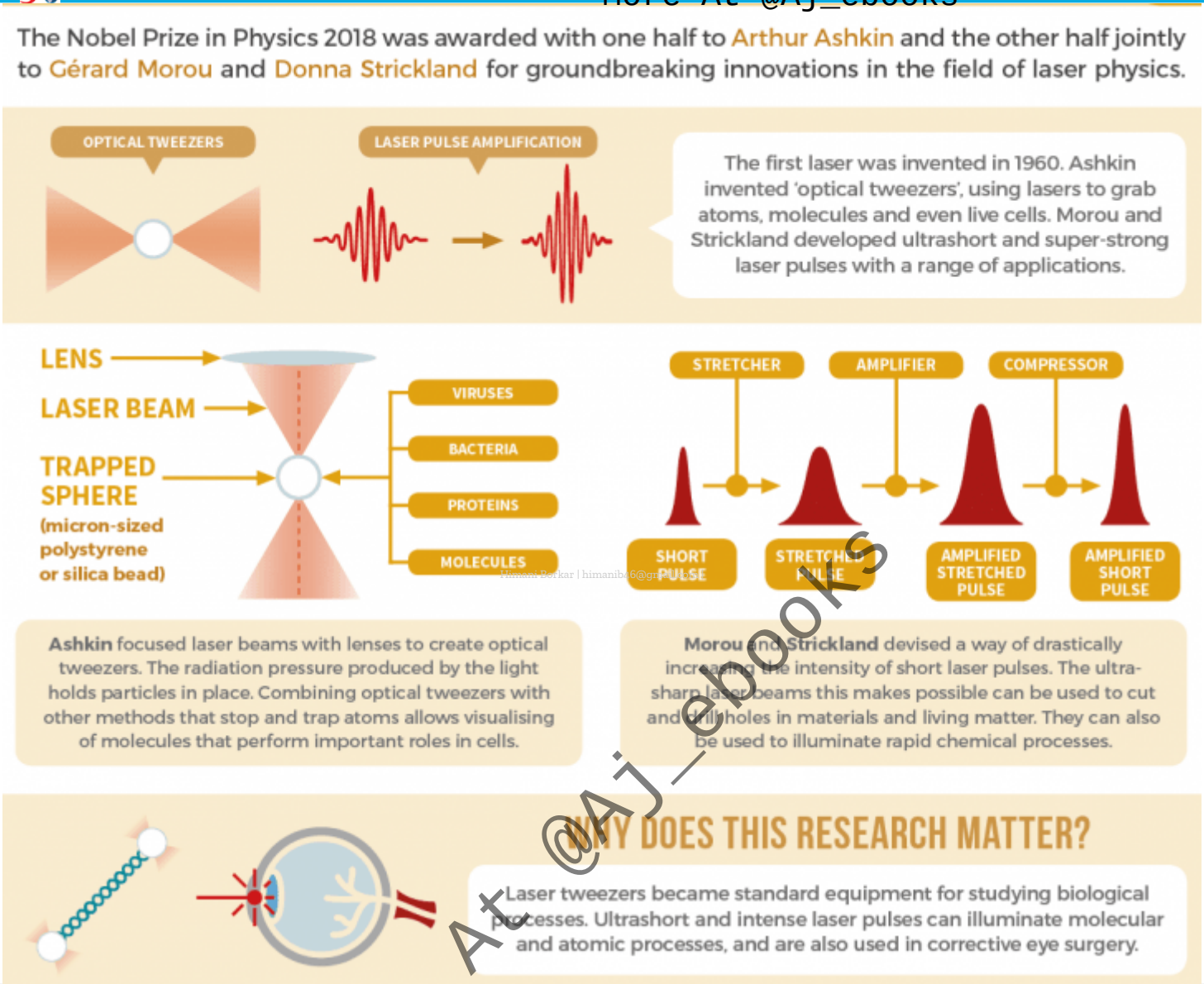
Gerard Mourou and Donna Strickland: They were jointly awarded for their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses. They have created ultrashort high-intensity laser pulses without destroying amplifying material, thus paving way towards shortest and most intense laser pulses ever created by mankind. Their innovative technique is known as 'chirped pulse amplification' (CPA), has now become standard for high-intensity lasers, including ultra-sharp beams used in corrective eye surgeries.

Note: With this, Strickland (59) became *third woman to have received Nobel Prize in Physics*, after Marie Curie in 1903 and Maria Goeppert Mayer in 1963.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks



October 4, 2018

Government inks $240 million loan agreement with ADB for WB Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project

India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed $240 million loan agreement for West Bengal Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project to provide safe drinking water to people in three districts of West Bengal. The project aims at providing safe and sustainable drinking water to people in Bankura, North 24 Parganas and Purba Medinipur affected by arsenic, fluoride and salinity.

West Bengal Drinking Water Sector Improvement Project

The project will help mitigate health risks from using groundwater with elevated levels of arsenic and fluoride that can lead to health problems including cancer and bone diseases. It will help to reduce burden of diseases from contaminated groundwater. It will also help to mitigate these risks through provision of continuous potable water through metered connections to about 390,000 individual households in three districts.

The project is also supported by grant of $3 million from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and $2 million grant from ADB's Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund. It will support state in strengthening its smart water management system, improve flood-related early warning and response and provide training on operation and maintenance as well as climate change and disaster resilience.

Government inks $150 Million loan agreement with ADB for India's first Global Skills Park in MP

Government has inked US $150 million loan agreement with multilateral lender Asian Development Bank (ADB) for establishing India's first Global Skills Park park in Bhopal, capital of Madhya Pradesh. It will have training facilities focusing on skills for manufacturing, service and advanced agricultural jobs, benefitting

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

about 20,000 trainees and trainers.

Global Skills Park (GSP)

It will be equipped with international training facilities to enhance the quality of Madhya Pradesh's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system. It will engage international TVET partners to support advanced training by bringing global best practices in TVET management, training infrastructure, industry cooperation and quality assurance.

The campus will consist of core Advanced Training Institutes including Center for Advanced Agricultural Training and Center for Occupational Skills Acquisition as well as other support services focusing on entrepreneurship, training of trainers and skill-related research.

It will also help in modernizing 10 industrial training institutes across state by renovating training infrastructure and upgrading skills courses to align with industry and market needs. It will improve quality and relevance of state's TVET programs and will help impart advanced job-ready skills training of international standards.

Government nod to establishment of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation in Sehore

The Union Cabinet has remodified its earlier decision to establish of National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation (NIMHR) in Sehore District (Bhopal-Sehore highway) instead of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. NIMHR will be the first of its kind in the country in the area of mental health rehabilitation.

NIMHR

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

It will be established as society under Societies Registration Act, 1860. It will function under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities. Its objective is to provide rehabilitation services to persons with mental illness, capacity development in field of mental health rehabilitation, policy framing and advanced research in mental health rehabilitation. It will have nine departments and centres and will conduct 12 courses to offer diploma, certificate, graduate, post graduate, M.Phil degrees in field of mental health rehabilitation.

Benefits: It will serve as institution of excellence for capacity building in human resource and research in area of mental health rehabilitation. It will be also recommending body suggesting models and protocols for effective rehabilitation of persons with mental illness.

India ranked 28th on government's adoption of e-payments in 2018: EIU

India was ranked 28th among 73 countries in 2018 Government e-Payments Adoption Ranking (GEAR). India has jumped by eight positions in this ranking from 36th in 2011 which reinforces country's progress towards digital transformation. Norway has topped 2018 GEAR list scoring 89.7 points in seven categories.

2018 GEAR

It is an Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) global Index and benchmarking study commissioned by financial services corporation Visa. It ranks governments by quantifying their e-payment capabilities based on various indicators. It evaluates extent to which major countries around world have adopted e-payment systems, based on digital platform. The ranking is based on seven parameters viz. *Government-to-Citizen (G2C), Citizen-to-Government (C2G), Business-to-Government (B2G), Government-to-Business (G2B) transactions, infrastructure, socio-economic and policy environment.*

India's performance in 2018 GEAR

India leads B2G category, along with other countries like Australia, Singapore and South Korea. It also leads in G2B category as well, along with four other countries. It was ranked third C2G category, along with four other countries, while France and UAE has topped the list in this category. In G2C category, India still lags behind at 25th place. It was also ranked very low at 58th position in infrastructure and socio-economic categories. In the socio-economic category, India was ranked 60th out of 73 countries. In policy environment, it was ranked low at 40th.

Justice Ranjan Gogoi sworn in as 46th Chief Justice of India

Justice Ranjan Gogoi was sworn-in as 46th Chief Justice of India. He was administered oath of the office by President Ram Nath Kovind. With this, Justice Ranjan Gogoi is the first Chief Justice of India from the north-east. He succeeded CJI Dipak Misra who retired from the office. He will have tenure of about 13 months, from October 3, 2018 till his retirement on November 17, 2019.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Justice Ranjan Gogoi

Justice Gogoi was born on November 18, 1954. He is a native of Assam and is son of former Assam Chief Minister Keshab Chandra Gogoi. He had joined Bar in 1978 and practiced mainly in Gauhati High Court.

He was appointed as permanent judge of High Court in February 2001. He was transferred to Punjab and Haryana High Court in September 2010 and was appointed its Chief Justice in February 2011. He was elevated to the Supreme Court in April 2012.

In Supreme Court, Justice Gogoi had led important benches that have dealt largely with issue of corruption in politics and public life. He has led apex court bench which ordered Centre to set up special courts to exclusively try MPs and MLAs as means to de-criminalise politics. His Bench is also monitoring progress made by government in appointment of anti-corruption ombudsman Lokpal.

Justice Gogoi was one of the four most senior Supreme Court judges (along with Justices J Chelameswar, M B Lokur and Kurian Joseph) who held January 12, 2018 press conference bringing up issue of selective assignment of sensitive cases by recent CJIs to certain judges in the Supreme Court.

PM Narendra Modi conferred UNEP Champions of Earth Award 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with United Nation's Champions of the Earth Award 2018 by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres at ceremony in Delhi. He is among the six winners who received this award. PM Modi was jointly awarded this award along with French President Emmanuel Macron under the 'Political Leadership' category for their work in championing International Solar Alliance (ISA) and promoting new areas of cooperation on environmental action. PM Modi is *third Indian* to *receive this award* after Tulsi Tanti, Chairman of the Suzlon Group, and Afroz Alam, a lawyer who led clean-up at Mumbai's Versova beach.

> Cochin International Airport also received Champions of Earth Award 2018 for 'Entrepreneurial Vision and for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy. *It is world's first fully solar-powered airport.*

Champions of Earth Award

It is UN's highest environmental recognition celebrating exceptional figures from public and private sectors and from civil society, whose actions have had transformative positive impact on the environment. It was established in 2005 by United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment). This award programme is successor to UNEP's Global 500 Roll of Honour. The award is presented in five categories – Lifetime Achievement, Policy Leadership, Entrepreneurial Vision, Action and Inspiration and Science & Innovation. Since its inception thirteen years ago, the awards have recognized 84 laureates.

Past laureates include: Afroz Shah, who led world's largest beach cleanup (2016), Rwandan President Paul Kagame (2016), Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat (2014), scientist-explorer Bertrand Piccard, developer of Google Earth Brian McClendon (2013), and former US Vice-President Al Gore (2007).

IAF successfully conducts series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile

Indian Air Force (IAF) has successfully undertaken series of flight trials of Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVR-AAM) from September 26 to October 3, 2018. The tests were conducted at Integrated Test Range (ITR), Balasore, Odisha as part of final development trials of the missile.

About test

The missile was tested in combination of complex tests for engagement of pilotless target in different modes of manoeuvring, off-boresight, medium and long ranges. These trials were combination of complex tests for engagement of pilotless target in different modes of manoeuvring, off-boresight, medium and long ranges. These tests make missile ready for induction in service in 2019.

Astra Missile

Astra is air to air beyond visual range air-to-air indigenously developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). More than 50 private and public sector industries are involved in development and production of different sub-systems of the missile.

It is one of the smallest weapon system developed by DRDO, having length of 3.8-metre and weighing 154kg. It is single stage solid fuelled missile and has payload capacity of 15 kg conventional explosives.

It can be launched from different altitudes and is capable of engaging targets at varying range and

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

altitudes at both short-range targets (up to 20 km) in tail-chase mode and long-range targets (up to 80 km) in head-on mode. It is radar homing supersonic missile having maximum speed of Mach 4 (four times speed of sound). It possesses high Single Shot Kill Probability (SSKP) making it highly reliable.

It is all-weather missile with active radar terminal guidance, excellent electronic counter-counter measure (ECCM) features, smokeless propulsion and process improved effectiveness in multi-target scenario.It has advance on-board electronic counter-measures that jam radar signals from enemy radar, making tracking of the missile difficult.

It is fitted with terminal active radar-seeker and an updated mid-course internal guidance system that helps missile to locate and track targets. The missile can be integrated with all fighter aircraft of IAF including Sukhoi-30 MKI, Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Jaguar and the Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA).

Udyam Abhilasha: SIDBI launches national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched **Udyam Abhilasha** (□□□□□ □□□□□□□□), a national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign. It was launched in 115 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States.

Udyam Abhilasha

The campaign will run from 3 October to 8 October, 2018 across India and reach out to around 15,000 youth. It will create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to aspiring youths across these districts to enter admired segment of entrepreneurs.

For implementing this campaign, SIDBI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, (CSC SPV) under Ministry of Electronics & IT through their CSCs. It will also tie-up with Banks, NABARD, NBFCs, SFBs, District Industries Centres, State Government etc.

CSC Village Level entrepreneurs (VLEs) will play role of catalyst under this campaign for these aspiring entrepreneurs. VLEs will provide training, support aspirants to establish new units, assisting them in availing loans and make them aware about various Government initiatives like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, SUI etc. and educate them in business literacy.

Objectives of Udyam Abhilasha

- Inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise.
- Impart trainings through digital medium across the country,
- Create business opportunities for CSC-VLEs.
- Focus on women aspirants in aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship.
- Assist participants to become bankable and avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise.

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)

SIDBI is principal development financial institution for promotion, financing and development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector in India. It was established on April 2, 1990 through an Act of Parliament (thus, it is statutory body). It is headquartered in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. It facilitates and strengthens credit flow to MSMEs and address both financial and developmental gaps in MSME eco-system across the country.

India launches Operation Samudra Maitri to help earthquake-tsunami affected Indonesia

India has launched massive humanitarian operation **Samudra Maitri** to provide assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia. The operation was launched after telephonic conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo and following Indonesia's acceptance of international aid.

Operation Samudra Maitri

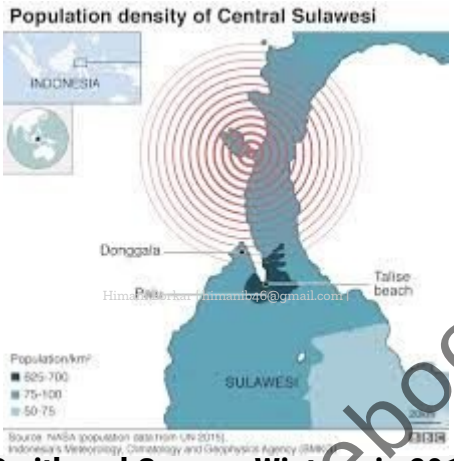
Under this operation, India has dispatched two aircraft C-130J and C-17 and three naval ships carrying relief material and personnel to the country. C-130J aircraft had carried medical team along with tents and equipments to set up field hospital. C-17 aircraft is carried medicines, generators, tents and water to provide immediate assistance. Three Indian Navy ships were deployed INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul to carry out humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

Background

A shallow earthquake of magnitude 7.5 (richter scale) had struck in neck of Minahasa Peninsula, Indonesia on 28 September 2018 with its epicentre located in mountainous Donggala Regency, Central Sulawesi. The earthquake was located 77 km away from provincial capital Palu. This event was preceded by sequence of foreshocks, largest of which was a magnitude 6.1 tremor and followed by localised tsunami which had struck Palu, sweeping shore-lying houses and buildings on its way. The combined effects of earthquake and tsunami had led to deaths of at least 1,424 people and injured further 2,549. It was deadliest earthquake to strike Indonesia since 2006 Yogyakarta earthquake, as well as deadliest earthquake worldwide so far in 2018. The earthquake also had caused major soil liquefaction in areas in and around Palu.



Frances Arnold, George Smith and Gregory Winter win 2018 Nobel Chemistry Prize

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has selected US scientists Frances Arnold and George Smith and British researcher Gregory Winter for the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. They were selected for *harnessing power of evolution to develop enzymes and antibodies that have led to new pharmaceuticals and biofuels*. Chemistry was third of this year's Nobel Prizes. Frances Arnold shared the half price and George Smith and Gregory Winter share other half of the prize.

Frances Arnold: She was awarded for conducting the first directed evolution of enzymes, leading to more environmentally friendly manufacturing of chemicals, including drugs, and in production of renewable fuels.

Note: *She is the fifth woman to win a chemistry Nobel in the prize's 117-year history. Earlier recipients are Skłodowska-Curie, Irène Joliot-Curie (1935), Dorothy Hodgkin (1964) and Ada Yonath (2009).*

George Smith and Gregory Winter: Smith had developed new way to evolve proteins and Winter had used method for evolving antibodies with aim of producing new drugs. These antibodies can neutralize toxins, counteract autoimmune diseases and cure metastatic cancer.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Chemical (r)evolution

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded for using the concept of evolution to develop proteins and solve chemical problems



Frances H. Arnold
California Institute of Technology, U.S.



George P. Smith
University of Missouri, U.S.



Sir Gregory P. Winter
MRC Lab of Molecular Biology, U.K.

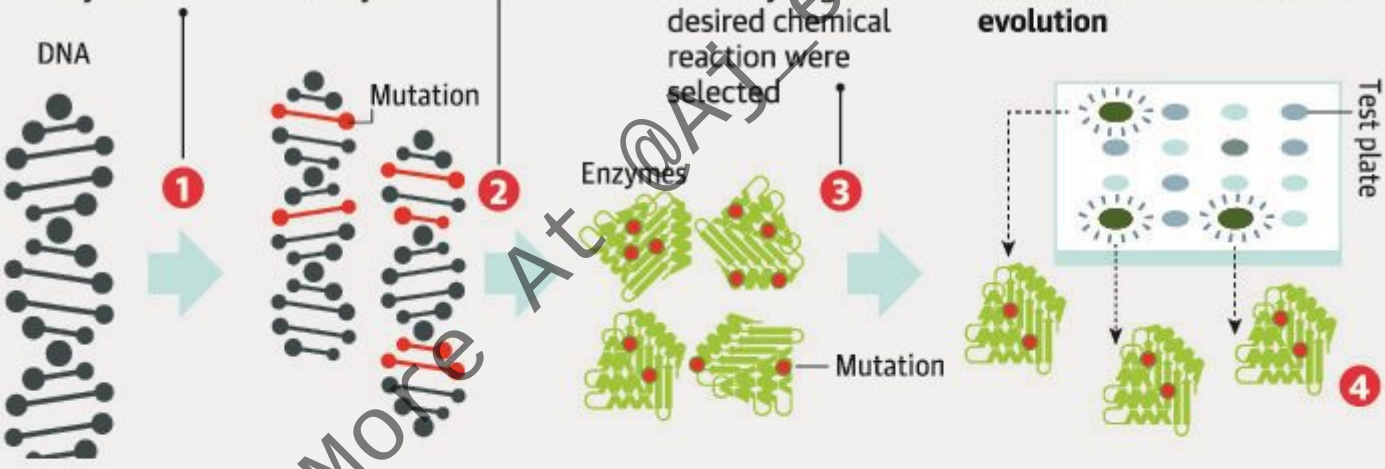
Mimicking evolution: Evolution has solved complex chemical problems — for example, fish can swim in polar oceans as they have developed anti-freeze proteins. Arnold used this concept to build **better enzymes**. Enzymes are catalysts which **speed up chemical processes** such as digestion, clotting of blood. More effective the enzymes, quicker the process. Flow chart shows how she achieved it

1 She introduced random mutations in the DNA of the enzyme

2 Then, the genes were inserted into bacteria which produced randomly mutated enzymes

3 Third, the mutated enzymes were tested. Those that were most efficient at catalysing the desired chemical reaction were selected

4 Rest were discarded. This process was repeated again and again until the enzyme which gave the best results were arrived at. This method was called **directed evolution**



Target and deliver: Smith and Winter applied this technique to create **better antibodies**. Antibodies are proteins that function like targeted missiles; they can precisely identify and **bind to the viruses or bacteria that infect us**. When an antibody attaches to them, it sends a signal to aggressive immune cells to destroy the invaders. This is how our body fights off infections. The stronger the antibodies that get attached to the target, the more effective the cure will be. Winter used Arnold's directed evolution technique **to develop better drugs** to treat autoimmune diseases and even to cure metastatic cancer

Uses: Tailored enzymes are now being internationally developed to promote a greener chemicals industry, produce new materials, manufacture sustainable biofuels, mitigate disease and save lives

More At @AJ_ebooks

October 5, 2018

4th India International Science Festival-2018 held in Lucknow

The fourth India International Science Festival 2018 (IISF 2018) will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from October 5 to 8, 2018. It is being organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan, Lucknow. This is for first time ISSF being organized in Uttar Pradesh. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. The theme of this edition of the Science Festival is "*Science for Transformation*".

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Key Facts

More than 8,000 delegates from across the country will take part in the fourth edition this mega science expo. About 800 women scientists and entrepreneurs are expected to take part in it. At this event, attempt will be made by about 500 students to isolate DNA. As part of the event, "science village" will be set up at National Botanical Garden in Lucknow where people will get to know about the progress of science.

India International Science Festival (IISF)

IISF is conceivably biggest platform in India that brings together students, researchers, artists and general public to celebrate nation's achievements in science and technology. It serves as a medium to encourage young minds towards field of science and to promote networking of stakeholders working towards the propagation of science. The 1st IISF was held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) New Delhi in December, 2015. The 2nd IISF was held at CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi in December, 2016 and 3rd was held in October 2017, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

R N Ravi appointed Deputy National Security Advisor

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has redesignated R N Ravi, Chairman of Joint Intelligence Committee as Deputy National Security Advisor (Internal Affairs). He will be third deputy NSA to National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval after former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief, Rajinder Khanna and serving diplomat Pankaj Saran.

R N Ravi

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Ravi is 1976-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Kerala cadre. He is also the government's interlocutor for ongoing talks with Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and man shaping the Naga peace accord. He has played vital role in ensuring that insurgency groups from North East have come to talking table.

Three-tier internal security structure

At present, India has three-tier internal security structure which includes National Security Council (NSC), headed by Prime Minister, Strategic Policy Group (SPG) and a National Security Advisory Board (NSAB). PM-headed NSC is apex body and National Security Advisor (NSA) works as its secretary. The SPG is headed by cabinet secretary and it has chiefs of armed forces, Intelligence Bureau (IB) and RAW as its members. It is responsible for policy-making and for follow up action in matters of national security. The NSAB does long term analysis and provides perspectives on issues of national security.

National Security Advisor (NSA)

NSA is the chief executive of National Security Council (NSC) and primary advisor to Prime Minister on national and international security and oversees strategic issues. It is NSA to whom intelligence agencies such as Research & Analysis Wing (RAW) and Intelligence Bureau (IB) report, rather than directly to Prime Minister. Due to such vested powers, NSA is prominent and powerful office in the bureaucracy. NSA is assisted by a Deputy NSA. The post was created in November 1998 by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government. Brajesh Mishra was first to be appointed NSA of India. Since the inception of the post, all NSAs appointed belong to Indian Foreign Service (IFS) except M K Narayanan and incumbent, Ajit Doval, who belong to Indian Police Service.

REINVEST- 2018: 2nd Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo held in Noida

The second Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo (REINVEST- 2018) was organised by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in Noida from October 3 to 5, 2018. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the presence of Secretary General of United Nations Antonio Guterres. 2nd Global RE-INVEST also hosted First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) and Meeting of the Energy Ministers of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) countries.

2nd RE-INVEST

The 2nd RE-INVEST was aimed at accelerating worldwide effort to scale up renewable energy and connect global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders. It included three-day Conference on renewables, cleantech and future energy choices and expo of renewables-related manufacturers, developers, investors and innovators.

The 2nd RE-INVEST provided great opportunity to various organisations to showcase their business strategies, achievements and expectations**.** It also facilitated collaboration and cooperation with key stakeholders in India, which have emerged as one of the world's largest renewable energy markets. It was

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

attended by Ministerial Delegations from across the world, including ISA and IORA Member Countries, over 600 global industry leaders, and 10,000 delegates.

RE-Invest

It is global platform to explore strategies for development and deployment of renewables. It was built upon success of RE-Invest 2015 and was organized by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). It provides international forum to established players as well as new segments of investors and entrepreneurs to engage, ideate and innovate.

Sahyog HOP TAC -2018: First India-Vietnam Coast Guards exercise held in Bay of Bengal

The maiden joint exercise of Coast Guards of India and Vietnam "Sahyog HOP TAC -2018" was held in the Bay of Bengal off the Chennai coast, Tamil Nadu. It was aimed at strengthening the working level relationship between coast guards of both navies.

Sahyog HOP TAC-2018

The exercise was aimed at acquainting coast guards of both countries with each other's' capabilities and strengthening working level relationship to rescue lives at sea. It encompassed scenario of hijacking of oil tanker and subsequent rescue of its crew in coordinated anti-piracy joint operation as well as preventive efforts for marine environment protection. Moreover, it also included interdiction of pirated vessels, coordinated joint boarding operation and external fire-fighting to salvage burning ships. From Indian side, Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and inreceptor boat C-431 along with Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise. It also saw participation of Sagar Manjusa vessel of National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT).

21 IORA Countries adopt Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy

21 countries in Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) adopted Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in Indian Ocean Region. It was adopted at 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting held at 2nd Global Re-Invest India-ISA Partnership Renewable Energy Investor's Meet & Expo in Greater Noida.

Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy

It calls for collaboration among IORA member states in meeting growing demand for renewable energy in Indian Ocean littorals, development of common renewable energy agenda for Indian Ocean region (IOR) and promote regional capacity building.

It also calls for promotion of technology development and transfer, strengthening of public private partnerships (PPP) in renewable energy and collaboration among IORA member states and member nations of International Solar Alliance (ISA).

IORA member countries also resolved to collaborate with International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). They will also collaborate with ISA member nations to exchange knowledge and share views and potential interests in renewable energy sector paved by MoU signed between IORA and ISA with focus on joint capacity-building programs, R&D activities in solar energy and exchange of best practices.

IORA member nations and IRENA also agreed to undertake expansion of Global Renewable Energy Atlas, world's largest-ever joint renewable resource data project, coordinated by IRENA. This will help in creating Indian Ocean region's first and most comprehensive map and database which can be used to tap sizable renewable energy potential of region and collaborate on opportunities available under International Renewable Energy Learning Platform (IRELP).

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)

IORA is international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering Indian Ocean, established in 1997 to promote cooperation in IOR. It is regional forum, tripartite in nature, bringing together representatives of Government, Academia and Business for promoting co-operation and closer interaction among them.

It is based on the principles of Open Regionalism for strengthening Economic Cooperation particularly on Trade Facilitation and Investment, Promotion as well as Social Development of the region. IORA comprises 21 member states (including India) and 7 dialogue partners. Besides, Indian Ocean Research Group and Indian Ocean Tourism Organisation have observer status.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks



Digi Yatra: Government releases policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports

Union Ministry of Civil Aviation has released policy on biometric based digital processing of passengers at airports called Digi Yatra. The initiative seeks to promote paperless and hassle-free air travel. It will be operational by end of February, 2019 at Bengaluru and Hyderabad airports. In later phase, Airports Authority of India (AAI) will roll out this initiative at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports by April 2019.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Digi Yatra

Under it, there will be one-time verification at departure airport while travelling for first time using ID. After successful verification, facial recognition biometric will be captured and stored in Digi Yatra ID. With this initiative, ticket booking, airport entry and boarding pass security check-in will be made digital. For this system, passengers will be registered through centralized system and will be given Digi Travel ID. This ID will include details such as names of passengers, their e-mail id, mobile number and any other identity card in case of non-basis. Travelers can also use this ID when booking tickets.

This initiative will bring benefits to passengers and all stakeholders involved in process including airport operator who will be having travel information in advance for better resource planning and real-time data of passengers within terminal. This will enable the operator to take proactive action to avoid congestion.

Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018: Haryana ranked Best State, Satara District of Maharashtra ranked Best District

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently conferred Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018 to top ranked states and districts. Haryana was ranked as best State, Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as best district. Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation.

The awards were given at concluding session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at Rahtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre. The rankings were based on the National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018 of the Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Overall Ranking

- **Top 3 States:** Haryana (1st), Gujarat (2nd) and Maharashtra (3rd).
- **Top 3 Districts:** Satara (Maharashtra), Rewari (Haryana) and Pedapalli (Telangana).
- **States with maximum citizen participation:** Uttar Pradesh (1st), Gujarat (2nd) and Maharashtra (3rd).
- **Districts with maximum citizens' participation:** Nashik (Maharashtra), Solapur (Maharashtra) and Chittorgarh (Rajasthan).

Zonal Ranking – Top 3 States

- **Northern:** Haryana (1st), Rajasthan (2nd) and Himachal Pradesh (3rd).
- **Southern:** Andhra Pradesh (1st), Telangana (2nd) and Karnataka (3rd).
- **Eastern:** Chhattisgarh (1st), West Bengal (2nd) and Jharkhand (3rd).
- **Western:** Gujarat (1st), Maharashtra (2nd) and Madhya Pradesh (3rd).
- **North-East:** Sikkim (1st), Mizoram (2nd) and Meghalaya (3rd).
- **Union Territories:** Dadar & Nagar Haveli (1st), Daman & Diu (2nd) and Chandigarh (3rd).

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Zonal Ranking – Top 3 Districts

- **Northern:** Rewari (Haryana), Gurgaon (Haryana) and Karnal (Haryana).
- **Southern:** Peddapalli (Telangana), Thoothukudi (Tamil Nadu) and Warangal (Telangana).
- **Eastern:** Surajpur (Chhattisgarh), Surguja (Chhattisgarh) and Hazaribagh (Jharkhand).
- **Western:** Satara (Maharashtra), Patan (Gujarat) and Nashik (Maharashtra).
- **North-East:** Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh), Aizawl (Mizoram), East Sikkim (Sikkim).
- **Union Territories:** Dadar & Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu.

Background

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation had commissioned Swachh Survekshan Grameen-2018 (SSG 2018) through an independent survey agency to develop ranking of all districts of India on the basis of quantitative and qualitative sanitation (Swachhata) parameters. This ranking was done based on a comprehensive set of parameters including surveys of public places like schools, Anganwadis, PHCs, Bazaars, Panchayat. It also took into consideration citizen's perception of Swachhata and their recommendations for improvement of program and data from SBM-G. As part of this survey, 6786 villages in 685 districts across India were covered. 27,963 public places namely anganwadis, schools, PHCs, bazaars and religious places in these villages were visited by an independent agency for survey.

October 6-7, 2018

Parker Solar Probe completes first Venus flyby: NASA

NASA's Parker Solar Probe has successfully completed flyby of Venus at distance of about 2,415 kilometres during its first gravity assist from planet. These gravity assists will help spacecraft tighten its orbit closer to Sun over course of the mission. The spacecraft in future will be carrying six Venus gravity assists over the course of the seven-year mission.

Parker Solar Probe mission

Parker Solar Probe is mankind's first mission to study outer corona of Sun. It was successfully launched in August 2018 for unprecedented seven-year long journey to unlock mysteries of Sun's fiery outer atmosphere and its effects on space weather. It is designed and built by NASA's Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. It is named after solar astrophysicist Eugene Parker, making it first spacecraft of NASA to be named after living person.

Scientific goals

- Determine structure and dynamics of magnetic fields at sources of solar wind.
- Trace flow of energy that heats corona and accelerates solar wind.
- Determine what mechanisms accelerate and transport energetic particles.
- Explore dusty plasma near Sun and its influence on solar wind and energetic particle formation.

Parker Solar Probe will explore Sun's outer atmosphere and make critical observations to answer questions about physics of stars. Its data will also be useful in improving forecasts of major eruptions on Sun and subsequent space weather events that impact technology on Earth, as well as satellites and astronauts in space.

The probe is designed to endure harsh environment near Sun, by approaching within 8.5 solar radii (5.9 million kilometers) to 'surface' (photosphere) of Sun where incident solar intensity is approximately 520 times intensity at Earth orbit. It will have mission life of seven-year.

It is fitted with thermal protection system (TPS) or heat shield made of reinforced carbon-carbon composite that will allow it to survive temperatures in Sun's corona. It main systems and scientific instruments are located in central portion of shield's shadow, where direct radiation from Sun is fully blocked.

NASSCOM unveils Centre of Excellence for IoT in Haryana

Indian IT industry's apex body National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) has launched its Centre of Excellence for the Internet of Things (CoE – IoT) at Gurugram, Haryana. This centre was launched in collaboration with Haryana government and is part of nationwide collaborative initiative involving the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Centre of Excellence for IoT

It aims to act as perfect collaboration for innovation and high-end technologies. It will provide one of the

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

largest innovation platforms for enabling IOT revolution through connected devices using emerging technologies. It will provide platform to best minds from industry, academia, start-ups and government to drive culture of collaboration and co-creation to find solutions to accelerate India's economic development. It will also serve as platform for intelligence-sharing and technology collaboration between stakeholders to build collective IoT capabilities.

Internet of Things (IoT)

IoT is network of devices such as smartphones, wearable devices, home appliances and vehicles, connected to internet, which enables these objects to connect and exchange data. Blockchain technology has potential to address security risks to IoT as it provides a shield against data tampering by labelling each block of data.

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)

NASSCOM is global non-profit trade association (organisation) of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry. It facilitates business and trade in software and services and encourages the advancement of research in software technology. It is registered under the Indian Societies Act, 1860. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.

It has regional offices in Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Pune and Thiruvananthapuram. The global IT trade body has over 2000 members, of which over 250 are companies from the China, EU, Japan, US and UK. NASSCOM's member companies are in business of software development, software services, software products, IT-enabled/BPO services and e-commerce.

Government inks $110 million loan agreement with ADB to upgrade rural roads in MP

Government has inked $110 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to upgrade all-weather rural roads in Madhya Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). It is second tranche of $500 million Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme for India approved by ADB in December 2017.

Rural Connectivity Investment Programme

The overall Second Rural Connectivity Investment Programme is aimed at improving rural connectivity, safe and efficient access to livelihood and socio-economic opportunities for communities in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and West Bengal. It plans to upgrade about 12,000 km rural roads across the five states. Tranche 1 loan of $250 million is currently under implementation upgrading over 6,000 km roads.

Key Facts

The Tranche 2 of the loan will provide continued assistance to PMGSY by upgrading rural roads in Madhya Pradesh. This will support the government's long term goal to achieve inclusive economic growth in rural India. It will also improve mobility for self-employment and livelihood opportunities in rural areas by improving access to district centres. It will also support government's drive for innovative approaches to reduce costs, conserve non-renewable natural resources and promote use of waste materials in rural road construction.

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

ADB is multilateral lending agency based in Manila, Philippines. It was established on 19 December 1966. It aims to reduce poverty in Asia and the Pacific region through inclusive environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. It provides finance to both sovereign countries as well as to private parties. It provides hard loans to middle-income countries and soft loans to poorer countries.

ADB has 67 members – 48 from Asia-Pacific region including India and is collectively owned by these 67 members. The non-Asia Pacific region members are only developed countries. Most of ADB's lending is concentrated in 5 operational areas viz. Education; Environment, Climate Change & Disaster Management, Finance Sector Development, Regional Cooperation & Integration, and Private sector lending.

One in three companies in India prefer hiring men: WEF Study

According to recently released World Economic Forum (WEF) "Future of Work in India" report, companies in India experiencing highest growth prefer hiring men. The study shows that technology-led job growth benefits men more than women and has found that one in three companies preferred hiring men, only one

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

in 10 companies wanted to hire more women.

WEF Future of Work in India report

It was prepared by WEF and Observer Research Foundation (ORF) after surveying 770 companies, from micro-sized firms to those employing more than 25,000 workers, across four industries – textiles, logistics and transportation, banking and financial services and retail to understand how technology impacts workforce. It also took into consideration worldwide concern that technology adoption may displace human workers, leading to jobless growth.

Key Highlights of report

Jobs in India are experiencing highest growth and companies are hiring women at only 26%. Women in India are entering workforce at slower rate than current female workforce participation. India's female workforce participation is mere 27% and stands 23 percentage points lower than global average.

Currently, a third of companies had no female employees, 71% have fewer than 10% female workers, and only 2.4% have half or more females. The retail sector had most companies with no female employees at 45%, followed by transport and logistics at 36%. Companies in both sectors also stated they prefer hiring men most, at 43 and 48% respectively.

There is overall technology-led job growth, but men are disproportionately reaping benefits as compared to women. Only 11 of the surveyed companies were eager to hire more women and 36% of companies reported a preference for men.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

The workforce is trending toward independent, freelance and informal labour that again also give men advantage. 75% of freelancers are men, and men with ten to 20 years experience are paid 30% more than their female counterparts.

It was found that participation of women in freelance work declines with more career experience. The freelance work drops from 37% for women with up to five years experience to 10% for women with more than 10 years experience.

Of the companies surveyed, it was found that 22% were to replace permanent workers with contract workers in the next five years. It was found that less than quarter of companies provide maternity leave for permanent employees and 10% for contract workers.

Pankaj Sharma appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament

Pankaj Sharma has been appointed as ambassador and India's permanent representative to United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, an official statement said. He will replace Amandeep Gill. Sharma is currently joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

UN Conference on Disarmament

UN Conference on Disarmament (CD) is not formally United Nations (UN) organization. It is linked to UN through personal representative of UN Secretary-General. It is multilateral forum established in 1979 by international community to negotiate multilateral arms control and disarmament agreements. It is headquartered in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The conference has 65 members represent all areas of the world, including all known nuclear-weapon states (including India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea) Resolutions adopted by UN General Assembly often request conference to consider specific disarmament matters. In turn, conference annually reports its activities to UNGA.

In the 1990s, the Conference had held intensive efforts to draft CTBT text and its two annexes, but it did not succeed in reaching consensus on the adoption of the text. Currently UNCD conducts discussion on Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty (FMCT), a pact to prevent an arms race in outer space, nuclear disarmament and negative security assurances (NSA).

Government launches Closing the Skills Gap Task Force

Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched *Closing the Skills Gap Task Force* in India in collaboration with World Economic Forum (WEF). It will be co-chaired by Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan along with Salil Parekh, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Infosys.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Closing the Skills Gap Task Force

The goal of Task Force is to develop action plan to address skills gaps in India and make Indian workforce ready for jobs of future. It will bring together leaders from business, Government, civil society, and the education and training sectors to accelerate future-proofing of education and training systems in the country.

Background

More than half of India's population is in the working age, thus skills development is critical to sustaining inclusive growth and development in the country. The task force will be significant step to accelerate the impact on skills development already achieved by bringing together relevant stakeholders to act collectively. It will the second country-led public-private collaboration of WEF's Closing the Skills Gap Project after South Africa.

Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication tag

Chennai based Geographical Indication Registry and Intellectual Property India has granted Alphonso mango from 5 districts of Maharashtra gets Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These five districts Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg, Palghar, Thane and Raigad are from western Konkan coastal region of State. With this recognition, Alphonso has joined list of 325 products from India with GI tag.

Alphonso mango

Alphonso, better known as 'Hapus' in Maharashtra is considered as king of mangoes. It is best known for its taste and also for pleasant fragrance and vibrant colour. It is in demand in domestic and international markets. It has long been one of world's most popular fruits and is exported to various countries including Japan, Korea, Europe, US and Australia.

Geographical Indication (GI)

GI is indication used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. It is primarily given to agricultural, natural and manufactured goods having special quality and established reputation. The goods and products having tag are recognised for their origin, quality and reputation and gives it required edge in global market. It also ensures that none can use their name, giving them exclusivity.

GI is covered as element of intellectual property rights (IPRs) under Paris Convention for Protection of Industrial Property. At international level, GI is governed by WTO's Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS).

In India, GI tag Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection Act), 1999 governs it. This Act is administered by Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, who is also Registrar of Geographical Indications and is based in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It comes under Ministry of Commerce and Industry

The registration of GI is valid for 10 years after which it needs to be renewed. Violation of GI tags is punishable offence under law. The purpose of GI tag enables stakeholders to authenticate their production while earning a premium and derive an improved livelihood.

The first GI in India was given to Darjeeling tea in 2004. Tirupathi Laddu, Kangra Paintings, Nagpur Orange and Kashmir Pashmina are among registered GIs in India. Karnataka tops with 38 GI products, followed by Maharashtra which has 33 GI products. Tamil Nadu comes third with 25 GI products.

India's and Asia's first Dolphin Research Centre to come up soon in Patna

National Dolphin Research Centre (NDRC) will be set up on the banks of the Ganga river in Patna University campus in Patna, capital of Bihar. It will India's and Asia's first Dolphin research centre. The announcement for the centre was made on the occasion of Dolphin day (October 5), observed in Bihar for protection and conservation of Gangetic river dolphin to create awareness to save endangered species. NDRC will play important role in strengthening conservation efforts and research to save endangered mammal whose population is decreasing. Bihar is home to around half of the country's estimated 3,000 dolphin population.

Gangetic river dolphin

Gangetic river dolphin (scientific name: *Platanista gangetica*) is one of the four freshwater dolphin species in the world. The other three are found in Yangtze river, Indus river in Pakistan and Amazon river.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Gangetic river dolphin species are found in India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

Gangetic river dolphin is **India's national aquatic animal**. It is almost completely blind and finds its way and prey using ultrasonic echoes, with sound being everything for them to navigate, feed, escape danger, find mates, breed, nurse babies and play.

Gangetic Dolphin's presence signals healthy river ecosystem. Dolphins prefer water that is at least 5-8 feet deep and are usually found in turbulent waters where there is enough fish for them to feed on. They prefer deep water with adjoining shallow water and live in zone where there is little or no current that helps them save energy.

Threats: Entanglement in fishing nets, hunting for their oil and meat, poisoning of water supply of river from industrial and agricultural chemicals. They are facing most significant threat from building of dams along the upper course of their habitable rivers. It causing the segregation of populations and has a narrowed gene pool in which dolphins can breed.

Protection Status: Gangetic river dolphins fall under Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and have been declared an endangered species by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Conservation Program: Environment Ministry had launched Ganges River Dolphin Conservation Programme in 1997 to build scientific database of their population status and also study their habitat quality of the dolphins' distribution range. *Vikramshila Gangetic Dolphin Sanctuary* located in Bihar's Bhagalpur district of Bihar is *India's only dolphin sanctuary* is spread over 50 km along the Ganges

Gaganyaan: ISRO, ROSCOSMOS to work together for first Indian manned mission

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russia's federal space agency Roscosmos State Corporation for Space Activities (ROSCOSMOS) have agreed to worked together for first manned space mission Gaganyaan. In this regard, both space agencies have signed MoU at end of delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladmir Putin in New Delhi.

Key Facts

Under MoU on Joint Activities in the field of Human Spaceflight Programme, ROSCOSMOS has offered ride to Indian astronaut short visit to International Space Station (ISS) on board Soyuz spacecraft for short training mission in 2022. ISS is habitable artificial satellite in low Earth orbit. Russia had first made the offer to train an Indian astronaut for the mission when External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj had visited Russia in September 2018.

Historically, India-Russia space cooperation was very strong, with Soviet Union being one of the three partners who helped India get off the ground with its space programme. This has continued for several decades included for sending an Indian cosmonaut in a Soviet Soyuz mission in 1982. Former Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Rakesh Sharma was first Indian to travel to space. He was part of Soviet Union's Soyuz T-11 expedition, launched on April 2, 1984 of Intercosmos programme.

Gaganyaan Mission

It is India's first manned space mission. Under it, India is planning to send three humans (Gaganyatris) into space i.e. in low earth orbit (LEO) by 2022 i.e. by 75th Independence Day for period of five to seven days. The mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 72nd Independence Day speech.

Under this mission, crew of three astronauts will conduct experiments on microgravity in space. The crew will be selected jointly by Indian Air Force (IAF) and ISRO after which they will undergo training for two-three years. This mission will make India fourth nation in the world after USA, Russia and China to launch human spaceflight mission.

Objectives of Gaganyaan Mission: Enhance of science and technology levels in the country, serve as national project involving several institutes, academia and industry, improve of industrial growth, inspire youth, develop technology for social benefits and improve international collaboration.

Denis Mukwege, Nadia Murad jointly awarded 2018 Nobel Peace Prize

Norwegian Nobel Committee has selected Dr. Denis Mukwege (63), Nadia Murad (25) jointly awarded 2018 Nobel Peace Prize. They were given award for their efforts to end use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Dr. Denis Mukwege: He is Congolese gynecological surgeon. He was awarded prize for defending victims of war-time sexual violence. He has been involved in helping victims of sexual violence in African nation of Democratic Republic of Congo. Mukwege along with his staff have treated thousands of war-time sexual assault victims.

Nadia Murad: She was one of the thousand Yazidi women who were abucted, abused and raped by IS (Islamic State) and kept in captivity. Following her escape from IS, Nadia Murad spoke about assault faced by her. She was one of rape victim who came out in public about abuse she and other women underwent. She has shown uncommon courage in recounting her own sufferings and speaking up on behalf of other victims. In 2016, Murad was named UN's first Goodwill Ambassador for Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.

WHO ARE THE WINNERS?

FROM SLAVE OF JIHADIS TO NOBEL WINNER



NADIA MURAD survived the worst cruelties ever inflicted on her people, the Yazidis of Iraq, before becoming a global champion of their cause and winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

- The 25-year-old Murad once lived a quiet life in her village near the mountainous northern Iraq, close to the border with Syria.
- But, in 2014, pick-up trucks bearing the black flag of the IS jihadists swept into her village, Kocho. IS fighters set about killing the men, taking children captive to train them as fighters and condemning thousands of women to a life of labour and sexual slavery.
- After being captured by IS fighters, she was held captive and repeatedly gangraped, tortured and beaten.
- Murad escaped and reached Iraqi Kurdistan. There, she learnt that six of her brothers and her mother had been killed.
- She has since dedicated herself to what she calls 'our peoples' fight'.

BRAVE HEALER OF HORRIFIC WOUNDS



DENIS MUKWEGE is a crusading gynaecologist who has spent over two decades treating injuries inflicted on women in DRC, whose work was the subject of a 2015 film: *The Man Who Mends Women.*

- In Democratic Republic of Congo, they call him 'Doctor Miracle' for his surgical skill and dedication in helping women overcome the injuries and trauma of sexual abuse and rape.
- A father to five children, the tireless 63-year-old is an outspoken critic of the abuse of women in war, and has repeatedly accused the world of failing to act.
- He had been repeatedly nominated for his work with gangrape victims.
- Mukwege has called on the world to take a tougher line on rape as a weapon of war.
- He has set up the Panzi hospital in Bukavu, which serves as a clinic for gynaecological and obstetric care. There, he lives under the permanent protection of UN peacekeepers.

More At @Aj_ebooks

October 8, 2018

Scientists develop tiny spheres to trap water contaminants developed

Scientists at Rice University in the US have developed tiny spheres that can catch and destroy bisphenol A (BPA), a synthetic chemical used to make plastics that often contaminates water. This new material helps in overcoming two significant technological barriers for photocatalytic water treatment.

Bisphenol A (BPA)

BPA is commonly used to coat insides of food cans, bottle tops and water supply lines. BPA that seeps into food and drink is considered safe in low doses, but prolonged exposure is suspected of affecting the health of children and contributing to high blood pressure.

Tiny spheres

The micron-sized spheres resemble Venus' flytrap (a carnivorous plant) of particles and has tiny flower-like collections of titanium dioxide petals of less than 100 nanometers size. It has two-faced structure, with hydrophobic (water-avoiding) cavity and hydrophilic (water-attracting) outer surface. BPA is hydrophobic and naturally attracted to the cavity. Once trapped, reactive oxygen species (ROS) produced by the spheres degrades BPA into harmless chemicals.

Gujarat Government starts vaccination of Gir lions against deadly canine distemper virus

Gujarat Forest Department has started vaccination of lions in Gir sanctuary to protect them from a deadly canine distemper virus (CDV) and protozoa infections. The virus is blamed for the death of as many as 23 lions in Gujarat's Gir sanctuary in less than month. The segregated lions are being vaccinated under

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

intensive veterinary care and as per standard protocol and with consultations of national & International lion experts.

Asiatic lions

Asiatic lions are cousins of the African lion. They are believed to have split away 100,000 years ago. They are slightly smaller and have distinctive fold of skin along their bellies. Gir sanctuary is the only wild population of Asiatic lions in the world. According to the last census conducted in 2015, the number of lions in Gir sanctuary stood at 523. It is listed in *Schedule I of Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972*, has been categories as *Endangered on IUCN Red List* and is listed *Appendix I of CITES*.

Canine distemper virus (CDV)

CDV is highly contagious disease that attacks gastrointestinal, respiratory, central nervous systems, immune system and other vital organs in animals. In most of the cases, the infection is fatal. It is mainly found in wild dogs, jackals and wolves. The disease can be contracted by lions if they eat any animal infected by it. CDV is considered dangerous virus and is blamed for wiping out 30% population of African lions in East African forests.

86th Air Force Day observed

86th Indian Air Force (IAF) day was celebrated on 8 October 2018 to commemorate its official foundation day of the force. The celebration of day seeks to increase the awareness about the importance of IAF as an important part of the national security. It also seeks to pay rich tribute to untiring efforts and supreme sacrifice made by air force veterans

Indian Air Force (IAF)

IAF is the world's fourth largest air force (after US, Russia and China) with primary responsibility to secure Indian airspace and to conduct aerial warfare during conflict. It was officially established on October 8, 1932 as an auxiliary air force of the British Empire and the prefix Royal was added in 1945 in recognition of its services during World War II. After India became independent from the United Kingdom (UK) in 1947, the Royal Indian Air Force served Dominion of India, with prefix being dropped when India became republic in 1950. Since then, IAF has played pivotal roles in various operations and wars such as World War II, Operation Cactus, Sino-Indian War, Operation Vijay, Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, Kargil War, Indo-Pakistani War of 1947, Congo Crisis, Operation Poomalai and Operation Pawan. Air Force Day was officially celebrated for the first time on October 8, 1932 as an auxiliary air force of Indian Empire.

CII, UN Environment inks MoU for environmental cooperation

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) with UN Environment for coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

Key Facts

The MoU aims to cover all major interest common areas of both CII and UN Environment. It also aims to provide framework of cooperation and facilitate cooperation in areas including environment, renewable energy, climate change, resource conservation and management, energy efficiency, water sanitation, smart cities and urban infrastructure.

The major activity planned by CII and UN Environment under this MoU includes #Un-plastic Initiative. It will begin with 'Call to Action' which will include commitments by industry to take action to curb plastic pollution. Further, CII will work towards voluntary codes in Indian industry on issue of plastics. Outside India on global scenario, CII will engage with industry forums in different countries to which it is linked, especially in Africa through its annual CII-Africa Conclave.

UN Environment

UN Environment (or UNEP) is leading global environmental authority that sets global environmental agenda, promotes coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as authoritative advocate for global environment. It was established in June 1972. It is headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya.

Odisha Government launches Nirman Kusuma programme

Odisha Government has launched 'Nirman Kusuma' programme for providing financial assistance to the children of construction workers for their technical education in the state. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik in Bhubaneshwar, state capital.

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Nirman Kusuma programme

The scheme aims to help fulfil dreams of construction workers' children by providing financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics. Under it, ITI student is entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600 and diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum. Total of 1,878 students from the state will get benefit from the programme.

Besides this programme, state government has also increased financial assistance for girl students by 20%. Female students from standard 6th to post graduation level will be provided financial assistance. State government also has doubled death benefits for the construction workers. The families of construction workers' will now get compensation of Rs. 2 lakh, increased from earlier Rs. 1 lakh. Similarly, accidental benefit for construction workers' also has been doubled from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 4 lakh.

Crop damages in wild animal attacks put under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna on pilot basis

Union Government has decided to cover damages to crops in wild animal attacks under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in select districts on an experimental basis. In this regard, Government has amended provisions of crop insurance scheme in consultation with various stakeholders after review of its working for the last two years. The amended provisions of the scheme have been implemented from October 2018.

New Provisions

Government has brought certain horticultural crops under ambit of PMFBY on experimental basis. Damages due to individual fields due to incidents of localised disasters like water logging, land slide, cloud bursts, hailstorms and fire too are brought under scheme. Henceforth, insurances firms will also have to spend 0.5% of their earnings from annual premium to advertise provisions of the scheme.

The amended provisions of the scheme also stipulate fines in cases of delay in clearing insurance claims for crop damages. In case firm delays insurance clearances beyond two months, it will have to pay an annual interest of 12%. Similarly State government too will have to pay interest of 12% in case of delay in release of state's share of subsidy in premium to insurance firms.

Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)

It is farmers' welfare scheme launched in 2016 to ensure faster insurance services or reliefs to farmers. It aims to reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of crop assurance claim for the full insured sum. It had replaced earlier two schemes National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) by incorporating their best features and removing their inherent drawbacks (shortcomings).

Objectives of PMFBY

- Provide insurance coverage and financial support to farmers in event of natural calamities, pests & diseases.
- Stabilise income of farmers to ensure their continuance in farming.
- Ensure flow of credit to the agriculture sector.
- Encourage farmers to adopt innovative and modern agricultural practices.

Beneficiaries

It includes all farmers growing notified crops in notified area during season who have insurable interest in crop are eligible. It also provides insurance benefits to landless labourers. It is also compulsory for loanee farmers availing crop loans for notified crops in notified areas and voluntary for non-loanee farmers.

Key Features of Scheme

Under this scheme, farmers need to pay uniform premium of only 2% for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops. In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers have to pay premium of only 5%. The premium rates are to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by Government. Moreover, there is no upper limit on Government subsidy, so farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction. The scheme also covers yield losses due to non-preventable risks, such as natural fire and lightning, storm, stailstorm, cyclone, typhoon, tempest, hurricane, tornado. It also covers risks due to flood, inundation and landslide, drought, dry spells, pests and diseases. *It also covers post-harvest losses are also covered.*

Udder this scheme, it mandatory for use of technology such as smart phones, drones etc to capture and

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

upload data of crop cutting to reduce delays in claim payment to farmers. Remote sensing will be also used to reduce number of crop cutting experiments. The scheme is implemented on Area Approach basis. In this case, defined area (i.e. unit area of insurance) is village or above it can be geo-mapped and geo-fenced region having homogenous risk profile for notified crop.

Government sanctions 5 new battalions of Rapid Action Force

Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned five new battalions of anti-riot and crowd control Rapid Action Force (RAF). These new battalions will be stationed at Varanasi (Uttar Pradesg), Hajipur (Bihar), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Mangalore (Karnataka) and Nuh (Haryana). With these, the total number of RAF battalions in the country has gone up to 15. Varanasi will be fourth base of RAF in Uttar Pradesh- the three others being in Meerut, Allahabad and Aligarh.

Rapid Action Force (RAF)

RAF is a specially trained and equipped wing of Central Reserve Police Force, the country's largest paramilitary force or Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) with over 3 lakh personnel. It was formed in 1992 to deal to deal with riots, riot like situations, crowd control, rescue and relief operations and related unrest. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Its motto is "Serving Humanity with Sensitive Policing"

RAF battalions are based in various parts of the country in order to cut down response time and rush the teams in shortest possible time to counter an incident. The 10 old RAF battalions are based in Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Aligarh, Delhi, Coimbatore, Jamshedpur, Bhopal and Meerut.

Single RAF battalion has strength of just over 1,000 personnel and it is equipped with gadgets and non-lethal weapons like, tear smoke grenade launchers, pump action guns and others to enforce security and law and order in case of protests or riot-like situations.

JIMEX 18: 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise begins in Visakhapatnam

The 3rd edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) commenced at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. JIMEX-18 is aimed to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe best practices between navies of two countries.

JIMEX 18

JIMEX 18 will be spread over eight days from 7 to 15 October 2018 and will comprise Harbour Phase and Sea Phase of four days each. Harbour Phase of will include professional and social interactions between ship's crews, operational planning for sea phase and sports fixtures. Sea Phase will include anti-submarine warfare exercises, gun firings, VBSS (Visit, Board, Search and Seizure) drills, cross deck helo operations and coordinated operations in anti-submarine and anti-air threat scenarios.

In this edition of exercise, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) is represented by Kaga, an Izumo class helicopter destroyer, Inazuma – a guided missile destroyer and Escort Flotilla-4 (CCF-4). Indian Navy will be represented by three indigenously designed and built warships – INS Satpura, multipurpose stealth frigate, INS Kadmatt, Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, Missile Corvette and INS Shakti and fleet tanker. In addition, one submarine, P8I long range maritime patrol aircraft and number of integral helicopters are also participating in the exercise.

Background

India and Japan maritime exercise JIMEX was started in January 2012 with special focus on on Maritime Security Cooperation. It was held for first time was conducted off Japanese coast. The last (second) edition of JIMEX was conducted in Dec 2013 off Chennai coast, India.

Government reconstitutes Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority

Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA). This comes after tenure of the last EPCA expired on October 3, 2018.

Key Facts

Former IAS officers Bhure Lal will continue to be Chairman of reconstituted EPCA. The other members of the 20-member re-constituted EPCA include Ajay Mathur, Director General of The Energy Research Institute (TERI); Arunabha Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer of Centre for Energy Environment and Water; Navroz K. Dubash, Senior Fellow for the Centre for Policy Research. Others members include Vishnu Mathur, Director General, Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers; Krishna Dhawan, Chief Executive

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Officer, Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, New Delhi and Arvind Kumar, former professor of surgery, AIIMS in New Delhi and among others.

Environment Pollution Control Authority (EPCA)

EPCA is Supreme Court mandated body tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region. It was notified in 1998 by Environment Ministry under Environment Protection Act, 1986. Its mandate is to protect and improve quality of environment and prevent and control environmental pollution in National Capital Region. It is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as per the pollution levels. In November 2017, EPCA had enforced several measures, including ban on brick kilns, closure of Badarpur thermal power plant, hot mix plants and stone crushers, and construction activities in NCR.

October 9, 2018

Idiocracy among 1,400 new words in Oxford dictionary

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) has officially added word 'Idiocracy' in it. It is among 1,400 new words, senses, and phrases added to the latest update of OED. The OED has defined word as society consisting of or governed by people characterized as idiots or government formed of people considered stupid, ignorant, or idiotic.

Other New words

OED also added term 'trapo' which in Philippine English means politician perceived as belonging to conventional and corrupt ruling class. It also added adjective bongga from Philippine English borrowed from Tagalog, which means extravagant, flamboyant, impressive, stylish, or excellent

Key Facts

OED undergoes revision four times every year. Apart from new words and phrases, new senses are added to existing words. OED records over 100 words derived ultimately from Greek suffix -cracy, meaning 'power' or 'rule'. Words like democracy and aristocracy originated in ancient Greek, but by the 18th century, -ocracy was being added to English words as in statocracy and mobocracy. In the 19th century large number trickle of such formations with many of new words being terms of ridicule. The earlier terms foolocracy (1832) and idiotocracy (used by Ambrose Bierce in 1909) express a similar concept.

IPCC Special Report on Climate Change: Key Points

United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released special report on global warming in Incheon, South Korea. The report includes contributions from 91 authors and review editors from 40 countries. It will be key scientific input in upcoming Katowice Climate Change Conference in Poland in December 2018.

Key Points from report

It clearly shows how half degree of warming makes big difference, adversely impacting global population and overall ecosystem through intense heat waves, melting of Arctic, sea level rise, erratic rainfall, reduction of farm yield and vanishing of living species.

It is possible to meet new warming target, provided nations together take rapid and far reaching transitions over next 10 to 20 years in energy, industry, land use, buildings, transport and cities to cut emissions and reach net zero around 2050 — 25 years earlier than planned under earlier 2-degree goal.

It lists four pathways to curb global warming and through which the 1.5 degree target can be achieved. In each of pathways, global average temperature is projected to overshoot 1.5 degrees Celsius target by some amount before returning to that level before the end of this century.

Each of these pathways is also dependent on some amount of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR), a reference to physical removal of stock of CO_2 from atmosphere to reduce its concentrations. Varying amounts between 100 to 1000 gigatons (billion tonnes) of CO_2 needs to be removed from atmosphere in these four pathways.

It refers to climate models that project robust differences in regional climate characteristics between present-day and global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsiusand between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius. These differences include increase in mean temperatures in both land ocean regions, hot extremes in most inhabited regions, heavy precipitation in several regions and probability of drought and precipitation deficits in some regions.

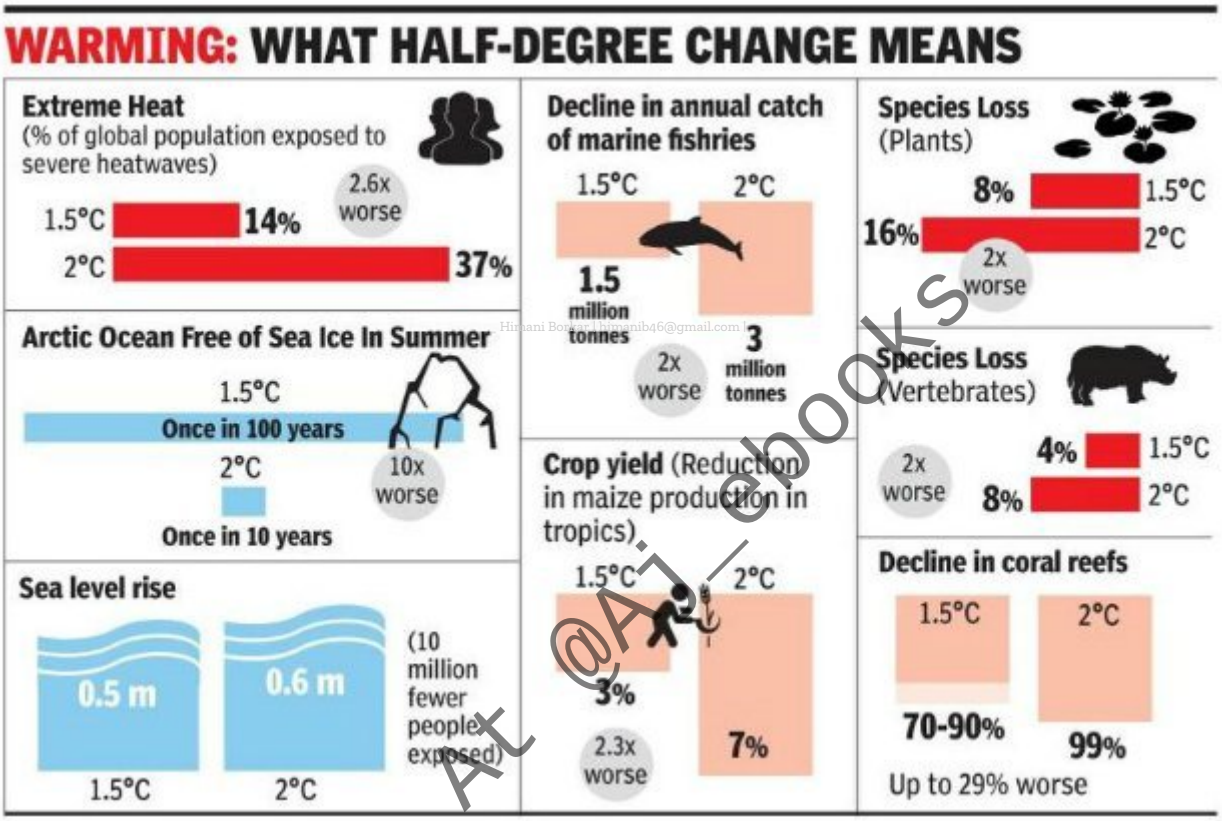
More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Advantages of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees celsius

It also lists several specific advantages of keeping the global temperature rise within 1.5 degrees celsius from pre-industrial levels. By 2100, global sea level rise would be 10 cm lower with global warming of 1.5 degrees compared with 2 degrees Celsius. Arctic Ocean free of sea ice in summer would be once per century with global warming of 1.5 degrees, compared with at least once per decade with 2 degrees Celsius. Coral reefs will decline by 70-90% with global warming of 1.5 degrees, whereas virtually all (over 99%) would be lost with 2 degrees Celsius. It also points out that climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius and increase further with 2 degrees Celsius.



Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

IPCC is the leading international body for the assessment of climate change. It was established in 1988 by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Currently 195 countries are its members. It comprises a group of several hundred scientists of different nationality who assess climate change science. Every 5 or 6 years, IPCC comes out with comprehensive periodic reports on Climate Change called Assessment Reports (AR).

Functions: IPCC neither monitors climate related parameters or data nor does it conduct any research work. It merely assesses the most recent scientific, socio-economic and technical information produced worldwide relevant to the understanding of climate change.

Awards: IPCC's 4th AR had helped them to win Nobel Peace Prize in 2007. During this time R.K. Pachauri was its Chairman.

Youth Olympics: Thangjam Tababi Devi clinches India's first judo medal at Olympics

Thangjam Tababi Devi (16) became India's first judo medallist at the Olympic level. She achieved this feat after winning silver medal at ongoing Youth Olympics Games in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. She won the medal after losing to Venezuela's Maria Giminez in the finals of the women's 44kg category. Prior to this, India had never won Olympic medal in judo either at senior or youth level. Her silver medal is so far India's second medal at ongoing games after shooter Tushar Mane had won silver medal (second

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

position) in men's 10m air rifle competition. Tababi Devi hails from northeastern state of Manipur.

Youth Olympic Games (YOG)

It is international multi-sport event organized by International Olympic Committee (IOC). The age limitation of the athletes participating in it is 14 to 18.The games are held every four years in staggered summer and winter events consistent with current senior lever Olympic Games format. The first summer version was held in Singapore from 14 to 26 August 2010 while first winter version was held in Innsbruck, Austria from 13 to 22 January 2012. India had won just two medals, silver and bronze in the last Youth Olympics in 2014 held in Nanjing, China. India. India's best performance at this games came was in inaugural edition in 2010 when it had won six silver and two bronze medals. In this edition of games (Buenos Aires YOG 2018), India is being represented by 47 athletes, its biggest ever contingent.

Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga wins India's maiden gold medal at Youth Olympic Games

Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga (15) won India's maiden gold medal at 2018 Youth Olympic Games being held in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina. He won the medal in in the men's 62 kg category by lifting total of 274 kg (124 kg +150 kg) weight to finish on top. The silver medal was won by Turkey's Toptas Caner, who lifted 263 kg (122 kg + 141 kg) and bronze medal to Colombia's Villar Estiven Jose who lifted 260 kg (115 kg + 143 kg). So far this was India's fourth medal in ongoing2018 Youth Olympic Games, which include three silver medals earlier won by Tushar Mane (10m Air Rifle), Tababi Devi (44kg Judo) and Mehuli Ghosh (10m Air Rifle).

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Jeremy Lalrinnunga

Born on 26 October 2002 in Aizwal, Mizoram. He had started weightlifting at the age of 10. He had started his training with Indian Army at Army Sports Institute in Pune, Maharashtra. In 2018, he broke two National Records claiming Bronze medal (Junior) and Silver medal (Youth) in Asian Championships.

Achievements

- 2017: Gold (Commonwealth Youth Championships Gold Coast)
- 2017: Gold (Commonwealth Junior Championship Gold Coast)
- 2016: Silver (IWF Youth World Championships Penang)

ESIC wins ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia and Pacific 2018

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) was awarded ISSA (International Social Security Association) ISSA Good Practice Award for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and Pacific held at Kuala Lumpur, capital Malaysia.

The award was given to ESIC in recognition of its measures taken for extension of coverage Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees (SPREE), reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas and raising wage limit for coverage under ESI Act, etc.

Key Facts

Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific is triennial (held every three year) forum that provides unique opportunities to CEOs and Managers of ISSA Member Institutions to discuss key social security challenges and share their experiences. It is most important social security event in Asia-Pacific region. For this forum, ISSA invites submissions for ISSA Good Practices Award for Asia and Pacific Regions.

International Social Security Association (ISSA)

It is principal international organization for Social Security Organizations, Governments and Departments of Social Security. It was founded in 1927 under auspices of International Labour Organization (ILO). It has its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland in ILO. Its mandate is to promotes excellence in social security administration through professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services and support to enable its Members to develop dynamic social security systems. ISSA has more than 330 member organizations in 158 countries.

Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)

ESIC is autonomous corporation under Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, which manages employee's state insurance i.e. self-financing social security and health insurance scheme for Indian workers. It is statutory body established under Employees State Insurance Act, 1948. It is headquartered in New Delhi. ESIC hosts ISSA Liaison Office for South Asia in New Delhi. This liasion office coordinates

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

with member countries and social security institutions in Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Iran on activities of ISSA related to social security.

Bangladesh enacts Digital Security Bill, 2018

Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid has given his assent controversial Digital Security Bill, 2018, by enacting it as a law. This new law combines previous colonial-era Official Secrets Act with tough new provisions such as arrests without warrant. Bangladesh Government led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (Bangladesh Awami League) has defended the digital law as necessary to combat cyber crime

Digital Security Bill 2018

It was passed by Bangladesh's Parliament to deal with cybercrimes, including hurting religious sentiment, spreading negative propaganda against 1971 Liberation War and Bangabandhu (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman). It also covers illegal activities in e-transactions and spreading defamatory data under its ambit

It provides for minimum of 7 years and a maximum of 14 years' imprisonment, as well as monetary fines of a minimum of Taka 25 lakh and maximum of Taka 1 crore, or both for illegal access and destruction of any important information related to state affairs.

Opposition to law

The law has faced widespread vocal opposition from rights groups and journalists that it could endanger freedom of speech– especially on social media. These groups are saying that this law will create atmosphere of fear and intimidation, which will make journalism and especially investigative journalism, virtually impossible. Opponents also have criticized digital law as latest authoritarian move by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The law has also drawn opposition internationally including from US ambassador to Bangladesh, Marcia Bernicat who had quoted that this law could be used to suppress and criminalise free speech which inturn could be detrimental to Bangladesh's democracy, development and prosperity.

Government reconstitutes Security Policy Group under NSA to assist National Security Council

Union Government has reconstituted Security Policy Group (SPG) under chairmanship of National Security Advisor to assist National Security Council (NSC) in strategising on matters dealing with external, internal and economic security of the country.

Security Policy Group (SPG)

SPG will be principal mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination and integration of relevant inputs in the formulation of national security policies. It will undertake among other tasks including long-term strategic review of country's security affairs.

Composition of SPG

It will be 16-member body *chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.* Its members will include NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Cabinet Secretary, Chiefs of the three defence services, RBI governor, foreign secretary, home secretary, finance secretary and defence secretary.

It will also include secretary of Department of Defence Production and Supplies, scientific adviser to Defence Minister and secretary (R), Cabinet Secretariat; Secretary, Department of Revenue; secretary, Department of Atomic Energy; Director, Intelligence Bureau and secretary, Secretary, Department of Space; National Security Council Secretariat.

SPG Meetings

NSA will convene meetings of SPG and cabinet secretary will coordinate implementation of its decisions by Union Ministries and Departments and state governments. SPG can invite representatives of other ministries and departments to its meetings as and when necessary.

Background

SPG mechanism was first notified in April 1999 during regime of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and later was functioning in previous UPA government too. It was recommended by committee which was set up to look into lapses during Kargil. Earlier, it was then chaired by Cabinet Secretary, the most senior bureaucrat in the government.

Comment

The reconstitution of SPG puts NSA at top of national security strategy set-up. It also comes close on heels of decision to set up Defence Planning Committee (DPC), a new strategic think-tank under chairmanship of NSA to formulate national military and security strategy and oversee defence acquisitions from abroad.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

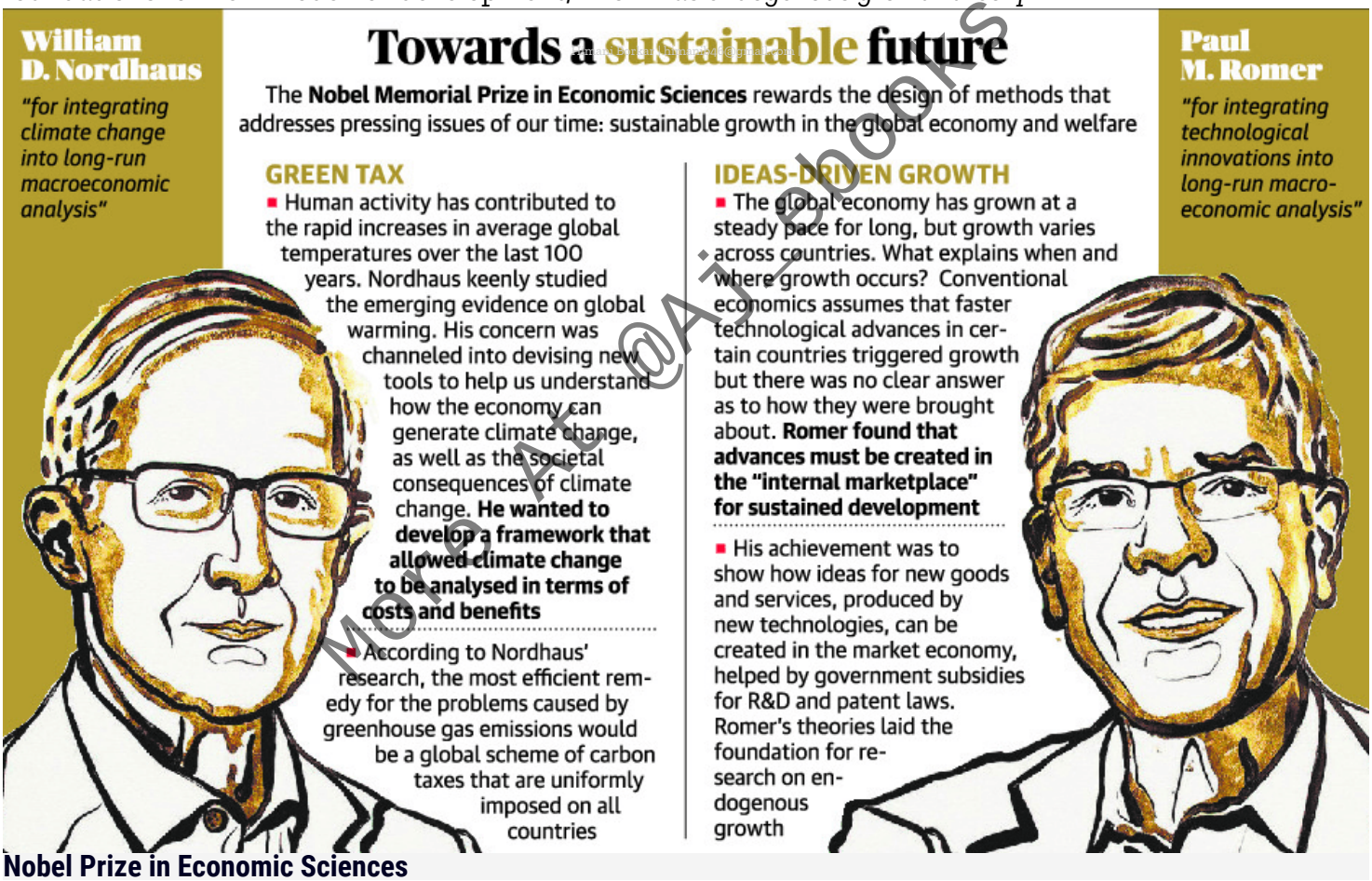
This makes NSA is all-time powerful now and concentrates too much centralised power in one command centre.

William Nordhaus, Paul Romer awarded 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics

American economists William Nordhaus and Paul Romer were jointly awarded 2018 Nobel Prize in Economics Sciences for integrating climate change and technological innovation into macroeconomic analysis. Their findings have significantly broadened scope of economic analysis by constructing models that explain how market economy interacts with nature and knowledge. Their studies has helped to address some of current time's most basic and pressing questions about creating long-term sustained and sustainable growth.

William Nordhaus: He is professor at Yale University. He was first person to create economic model that describes global interplay between economy and the climate in the 1990s. This model had showed that the most efficient remedy for problems caused by greenhouse gases is a global scheme of universally imposed carbon taxes.

Paul Romer: He is professor at New York University's Stern School of Business. He has showed that how economic forces govern willingness of firms to produce new ideas and innovations. This had laid foundations for new model for development, known as *endogenous growth theory*.



Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences

Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences is officially *called Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel*. It was not part of original group of awards (Chemistry, Literature, Peace, Physics, and Physiology or Medicine) set out in dynamite tycoon Alfred Nobel's 1895 will. It was instituted in 1968 by Sveriges Riksbank (Sweden's central bank).

It is awarded annually by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences according to the same principles as for Nobel Prizes. The five Nobel Prizes are based on fund set up from wealth bequeathed by Alfred Nobel, whereas Economic Prize is based on donation received by Nobel Foundation in 1968 from Sveriges Riksbank.

Although not a Nobel Prize, this award is recognised as most prestigious award in the subject. It has been awarded 50 times since 1969. Indian economist *Amartya Sen is only Indian* so far to win this prize in 1998 for his contributions to welfare economics. *Elinor Ostrom is only woman* to win this award so far in 2009,

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

she had shared it with fellow-American Paul Krugman.

October 10, 2018

SEBI allows foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market

Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has allowed foreign entities to participate in commodity derivatives market of stock exchanges for hedging their exposures. Prior to this, foreign entities were not permitted to directly participate in Indian commodity derivatives market, even if they imported or exported various commodities from and to India.

Key Facts

The foreign entities participating in Indian commodity markets shall be known as eligible foreign entities (EFEs). They will be eligible for all commodity derivatives traded on Indian exchanges except for those contracts defined as sensitive commodity. All eligible EFEs are mandated to have actual exposure to Indian physical commodity markets with minimum net worth requirement of $500,000. They are also required to fulfil know-your-client (KYC) requirements mandated by Indian anti-money laundering laws in line with equivalent category of foreign portfolio investors (FPIs). The hedge limits for EFEs will be determined on merits, depending on applicant's actual exposure to commodity, hedging requirement and other factors.

Significance: This move will increase liquidity, especially in those commodities like guar gum, guar seed, mustard seeds and cardamom that are not traded in other international exchanges. It will also expand participation of foreign entities in metals commodities. Moreover, actual exposure foreign entities to various commodities in Indian market also makes them valuable stakeholders in value chain of such commodities and also exposes them to price uncertainty of Indian commodity markets.

Commodity Market

It is physical or virtual marketplace for buying, selling and trading raw or primary products. Thus, it is market that trades in primary economic sector rather than manufactured products. Commodities in this market are split into two types: *hard and soft commodities*. Hard commodities are typically natural resources that must be mined or extracted (such as gold, oil), whereas soft commodities are agricultural products or livestock (such as, wheat, cotton, corn, coffee, sugar, soybeans and pork). In India commodity market is market where different commodities are traded on its derivative contract. Derivatives are contract whose value is derived from underlying asset or contract where delivery of security or commodity held on specific future date. The main purpose of commodity derivative is to reduce risk of future price uncertainty and provide industry knowledge as well investment opportunity to general investor.

Government exempts devices operating in low frequency range from licensing norms

Department of Telecom (DoT) has exempted wireless devices that operate in low frequency range like bluetooth, wireless chargers, internet-of-things (IoT) products, medical devices etc. from licensing requirement. The move aimed at facilitating ease of doing business for adoption of new technologies like IoT, machine-to-machine (M2M) communications both in industrial and consumer applications.

Key Facts

Henceforth, no licence will be required by any person to establish, maintain, work, possess or deal in any wireless equipment for purpose of usage of very low power radio frequency devices or equipments. It will be application for inductive applications in frequency bands of 302 to 435 KHz (kilohertz), 855 to 1050 KHz and 1.89 to 2.31 MHz on non-interference, non-protection and shared (non-exclusive) basis.

Department of Telecom (DoT)

It is nodal department of Ministry of Communications. It is headquartered in New Delhi. It is responsible for formulating developmental policies aimed at accelerating growth of telecommunication services in the country. It is also grants licenses for various telecom services like Unified Access Service Internet and VSAT service. It is also responsible for frequency management in field of radio communication in close coordination with international bodies. It also enforces wireless regulatory measures by monitoring wireless transmission of all users in the country.

PM unveils 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Chhotu Ram in Rohtak, Haryana

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled a 64-foot-tall statue of peasant leader Sir Chhotu Ram at his

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

native village Sampla in Rohtak district of Haryana. The statue has been sculpted by renowned sculptor and Padma Bhushan-recipient Ram Vanji Sutar. Around 5,500 farmers from Haryana had donated iron metal, ranging from from half-a-kg to two kgs for construction of the statue.

Sir Chhotu Ram

Born on November 24, 1881 as Ram Richpal in Garhi-Sampla, Rohtak in then Punjab, British India (now in Haryana) and died on 9 January 1945 (aged 63) in Lahore, then Punjab, British India (now in Pakistan). He is regarded as messiah of peasants and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre-Independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted. He had fought for farmers' rights during the British rule.

He was ideologue of peasants of pre-Independent India and championed interest and cause of oppressed peasants of Indian Sub-continent. For this feat, he was knighted (given title of Sir) in 1937. On political front, he was co-founder of National Unionist Party ((Zamindara League)) which ruled United Panjab Province in pre Independent India and kept Congress and Muslim League away from power. He was popularly known as Deen Bandhu (in Urdu as Rahbare Azam, which translates as messiah of poor).

World Post Day: October 9

World Post Day is observed every year on October 9 to spread awareness about the postal services and their role in the everyday lives of people and businesses. The day is celebrated to mark anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. The 2018 theme is: "*Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?*".

World Post Day was instituted at Universal Postal Union (UPU) Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. In India, this day is celebrated by Department of Posts. For more than 150 years, India Post has been the backbone of the country's communication network. It is the largest postal network in the world providing mail parcel, banking, money transfer, insurance and retail services.

Universal Postal Union (UPU)

UPU is specialized agency of United Nations that coordinates postal policies among member nations, in addition to worldwide postal system. It was established in 1874 and is second oldest international organization worldwide after International Telecommunication Union (ITU) which was established in 1865. It is headquartered in Berne, Switzerland. It has 192 member countries. UPU is primary forum for cooperation between postal sector players among member countries. It helps to ensure truly universal network of up-to-date products and services. It sets rules for international mail exchanges and makes recommendations for growth in mail, financial and parcel services volumes and also to improve quality of service for customers.

China to sell 48 Wing Loong II military drones to Pakistan

China has agreed to sale 48 Wing Loong II high-end armed drones to its all-weather ally Pakistan. This is China's largest export deal for drones to date to any country. The cost of this deal with Pakistan and or when the drones will be delivered were not revealed. Total of 48 Wing Loong II UAVs will be jointly built by China's Chengdu Aircraft Corp (CAC) and Pakistan Aeronautical Complex (PAC) Karma. China also has reportedly sold this unmanned aerial system to countries like UAE and Egypt at estimated $1 million per unit. It has also sold the Wing Loong I to Indonesia, Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates.

Wing Loong II

It is a high-end reconnaissance, strike and multi-role endurance unmanned aerial system, capable of being fitted with air-to-surface weapons. It is manufactured by Chengdu Aircraft Industrial (Group) Company. It had made its maiden flight in February 2017. It is upgraded version of Wing Loong I unmanned aerial system.

It is designed for *both reconnaissance and strike missions*. It is 11 metres long and has wingspan of 20.5 metres. It can payload up to 480kg (1,060lbs), including 12 laser guided missiles or YJ-9E anti-ship missiles. It is powered by turboprops and can fly for up to 20 hours at speeds of 150-370km/h. It can fly at maximum altitude of 9,000 metres (29,500 feet).

Its system is composed of ground station and various numbers of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). It has capability to attack and destroy stationary targets, moving targets, time sensitive targets and air-ground coordination. It is roughly equivalent to American MQ-9 Reaper drone. But US drones like MQ-1 Predator and MQ-9 Reaper are technologically more advanced compared this Chinese drone.

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

China-Pakistan Defence Relations

China is the largest supplier of weapon system to the Pakistan Army. It accounted for 70 % of Pakistan's arms purchases in 2013-17 period, up from 45% in the previous five years, although sales by volume changed little. Both countries also jointly manufacture JF-Thunder a single engine multi-role combat aircraft. This aircraft has been in mass production in Pakistan and sold to Myanmar and Nigeria. Pakistan has also produced its own drone named Burraq which had made its first flight in 2015 and is believed to have been based on China's multi-purpose medium-range CH-3 drone system.

External Affairs Ministry launches India for Humanity initiative

Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has launched *India for Humanity initiative* to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and honour of his service to humanity. It will feature year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning globe.

India for Humanity initiative

The larger aim of this initiative is to provide physical, economic and social rehabilitation of differently-abled around world by helping them regain their mobility and dignity to become self-respecting and productive members of society. It focuses on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of compassion, caring and service to humanity.

For this initative, MEA has collaborated with renowned charitable organisation Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS). The artificial limb fitment camps under this initative will be initially held in 12 countries identified through missions with financial support of central government. *It will be fully sponsored by the MEA.*

Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti (BMVSS)

It is non-profit organization founded by DR Mehta in 1975. It is better known by its trademark limb 'Jaipur Foot'. It is world's largest organization for handicapped in terms of fitment of artificial limb, calipers etc, providing them with artificial limbs, crutches, calipers, ambulatory aids like wheel chairs, and other aids and appliances totally free of cost. It has served over 1.73 million amputees till date.

Environment Ministry, World Bank release report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country

Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) and World Bank Report have jointly released report on Strengthening Forest Fire Management in the Country. The report discusses policies on forest fire prevention and management (FFPM) at national, state and local levels. It also underscores need for comprehensive national policy and guidelines. It provides recommendations on five broad themes – policy, institutions and capacity, technology, community engagement and data and information. It has analysed patterns and trends of forest fires in India and looks at national and international best practices in FFPM.

Key Points from report

Forest fires are leading cause of forest degradation in India. Forest fires occur every year in almost every state in India and some districts have been found to be more vulnerable than others. In fact, just 20 districts (mostly located in Northeast India) account for over 40% of all forest fires detected between 2003 and 2016. Similarly, top-20 districts (mainly in Central India) account for about 48% of total fire-affected area, while having just 12% of the country's forest cover in the year 2000 and 7% of its land area.

Reasons for forest fire: Like in other parts of the world, people are main driver of fires in India and forest fires are distributed close to people and infrastructure. But over longer term, shifts in climate caused by anthropogenic global warming may further alter India's forest landscape and fire regime.

Relation with Monsoon: India's monsoons are largely responsible for seasonal nature of forest fires in the country. Forest fires peak during dry months of March or April before arrival of monsoon. The fire season mainly occurs during the four-month period between February 15 and May 15. However it has not clear how drying of monsoon due to reduced contrast in land-sea temperatures (which has weakened engine that drives monsoon) has affected intensity or frequency of forest fires.

Region distribution: Forest fires in Northeast are concentrated in smaller area that is subject to repeat burning. The peak fire season is most concentrated (shortest) in Northeast and Northern state of Bihar. Fires in other regions, particularly districts in Central and Southern India are more expansive. Districts

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

experiencing widespread and frequent forest fires include areas of dry and moist deciduous forest in orderlands of Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Telangana that are affected by fire on nearly annual basis.

Ecological value of Forests: According to scientists from National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), fires affecting forests have significant ecological value. Between 2006 and 2015, NRSC scientists forest fires were detected in just under half (281 of 614) of protected areas in India. In 2014, fires burned about 8.6 % of forest cover in protected areas.

Significance

The report is significant in light of recently released Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) special report that explores possibilities of keeping global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius to prevent catastrophic impacts due to unchecked temperature rise. Forest fires contribute to climate change by releasing carbon stored in trees, undergrowth and soil into the atmosphere.

Its findings are crucial for India's own commitment under Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to create additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2-equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030. It is also expected to be key input in issuing national policy on Forest Fire Prevention and Management (FFPM). Though MoEFCC issued national guidelines on FFPM in 2000, but these are no longer being implemented.

IAF launches MedWatch mobile health app

Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched 'MedWatch' mobile health app to provide health information to users, including first-aid and other health and nutritional topics. It was launched on 8 October on the occasion of IAF's 85th anniversary. *It is first of its kind mobile health app built by any of the three armed forces.*

MedWatch app

The app was conceived by doctors of IAF and developed in-house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with Zero financial outlay. It will provide correct, scientific and authentic health information to air warriors and all citizens of India. It comprises host of features like information on basic First Aid, health topics and nutritional facts, reminders for timely medical review, vaccination and utility tools like Health Record Card, BMI calculator, helpline numbers and web links. The app is available on www.apps.mgov.gov.in.

India's first National Environment Survey to kick off in 2019

India's first ever National Environment Survey (NES) will be kicked off in January, 2019 to map environment data of 55 districts across 24 states and 3 Union Territories. The NES will rank all districts on their environmental performance and document their best green practices based on various environmental parameters. The earliest first set of complete green data from this survey will be available in 2020.

1st National Environment Survey (NES)

The first NES will be carried out by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) through Environmental Information System (ENVIS) and its hubs and resource partners across the country. It will be done through grid-based approach, using grids measuring 9×9 km to collect comprehensive data on various environmental parameters. These parameters will include *air, water, soil quality; solid, hazardous and e-waste; emission inventory; forest & wildlife; flora & fauna; wetlands, lakes, rivers and other water bodies*. It will also assess carbon sequestration potential of all the districts across the country.

Significance

The green data from this survey will provide important tool in hands of policy-makers for decision making at all levels – district, state and national. The survey will fully map and create emission inventory, provide valuation of ecosystem services and collate research in the field of environment. Initially the survey will be focusing on 55 districts and later will be scaled up to all districts in the country. The skilled manpower required for the survey will be provided from persons skilled and trained under MoEFCC's Green Skill Development Programme.

Scientists develop world's first bioelectronic medicine

Scientists from US claimed that they have developed world's first bioelectronic medicine which is implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves healing of

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

damaged nerve. The device has not been tested in humans, but its successful testing on animals (rats) offer promise as future therapeutic option for nerve injury patients.

Key Facts

The bioelectronic medicine device is wireless is powered and controlled wirelessly by transmitter outside body that acts much like cellphone-charging mat. It operates for about two weeks before naturally absorbing into the body. It has size of dime and thickness of sheet of paper.

During its animal test on rats with injured sciatic nerves, it was found that this bioelectronic medicine device delivers regular pulses of electricity to damaged peripheral nerves in rats after surgical repair process. This results in accelerating regrowth of nerves in their legs and enhances ultimate recovery of muscle strength and control.

Advantages of Bioelectronic medicine

This biomedical technology provides therapy and treatment over clinically relevant period of time and directly at site where it is needed, thereby reducing side effects or risks associated with conventional, permanent implants. Moreover, these engineered systems provide active, therapeutic function in programmable, dosed format and then naturally disappear into body, without trace.

With this device, it has been shown that electrical stimulation given on scheduled basis during surgery can further enhance nerve recovery. No adverse biological effects from device and its reabsorption were found. Researchers envision that such transient engineered technologies one day can complement or replace pharmaceutical treatments for a variety of medical conditions in humans.

October 11, 2018

Union Cabinet approves Productivity linked bonus for Railway Employees

Union Cabinet has approved the payment of Productivity Linked Bonus (PLB) equivalent to 78 days' wages for financial year 2017-18 for all eligible non-gazetted Railway employees. It will be not available to Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel. This decision will benefit about 11.91 lakh non-gazetted Railway employees.

Productivity Linked Bonus on Railway

It covers all non-gazetted railway employees (excluding RPF personnel) who are spread over entire country. The eligible railway employees are paid this bonus each year before Dusshera/ Puja holidays. This bonus is expected to motivate employees for working towards improving performance of Railways.

Background

Indian Railways was the first departmental undertaking of Central Government to adopt concept of PLB in 1979-80. The main consideration introduction of PLB at that time was important role of Railways as infrastructural support in performance of economy as whole. In the overall context of Indian Railways working, PLB was introduced as against concept of bonus on lines of 'The Payment of Bonus Act – 1965'.

More At @Aj_ebooks

International Day of the Girl Child: October 11

The International Day of the Girl Child is observed every year across world on October 11 to recognize girls' rights and unique challenges faced by girls around the world. Observance of the day seeks to increase awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender and supports more opportunity for girls. This year it was seventh edition of this day after it was observed for first time in 2012. The theme was 'With Her: A Skilled Girl Force'. It seeks to bring together partners and stakeholders to advocate for, and draw attention and investments to most pressing needs and opportunities for girls to attain skills for employability.

Background

The International Day of Girl Child (IDGC) was instituted by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by adopting Resolution moved by Canada in December 2011. The observation of day supports more opportunity for girls. It also increases awareness of gender inequality faced by girls worldwide based upon their gender. This inequality includes areas such as right to education, nutrition, medical care, legal rights and protection from discrimination, violence and unfree child marriage. It also calls for empowerment and improved rights of the world's 1.1 billion girls.

Cabinet approves establishment of permanent campuses of two new IISERs at Tirupati and Berhampur

Union Cabinet has approved establishment and operationalisation of two new permanent campuses of the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER) in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and Behrampur

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

(Odisha). Cabinet also has approved creation of two posts of Registrar, one in each IISER.

Key Facts

IISERs will provide top quality science education at undergraduate and postgraduate level, PHDs and Integrated PHDs levels. Both IISERs will be constructed on campuses having area of 1,17,000 sqm and shall be completed by December, 2021. They will have complete infrastructural facilities for 1,855 students each. IISERs will be carrying out research in frontier areas of science and will enable India move towards knowledge economy by attracting best scientific talent as faculty and prepare a strong base of scientific manpower in India

Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISER)

IISERs are a group of most premier statutory science education and research institutes in India of national importance. ISERs are envisioned to be the IITs of Basics Sciences. These institutes were created under The National Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2010 (which had amended National Institutes of Technology Act, 2007). So far seven IISERs have been established across the country, namely IISER Kolkata (West Bengal), IISER Pune (Maharashtra), IISER Mohali (Punjab), IISER Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), IISER Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), IISER Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and IISER Berhampur (Odisha).

Tushar Mehta appointed as new Solicitor General of India

The Appointments Committee of Union Cabinet has approved appointment Tushar Mehta has been appointed as the new Solicitor General of India. He will replace Ranjit Kumar, who had stepped down sometime back and shall hold office till June 30, 2020. Prior to this appointment he was Additional Solicitor General.

Tushar Mehta

He had started his legal career as advocate in 1987. He was designated as senior advocate by Gujarat High Court in 2007. He was made Gujarat's Additional Advocate General in 2008 and represented the state government led by the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi in many crucial cases. He was appointed as Additional Solicitor General in June 2014.

Solicitor General of India

Solicitor General is the second highest law officer in the country. He is subordinate to the Attorney General of India, the highest law officer and works under him. He also advises the government in legal matters. Solicitor general is appointed for period of three years by Appointment Committee of Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister.

Note: Office and duties of Attorney General is created by Constitution under Article 76. While, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' office and duties are governed by Law Officers (Conditions of Service) Rules, 1987 and not by Constitution (thus they are statutory posts and not constitutional). Moreover, attorney generals has right to participate in the proceedings of Parliament, but cannot vote. Whereas, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor Generals' do not have these rights wrt to participation in parliament.

Cabinet approves establishment of National Council for Vocational Education and Training

Union Cabinet chaired has approved establishment of National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET). It will be set up by merging existing regulatory institutions in the skills space – *National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) and National Skill Development Agency (NSDA).*

National Council for Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)

NCVET will regulate functioning of entities engaged in vocational education and training, both long-term and short-term. It will also establish minimum standards for functioning of such entities. It will be headed by Chairperson and will have Executive and Non-Executive Members. It will follow best practices of regulatory processes and ensure that it performs its functions professionally and as per applicable laws. It will utilize existing infrastructure and resources of NCVT and NSDA.

Primary functions of NCVET

- Recognize and regulate awarding bodies, assessment bodies and skill related information providers.
- Approve qualifications developed by awarding bodies and Sector Skill Councils (SSCs).
- Indirectly regulate vocational training institutes through awarding bodies and assessment agencies.
- Conduct Research and disseminate information.

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

- Redress Grievances.

Benefits

The establishment of **NCVET by merging** NCVT and NSDA will lead to improvement in quality and market relevance of skill development programs. It will also improve credibility of vocational education and training by encouraging greater private investment and employer participation in the skills space. It will help achieve twin objectives of enhancing aspirational value of vocational education and increasing skilled manpower furthering Government's agenda of making India skill capital of the world. It is also expected to facilitate ease of doing business by providing steady supply of skilled workforce to the industry and services.

Cabinet approves MoC between India and Finland on Environmental Cooperation

Union Cabinet has approved Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between India and Finland on Environmental Cooperation. The MoC will enable establishment and promotion of closer and long-term cooperation between two countries in field of environment protection and management of natural resources on basis of equity, reciprocity and mutual benefits. For this it will take into account applicable laws and legal provisions in each country. It is also expected to bring in latest technologies and best practices suited for bringing about better environment protection, better conservation and better management of climate change and wildlife protection and conservation.

Areas of cooperation under MoC

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

- Climate change.
- Conservation of Marine and Coastal Resources
- Waste management and waste-to-energy technologies.
- Integrated water management of Oceanic and Sea Islands.
- Environmental and Forest monitoring and data management.
- Air and water pollution prevention and purification, remediation of contaminated soils.
- Promotion of circular economy, sustainable management of natural resources and low-carbon solutions.
- Any other areas jointly decided upon.

IWAI launches Ro-Ro service from Neamati to Manjuli Island in Assam

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in collaboration with Assam Government has launched new Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) facility connecting Neamati to Manjuli Island in Assam. The Ro-Ro facility will cut down circuitous road route of 423 km that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli Island via Tezpur Road Bridge. It will limit distance between these points to only 12.7 km with use of river route. For this, IWAI has procured new vessel MV Bhupen Hazarika and is also providing needed terminal infrastructure. The vessel is 46.5-metre-long, 13.3-metre-wide and has carrying capacity of eight trucks and 100 passengers. The commencement of Ro-Ro services to Majuli island would be a landmark event towards augmenting connectivity not only in Assam but the entire North Eastern Region.

Ro-Ro Ferry Service

It refers to vessels used to carry wheeled cargo like cars, semi-trailer trucks, trucks, trailers, and railroad cars that are driven on (rolled on) and off (rolled off) ferry on their own wheels or using platform vehicle.

Background

Majuli is world's largest riverine islands located on Brahmaputra River. It has 144 villages with a population of over 1,50,000. The habitants of the island are facing serious challenges of connectivity. They cross river using conventional ferry service at various locations for their day to day needs. In absence of adequate number of bridges, cargo and passenger movement takes through longer road routes leading to critical loss of time and money. Earlier, IWAI had started similar Ro-Ro service between Dhubri and Hatsingimari which had reduced travel distance by 190 kms. Permanent Ro-Ro terminal was constructed at Dhubri for the purpose. It also has constructed floating terminals at 11 locations along length of Brahmaputra waterway.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

IWAI is nodal statutory body in charge of development and regulation of inland waterways for shipping

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

and navigation. It was established in October 1986 and is headquartered in Noida, UP. Its main function is to build necessary infrastructure in inland waterways, surveying economic feasibility of new projects and also carrying out administration and regulation. It undertakes projects for development and maintenance of IWT infrastructure on national waterways through grant received from Ministry of Shipping.

Government issues draft National Policy on Electronics 2018

Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has issued draft 'National Policy on Electronics 2018' (NPE 2018) for Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) Sector of India. It sets ambitious target of creating $400 billion electronics manufacturing industry by 2025, with mobile phone devices segment accounting for three-fourths of production.

Draft National Policy on Electronics (NPE)

Draft NPE aims to promote domestic manufacturing in entire value-chain of ESDM sector for spur economic development in the country. It also aims to double the target of mobile phone production from 500 million units in 2019 to 1 billion by 2025 to meet objective.

It replaces existing incentive schemes like Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS), with schemes that are easier to implement such as interest subsidy and credit default guarantee etc. It also takes into consideration interest subsidy and credit default guarantee in order to encourage new units and in expansion of existing units in electronics manufacturing sector.

The set target of $400 billion turnover under it, includes targeted production of 1 billion mobile handsets by 2025, valued at $190 billion (approximately Rs. 13 lakh crore) and also 600 million mobile handsets valued at $110 billion (approximately Rs. 7 lakh crore) for export.

It also proposes to push development of core competencies in all sub-sectors of electronics including electronic components and semiconductors, automotive electronics, defence electronics, industrial electronics, strategic electronics etc. It also proposes to set up 20 greenfield and three brownfield electronic manufacturing cluster projects have been sanctioned with project outlay of Rs 3,898 crore, including Rs 1,577 crore from Central Government.

It proposes suitable direct tax benefits, including inter-alia investment-linked deduction under Income Tax (IT) Act for electronics manufacturing sector, for setting up of new manufacturing unit or expansion of an existing unit. The proposal includes increasing tax benefits on expenditure incurred on R&D, enhancing rate of duty drawback for electronics sector, reimbursement of state levies and other levies for which input tax credit is not available, allowing duty free import of second-hand capital goods for electronics hardware manufacturing etc. It also proposes cess on select electronic goods resources to promote certain critical sub-sectors of electronic manufacturing such as semiconductor wafer fabrication and display fabrication units.

More At @Aj_ebooks

Health ministry confirms 22 Zika cases in Rajasthan

Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has confirmed 22 positive laboratory-confirmed cases of Zika virus in Rajasthan's capital Jaipur. It was detected through Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) surveillance system and all suspected cases in defined area and mosquito samples are being tested.

Preventive Measures

Health Ministry has taken precautionary measures followed by daily monitoring. It has activated control room at National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) to undertake regular monitoring of the situation. Moreover, 7-member Central team also has been deputed to Jaipur following detection of the first case. State government also has been supplied with IEC material prepared to create awareness about zika virus disease and its prevention strategies. Besides, extensive surveillance and vector control measures are also being undertaken in area as per protocol by the state government.

Zika virus Disease

Zika virus Disease is mosquito-borne virus transmitted by Aedes aegypti mosquitoes which also transmit three other vector-borne diseases Chikungunya, dengue and yellow fever. The virus belongs to family *Flaviviridae* and Genus *Flavivirus*. It was first identified in 1947 in Zika Forest, Uganda from where it derives its name. Now it is emerging disease currently being reported by 86 countries worldwide.

Transmission: It is transmitted primarily by infected Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, which also transmits dengue. It can also spread through blood transfusion and sexual contact.

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Symptoms: They are similar to other viral infections such as dengue, and include fever, skin rashes, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache.

Threats: Pregnant women infected with Zika virus may give birth to babies with severe brain damage or serious birth defects i.e. neurological disorders and foetal deformation known as Microcephaly in which infants are born with abnormally smaller heads. Besides there is also possible link between virus and Guillain-Barré syndrome (a condition in which the body's immune system attacks part of the nervous system) is also suspected.

Treatment and Prevention: There is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available to treat Zika. The best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites and clearing stagnant water where mosquitoes breed.

Previous Outbreaks in India: First outbreak of Zika Virus was reported in Ahmedabad, Gujarat in January/February 2017 and second outbreak in July 2017 from Krishnagiri District in Tamilnadu. Both these outbreaks were successfully contained through intensive surveillance and vector management.

October 12, 2018

World Obesity Day: 11 October

The World Obesity Day is observed globally every year on 11 October to promote practical solutions to end the global obesity crisis. It also aims to lead and drive global efforts to reduce, prevent and treat obesity. It is organised by World Obesity Federation, a non-profit body which is official relations with World Health Organisation (WHO) and is collaborating body on Lancet Commission on Obesity. The theme for this year is "*It's time to End Weight Stigma!*". Weight stigma is one of last socially accepted forms of discrimination and this year's aim to change this and end obesity stigma once and for all.

Background

The first World Obesity Day took place in 2015. The second took place in 2016 and focused on childhood obesity which was aligned with WHO Commission report on Ending Childhood Obesity. The theme of World Obesity Day 2017 was "treat obesity now and avoid the consequences later." It had called for investment in treatment services to support people affected by obesity, early intervention to improve the success of treatment, and prevention to reduce the need for treatment.

IND-INDO CORPAT: 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol being held in Indonesia

The 32nd edition of India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) is being held in Belawan, Indonesia from 11 – 27 October 2018. Under it, ships and aircraft from both countries will undertake patrolling on respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary Line.

IND-INDO CORPAT 2018

The patrolling will be conducted in three phases, followed by closing ceremony at Port Blair, Andaman and Nicobar Island. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kulish, a Kora class missile corvette and Dornier naval maritime time patrol aircraft from Andaman and Nicobar command are participating. This deployment is expected to contribute towards Indian Navy's effort to forge strong bonds of friendship across seas and consolidate inter-operability. It also seeks to emphasize India's peaceful presence and solidarity with friendly countries towards ensuring good order in maritime domain, consolidate interoperability and strengthen existing bonds of friendship between the two countries.

Background

Under the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia, navies of both countries have been carrying out coordinated patrolling twice year since 2002 near International Maritime Boundary Line in an effort to keep Indian Ocean region (IOR) safe and secure for commercial shipping and international trade. The coordinated patrol reflects shared concerns between two countries for peaceful Indian Ocean for benefit of international community. It also enhances mutual understanding and inter–operability between the two navies. Moreover, as part of Central Government's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) and `Act East policy' Indian Navy has increasingly deployed to address maritime concerns of the IOR and also been involved in assisting countries in IOR with EEZ Surveillance, Search and Rescue, other capacity -building and capability-enhancement activities.

ISRO signs MoU with Central University of Jammu for setting up of Space Science Centre

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Central

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

University of Jammu (CUJ) in Jammu today for setting up of Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science in University. It will be first of its kind institute coming up in Jammu and Kashmir.

Space Sciences

It is multidisciplinary subject which involves basic sciences such as mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, biology, geology, planetary science, atmospheric sciences, geography, space engineering and even space law.

Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science

The centre is named after Satish Dhawan, father of experimental fluid dynamics research in India and former Chairman of ISRO (1971-84). He was born in Srinagar and played leading the successful and indigenous development of Indian space programme. The centre will have facilities for Geospatial Data analysis that will help in sustainable use of natural resources and planning land-use pattern.

It will also have ground-based observations for atmospheric studies, research lab for astrophysics, atmospheric sensing and glacier studies lab for better use of large quantity of water stored in the form of seasonal snow, ice and glaciers in the rivers of North India. It will also have Disaster Management Center to take up research in the area of different disasters like flood, landslides, forest fires, drought and climate change. Materials Sciences Lab for space applications will be also established for synthesizing and designing new sensors and materials for space applications.

Significance

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

It will help in tapping potential of Space Applications for region of J&K in various fields like disaster management, health, education, communication, weather forecasting, land use planning, etc. It will also provide opportunity to youth of the region to contribute to the field of space science as well as to the nation. It will also take care of the emerging Geospatial and Space Technology requirements for development of the region as its economy and habitations are affected by vegetation cover, forest area, snow, landslides, avalanches, ground water, cloud cover, atmospheric conditions etc.

India suffered $79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years: UN Report

According to United Nations report titled 'Economic Losses, Poverty and Disasters 1998-2017', India has suffered whopping $79.5 billion economic loss due to climate-related disasters in last 20 years. The report was compiled by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction which highlights impact of extreme weather events on global economy. The report was released ahead of International Day for Disaster Reduction, observed every year on October 13.

Key Points from report

The years between 1998 to 2017 have seen dramatic rise of 151% in direct economic losses from climate-related disasters. The direct losses (impact) of disasters on global economy between 1998 and 2017 in affected countries was reported $2.908 trillion, more than twice of what was lost in previous two decades.

There is growing threat from climate change led extreme weather events, which now account for 77% of total economic losses of $2.245 trillion. This represents dramatic rise of 151% compared with losses reported between 1978 and 1997, which amounted to $895 billion.

The greatest economic losses was experienced by United Stats at $944.8 billion followed by China ($492.2 billion), Japan ($376.3 billion), India ($79.5 billion), Puerto Rico ($71.7 billion), France ($48.3 billion) Germany ($57.9 billion), Italy ($56.6 billion), Thailand ($52.4 billion) and Mexico ($46.5 billion).

In terms of occurrences, climate-related disasters also dominate the picture, accounting for 91% of all 7,255 major recorded events between 1998 and 2017. Floods (43.4%) followed by storms (28.2%) are the two most frequently occurring disasters.

During this period, 1.3 million people lost their lives and 4.4 billion people were injured, rendered homeless, displaced or in need of emergency assistance. 563 earthquakes, including related tsunamis, accounted for 56% of total deaths or 747,234 lives lost.

However, 63% of disaster reports contain no economic data. There is disproportionate impact of disaster events on low and middle-income countries is high as compared to high-income countries as they can bear brunt of absolute economic losses.

The high-income countries recorded losses for 53% of reported disasters between 1998 and 2017, low-income countries only recorded them for 13% of disasters. Only one high-income territory ranked among

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

top ten in terms of annual average percentage losses relative to GDP – Puerto Rico with 12.2%.

Climate change is increasing frequency and severity of extreme weather events. The economic losses from extreme weather events are unsustainable and puts major brake on eradicating poverty in hazard exposed parts of the world

Disasters will continue to be major impediments to sustainable development so long as economic incentives to build and develop hazard-prone locations outweigh perceived disaster risks. Integrating disaster risk reduction into investment decisions is most cost-effective way to reduce these risks, investing in disaster risk reduction is therefore pre-condition for developing sustainable in changing climate.

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

It was established in 1999 as dedicated secretariat to facilitate implementation of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR). It is an organisational unit of UN Secretariat and is led by the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction (SRSG). It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

It is mandated by United Nations General Assembly resolution (56/195) to serve as focal point in United Nations system for coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure synergies among disaster reduction activities of United Nations system and regional organizations and activities in socio economic and humanitarian fields.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

India remains polio free, all vaccines used in Government immunisation programme safe: UNICEF, WHO

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO) have reiterated India's status as polio-free country. This comes in backdrop of some oral polio vaccine vials being found contaminated with the type-2 polio virus.

Key Facts

The two global agencies held that risk of children getting vaccine derived poliovirus was minimal in India because of high routine immunisation coverage in the country. They also asserted that all vaccines provided under Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) are safe and urged people to get their children vaccinated not only for their protection but also to keep Indian polio free.

Type 2 poliovirus containing vaccine has been phased out globally, and in India, in April 2016, as a part of the polio endgame strategy. Like in other countries, India also has replaced trivalent OPV oral polio vaccine (tOPV) with bivalent OPV (bOPV) in all polio campaigns and routine immunization. It also continues to conduct mass vaccination campaigns against polio, using bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV), to maintain high immunity.

Background

India was certified polio-free in March 2014 and it still continues to remain vigilant against all three types of polioviruses. The last polio case due to wild poliovirus in the country was detected on 13 January 2011. Recently, type 2 polio vaccine virus was found in some sewage and stool samples. It was from few vials of bOPV supplied by one manufacturer in India which were found to contain traces of Type 2 polio vaccine virus. After that Health Ministry had taken immediate and decisive action withdrawing vaccine supplied by this manufacturer from all states that it was supplied to.

Polio

Polio (Poliomyelitis) is a highly infectious viral disease, which mainly affects young children below age of 5. It is transmitted from person-to-person. It mainly spreads through faecal-oral route (e.g. contaminated water or food). After entering body, it multiplies in the intestine, from where it can invade the nervous system and can cause paralysis. Its initial symptoms include fever, fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness in the neck, and pain in limbs. In some cases, it causes permanent paralysis. There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented by immunization.

WEF launches Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced its new Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution in India.. The Centre will be based in Maharashtra. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at function held in New Delhi. It will be fourth center in chain-ones as part of WEF's global network along with San Francisco (US), Tokyo (Japan) and Beijing (China) are already functioning.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Centre for Fourth Industrial Revolution

The centre will facilitate to bring together government and business leaders to pilot emerging technology policies. It has selected drones, artificial intelligence and blockchain as the first three project areas. The centre will work in collaboration with government on national level to co-design new policy frameworks and protocols for emerging technology alongside leaders from business, academia, start-ups and international organizations. NITI Aayog will coordinate partnership on behalf of government and work of centre among multiple ministries.

The initial efforts at national level are focused on two emerging technology areas AI and machine learning and blockchain and distributed ledger technology. The first project will focus on expanding access to data to accelerate adoption of AI in socio-economic areas like education, healthcare and agriculture. The second will focus on application of smart contracts to boost productivity and transparency while reducing inefficiency. At state level, Maharashtra Government in collaboration with Centre is planning to undertake a drone mapping operation in the agriculture sector. These projects will be scaled across India and globally

World Economic Forum (WEF)

It is an international institution founded by Klaus Schwab that works to improve the state of the world through public-private cooperation. It was established in 1971 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. It serves as independent not-for-profit organization that works closely with other international organizations. It also works with leaders in the field of politics, business, academia to set global, regional and industrial agenda.

Malaysia to abolish the death penalty for all crimes

Malaysia's Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to abolish death penalty for all crimes and halt pending executions. This decision was taken in pursuance of strong domestic opposition to colonial practice for being barbarous and unimaginably cruel which has put terrible stain on the country's human rights record. It is also in line with move away from capital punishment in the rest of the world.

Key Facts

Currently capital punishment in Malaysia is mandatory for murder, kidnapping, possession of firearms, treason and drug trafficking, among other crimes. The death penalty in Malaysia is exclusively carried out by hanging and has been legacy of British colonial rule. More than 1200 people are on death row in Malaysia.

Background

At present, the sentence of death penalty has been abolished in 103 countries, while penalty of capital punishment is still in 56 countries. There are still provisions for capital punishment in countries like China, India, America, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan and Sri Lanka. United Nations General Assembly passed the resolution in 62nd session in 2007 to impose universal restrictions on the death penalty.

Stanford University named World's Most Innovative University: Reuters

Stanford University was named as World's Most Innovative University by Reuters news agency rankings. No Indian was able to make it to the list. The Reuters' top 100 World's Most Innovative University ranking recognises universities from across the world for their work in inventing new technologies, advance science and power new markets and industries. It was first published in 2015, since then there has been no mention of any Indian university in the list.

Key Facts

In this top 100 list, 48 universities are from North America find mention on the list, 23 Asian universities, 27 from Europe and 2 from the Middle East. The list has no mention of universities from South America, Africa and Oceania countries that include Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

US dominated the list with 46 universities among the top 100. This year Chinese varsities have increased their presence in this with total five universities. The key factor was this year's ranking was Geopolitical trends. Stanford University from US has topped this list for four consecutive years. The second and third spots have been held by US's Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Harvard University

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

respectively.

Top 10 Innovative Universities

- Stanford University, US
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), US
- Harvard University, US
- University of Pennsylvania, US
- University of Washington, US
- University of Texas System, US
- KU Leuven, Belgium
- Imperial College London, United Kingdom
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, US
- Vanderbilt University, US

October 13, 2018

International Day for Disaster Reduction: October 13

International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) is observed every year on October 13 to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. The observance of day seeks to encourage citizens and governments to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations. It also celebrates how people and communities around world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in risks that they face. It also seeks to spread awareness about reining risks of disasters around world and also reduce exposure of people and communities to disasters. The theme of 2018 International Day for Disaster Reduction was 'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'. It focuses on *Target C of Sendai Framework*, which aims at 'reducing disaster economic losses in relation to global GDP by 2030'.

Background

UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1989 had instituted International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction. to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. Earlier, this day was celebrated annually on the second Wednesday of October. But in 2009, the UNGA formally designated 13 October and changed its name to International Day for Disaster Reduction by adopting Resolution 64/200.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-30

SFDRR is an international Treaty that was approved by UN member states in March 2015 at Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in Sendai, Japan. It is *voluntary and non-binding treaty* which recognizes that UN member State has primary role to reduce disaster risk. It has framework for 15-year (2015 to 2030). It calls for sharing the responsibility with other stakeholders including local government, the private sector and other stakeholders. It is successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005–2015), which had been the most encompassing international accord on disaster risk reduction. 7 Global Targets of SFDRR are (refer image below)

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks



New Academy Prize in Literature: Maryse Conde wins alternative Nobel Literature Prize

Guadeloupean author Maryse Conde (81) was awarded New Academy Prize in Literature, an alternative award formed in protest to Nobel Literature Prize. She was selected from 47 authors who were nominated by Swedish librarians and voted on by nearly 33,000 people from around the world.

Conde is author of some 20 novels, including Desirada, Segu and Crossing the Mangrove. She is considered as grand storyteller who belongs to world literature. Her writings mostly describes ravages of colonialism and post-colonial chaos in language which is both precise and overwhelming.

New Academy Prize in Literature

New Academy Prize in Literature was formed by New Academy consisting of more than 100 Swedish writers, artists and journalists in protest to denounce what its founders called bias, arrogance and sexism of Swedish Academy, which selects Nobel laureates. The Swedish Academy was plunged into turmoil in 2017 over its ties to Frenchman Jean-Claude Arnault, who was jailed for two years in early October for rape after the scandal came into light as part of the #MeToo movement.

Sikkim awarded FAO's Future Policy Gold Award for 100% organic farming

Sikkim was awarded UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Future Policy Gold Award (Gold Prize) for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state. Sikkim beat out 51 other nominees from around the world for the award. Policies from Brazil, Denmark and Quito (Ecuador) were joinlty Silver Awards.

Future Policy Gold Award

The prizes honour exceptional policies adopted by political leaders who have decided to act, no longer accepting widespread hunger, poverty or environmental degradation. This award in nicknamed the "Oscar for best policies". Previously it was honoured for policies combating desertification, violence against women and girls, nuclear weapons and pollution of the oceans. This year's award based on central focus of *agroecology policies* and was *co-organised by FAO, World Future Council (WFC) and IFOAM – Organics International*. Agroecology has potential to increase farmers' earnings and make farms more resilient to climate change as erratic rainfall and extended dry periods hamper food production.

Background

Sikkim is first organic state in the world and all farmlands in the state are certified organic. State's policy

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

approach reaches beyond organic production and has proven transformational for its citizens. It primarily focuses socioeconomic aspects such as consumption and market expansion, cultural aspects as well as health, education, rural development and sustainable tourism.

The policy implemented by state of organic farming has phased out chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and achieved total ban on sale and use of chemical pesticides in the state. The transition has benefitted more than 66000 farming families in state.

Transition to 100% organic state also has greatly benefited its tourism sector and numbers of tourists have increased by over 50% between 2014 and 2017. With this Sikkim has set excellent example for other Indian states and countries worldwide for successfully upscale agroecology.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

It is specialised agency of UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger. Its parent organization is UN Economic and Social Council (UNESC). It was established on 16 October 1945 and its headquarters are in Rome, It has 194 member states, along with European Union (member organization).

India-Azerbaijan sign protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation

India and Azerbaijan has signed protocol on trade and economic, science and technology cooperation. It was signed at 5th meeting of India-Azerbaijan Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade and Economic, Science and Technology Cooperation (IA-IGC) held on 11-12 October, 2018 in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu and Azerbaijan's Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources Mukhtar Babayev.

Highlights of meeting

Both counties exchanged views on current economic situation and reviewed current status of bilateral trade, investment and their cooperation in fields of trade, economy, science and technology. They also emphasised to further strengthen and expand their cooperation in trade and investment, energy and hydro-carbons, transportation, SMEs, agriculture, food safety and environmental protection, tourism, culture, health and pharmaceuticals, space technology, education and scientific research, chemicals and petrochemicals and mining.

Both sides also felt that bilateral trade was far below potential and there is need to step up cooperation to enlarge trade basket and increase bilateral trade and investment. Currently trade turnover between India and Azerbaijan in January-August 2018 was US $657.9 million. Both sides also agreed to take measures to enhance trade relations and expand business relations between the two countries.

They also decided to send trade delegations to raise awareness regarding economic developments and reforms in two countries and have regular exchange of information about trade exhibitions, fairs, conferences and other business events. They also agreed to convene next meeting of IA-IGC in Baku, capital of Azerbaijan.

13th Convention of Central Information Commission held in New Delhi

The 13th Convention of Central Information Commission was held in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind. It was attended by Chief Information Commissioner, Information Commissioners, State Information Commissioners, former information Commissioners, Central Public information officer, NGOs and other stake holders.

Central Information Commission (CIC)

CIC was established in 2005 by Central Government under provisions of Right to Information (RTI) Act (2005). It is plays important role in maintaining transparency in system of governance essential for healthy democracy. Such kind of transparency check aims to curb corruption, nepotism, oppression and misuse or abuse of the authority.

CIS is designated statutory authority to receive and inquire into complaint from any person. The general superintendence, direction and management of affairs of Commission are vested in Chief Information Commissioner who is assisted by Information Commissioners. CIC submits annual report to Union government on the implementation of the provisions of RTI Act. The central government inturn places this report before each house of Parliament.

Functions and Powers of CIC

- It can order inquiry into any matter if there are reasonable grounds.

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

- It can secure compliance of its decisions from the public authority.
- It can recommend steps to be taken for promoting such conformity, if public authority does not conform to provisions of RTI Act.
- It receives and inquire into a complaint from
- It examines any record which is under control of the public authority and which may be withheld from it on any grounds during the enquiry. While inquiring, it has powers of civil court

NITI Aayog, Microsoft sign agreement to bring in AI tools for agriculture and healthcare

Government's premier think tank NITI Aayog has inked agreement with Microsoft India to deploy artificial intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare and promote adoption of local language computing among others. This partnership will help NITI Aayog to move beyond pilots and understand how to scale AI implementation in sectors characterized by preponderance of public goods.

Key Facts

Under the agreement, Microsoft will provide NITI Aayog advanced AI-based solutions to address challenges in agriculture and healthcare including farm advisory services, healthcare screening models at Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and build capacity for AI through education among others. It will also support NITI Aayog by combining cloud, AI, research and its vertical expertise for new initiatives and solutions across several core areas.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Microsoft will also accelerate use of AI for development and adoption of local language computing, in addition to building capacity for AI among workforce through education. Additionally, it will also promote STEM education in areas of AI studies and data sciences for young women in institutes identified by NITI Aayog.

National Human Rights Commission celebrates Silver Jubilee

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) celebrated Silver Jubilee (25 years) on October 12, 2018. NHRC was set up on October 12, 1993. The silver Jubilee celebrations were held in New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the function and appreciated role of NHRC. NHRC also released special silver jubilee logo and commissioned documentary titled 'NHRC: 25 years, Billion Hopes' capturing the 25 years of its journey. It also organized 'Human Rights Mela' and 'Human Rights Street Theatre Festival' in New Delhi.

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

NHRC is apex statutory watchdog of human rights in the country, i.e. the rights related to life, liberty, equality and dignity of the individual guaranteed by Constitution or embodied in the international convents. It was established on October 12, 1993 as per t statutory provisions of Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993. It is multimember body consisting of Chairman and four members. President appoints Chairman and members of NHRC on recommendation of high-powered committee headed by Prime Minister. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi. NHRC can either take suo motu cognisance of cases through media reports or complaint filed by victim or any other person on his or her behalf or on basis of reports received from the police department.

Functions of NHRC

- Investigate violations of human rights committed by the government.
- Intervene in legal proceedings related to human rights.
- Recommend to provide relief to the victims and their families.
- Review protection provided by Constitution.
- Study international treaties related to human rights, etc. and recommend for effective implementation on its basis.·
- Promote research in the field of human rights.
- Spread human rights education in different sections of the society.

India elected to UN Human Rights Council

India was elected to United Nations' Human Rights Council', the main body of UN charged with promoting and monitoring human rights for period of three years beginning January 1, 2019. In this secret ballot election held in 193-member UN General Assembly (UNGA) India secured 188 votes in Asia-Pacific

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

category, the highest number of votes among all candidates. Total 18 new members in the five regional categories were elected by absolute majority (i.e. minimum of 97 votes are required to get elected through secret ballot). From Asia-Pacific region category, Fiji with 187 and Bangladesh 178 votes were also elected along with India. *This was fifth time India has been elected to UNHRC, previously was elected 2006-2009, 2011-2014 and 2014-2017.*

United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

UNHRC is an inter-governmental body within United Nations system. It is responsible for strengthening promotion and protection of human rights around globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and make recommendations on them. It was created by UNGA on 15 March 2006 by adopting resolution 60/251 to promote human rights globally. It had replaced former UN Commission on Human Rights. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Members: UNHRC is made up of 47 UN member states which are elected by UN General Assembly (UNGA) with specific number of seats allocated for each five region of the globe viz. African States (13 seats), Asia-Pacific States (13 seats), Eastern European States (6 seats), Latin American and Caribbean States (8 seats) and Western European and other States(7 seats). Members serve for three-year terms and can serve only two terms in a row.

Functions: Members of the council work to engage countries on improving human rights. They make decisions ranging from exposing violations to recommending that UN Security Council make referral to International Criminal Court (ICC). UNHRC does not have authority to take action but can exert significant pressure on violating country. It can also set up special rapporteurs with mandate to investigate and report human-rights violations and abuses.

Note: United States under President Donald Trump Administration had withdrawn from UNHRC earlier this year after it questioned legitimacy of the council because of presence of several dictatorial regimes violating human rights on it.

October 14-15, 2018

46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair

The 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida from October 14 to 18, 2018. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles Ajay Tamta. It was organized by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH). It saw participation by over 3200 exhibitors and visit of overseas buyers from over 110 countries.

Key Facts

The IHGF fair is held biannually and is organised by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts. It has played vital role in increasing exports of handicrafts from the country and has acquired special importance for handicrafts sector as overseas buyers find this fair as the most effective sourcing medium for their requirements and that the Indian exporting community considers this as the most effective marketing medium for their merchandise.

Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH)

It is apex body of handicrafts exporters for promotion of exports of handicrafts from country. It promotes supports, protects, maintains and increase export of handicrafts. It was established as non-profit organisation under Companies Act in 1986-87. It is also engaged in promotion of handicrafts from India and project India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality handicrafts. It is run and managed by team of professionals headed by Executive Director.

Indian Navy inducts its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle

Indian Navy has inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea. It will be based in Mumbai, Maharashtra and enhance Navy's operational capabilities. With this, India joined select list of international navies (United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore UK, Sweden and Australia) with ability to search, locate and provide assistance to downed or disaster-struck or distressed submarines at high sea. The second DSRV is expected to be inducted at Visakhapatnam in 2019.

Key Facts

The DSRVs complete with associated kit in fly away configuration, can be crucial in quickly locating

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

submarines through vast expanse of sea and can be mobilised by air and water for rapid rescue. Thus, it can be deployed at short notice for providing assistance to submarines in distress. Some DSRV vessels are air transportable in very large military cargo. DSRVs can also be deployed for various other missions including to lay cables on the sea bed.

Background

The induction of DSRV is part of Indian Navy's efforts to enhance operational capabilities when China has been ramping up its maritime presence in critical sea lanes especially in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) which are of strategic importance to India. Earlier in 2017, Indian Navy also had operationalised new concept of deployment of warships in IOR to effectively counter China's growing presence in the strategically key waters. The new mission-based deployment involves deploying mission-ready ships and aircraft along critical sea lanes of communications.

India International Silk Fair 2018 held in New Delhi

The 6th edition of India International Silk Fair (IISF) was held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani. The three day event was organised by Indian Silk Export Promotion Council (ISEPC). Over 108 exhibitors of silk and blended silk products manufactured in different parts of the country displayed their produce during this event. Over 218 buyers from various countries also participated in the fair.

Background

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

India is the 2nd largest producer of silk in the world after China. The silk industry is agriculture based and labour intensive and provides gainful employment to around 8 million artisans and weavers in rural areas. In India, four varieties of silk are produced, viz. Mulberry, Eri, Tasar and Muga. About 80% of silk produced is of mulberry silk, majority of which is produced in three southern States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. About 97% of raw silk in India is produced in five Indian states of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir.

Government opens new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription

Union Government has opened new series of sovereign gold bonds scheme for subscription. Under this scheme, sovereign gold bonds will be issued every month from October 2018 to February 2019. This bond will be sold through Stock Holding Corporation of India Limited, Post Office, Stock Exchange (NSE and BSE).

Sovereign Gold Bond (SGB) Scheme

It is aimed at providing alternative to buying physical gold. Under it, bonds are denominated in units of one gram of gold and multiples thereof. These gold denominated bonds are restricted for sale to resident Indian entities, including individuals, Hindu undivided families (HUF), trusts, universities and charitable institutions.

The minimum subscription for individual and HUF is 1 gram and maximum is 4 kg. For trusts and similar entities, maximum subscription is 20 kg per fiscal. Price of bond is fixed in rupees on basis of simple average of closing price of gold of 999 purity published by India Bullion and Jewellers Association Limited for last 3 working days of week preceding the subscription period.

The tenor of SGB bonds is 8 years with provision of premature cancellation after 5 years on interest payment dates. Investors in SGB bonds have been provided with option of holding them in physical or dematerialised form. RBI has notified rate of interest of 2.50% per annum on SGB bonds is payable on half yearly basis.

The bonds can be used as collateral for loans and loan-to-value ratio is set equal to ordinary gold loan mandated by RBI from time to time. Individual investing in it are exempted from capital gains tax arising on redemption of SGB. The indexation benefits are also provided to long-term capital gains arising to any person on transfer of bond.

Shekhar Mande appointed as Director-General of CSIR

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Dr. Shekhar Mande as the Director General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR). He will succeed Girish Sahni who superannuated in August 2018.

Dr. Shekhar Mande

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Dr. Mande, a structural biologist is Director of National Centre for Cell Sciences, Pune. He has worked at Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad. He is also top functionary of Vijnana Bharati, a swadeshi science movement affiliated with Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He is fellow of all three major science academies and recipient of coveted SS Bhatnagar Prize (2005), most prestigious science honour in the country.

Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)

CSIR is an autonomous body and India's premier research and development (R&D) organisation. It was established in 1942. It operates as an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act of 1860. It is mainly funded by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. Prime Minister is the chairman of CSIR. It has been ranked 9th in the world amongst 1207 government institutions, with overall global ranking of 75 in world, covering 5250 institutions. It runs a chain of 38 national research labs. It is headquarter in New Delhi.

Delhi Government launches Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme

Delhi government has launched Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme that seeks to attract young leaders across the country to work with it on addressing some of the most pressing urban challenges. It was announced by Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.

Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship Programme

The fellowship aims to provide unique opportunity to young leaders across India to work within the Delhi government to address some of the most pressing urban challenges in India. It also seeks to attract youth who are passionate about public service and are willing to work for two years. Fellows selected under this programme will be assigned to work with ministers or senior officials across various departments Delhi government such as health, education, water, transport, art and culture. The fellows will be paid remuneration of Rs 1.25 lakh per month and Rs 75,000 per month to Associate Fellows.

6th RCEP Inter-sessional Ministerial Meeting held in Singapore

The 6th Interregional Ministerial Meeting of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) was held in Singapore. The meeting was reviewed after 6th RCEP ministerial meeting held in August 2018. In this meeting, all partner countries agreed to finalize trading deal by the end of this year. From Indian side, Minister of State (MoS) for Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution C. R. Chaudhary had attended the meeting.

Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)

RCEP is a proposed proposed free trade agreement (FTA) or comprehensive regional economic integration agreement between the 10-ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam) and its six FTA partners (Australia, New Zealand, India, China, Japan and Korea).

The negotiations for this mega trade deal were formally launched at 2012 ASEAN Summit in Cambodia. It aims to cover goods, services, investments, economic and technical cooperation, competition and intellectual property rights under its ambit.

Till 2017, 16 RCEP member states accounted for population of 3.4 billion people with total GDP (in terms of PPP) of $49.5 trillion, approximately 38% of the world's GDP (combined GDPs of China and India makes up more than half that amount) and 29% of world trade.

First India-US tri-services exercise to be held in 2019

The first India-United States tri-services exercise is likely to take place in 2019 in India. It will include all services of both countries and talks are on to include special forces. US will second country after Russia with whom India conducts tri-services exercise.

Key Facts

The Indo-US joint tri-services drill was formally announced after first 2+2 dialogue between principals of External Affairs and Defence Ministries of two countries which was held in New Delhi in September 2018. The drill will focus on United Nations-based scenario and overarching mission of humanitarian assistance, disaster relief measure. It will be also in line with India's ambition of being natural humanitarian disaster relief hub in the Indo-Pacific region.

Background

The three forces of India and US already take part in multiple bilateral exercises separately. Moreover,

More AT @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

armies of both countries are also participating in annual drill called Yudh Abyaas, whose latest edition took place in September 2018, and Air Forces take part in bilateral drill called Cope India. Navies of both countries also participate in exercise called Malabar which also involves Japan. But this will be first time, three services of India and US will participate in drill together. Indian Army has Para SF, Navy has Marcos while Air Force has Garud as their respective special forces.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of the following has become the India's first state to give legal protection to good samaritans?

[A] Odisha
[B] Assam
[C] Karnataka
[D] Punjab

Correct Answer: C [Karnataka]

Notes:
President Ram Nath Kovind has given his assent to the Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation During Emergency Situations) Bill, 2016. The bill provides legal protection to the good samaritans in Karnataka, who help accident victims with emergency medical care within the golden hour. In medical terms, the 'golden hour' is the first hour after a traumatic injury when emergency treatment is very crucial. Now, the legislation will encourage people to offer first aid to victims without the fear of legal wrangles. With this, Karnataka has become the India's first state to give legal protection to good samaritans. Under the new law, the Karnataka government will provide financial help to Good Samaritans who help victims. They will be exempted from repeated attendance in courts and police stations, and in case attendance is mandatory, expenses of such "running around to courts and police stations" will be taken care through the proposed Good Samaritan Fund.

2. Who will lead India at the 2018 Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy in Muscat?

[A] Manpreet Singh
[B] Rupinder Pal Singh
[C] Somwarpet Vittalacharya Sunil
[D] Harendra Singh

Correct Answer: A [Manpreet Singh]

Notes:
Indian midfielder Manpreet Singh will be captain of the 18-member Indian team at the 5th edition of Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018, which is scheduled to be held in Muscat, Oman from October 18 to 28. This is India's first tournament after the retirement of Sardar Singh. The tournament will feature host nation Oman, reigning champions India, Malaysia, Pakistan, South Korea, and Japan.

3. Sanya Richards-Ross, who will be event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon, is from which country?

[A] Germany
[B] United States
[C] France
[D] Italy

Correct Answer: B [United States]

Notes:
Four-time Olympic gold medallist athlete Sanya Richards-Ross will be the event ambassador for the Airtel Delhi half marathon to be held on October 21. She is the fastest American woman in the history of 400m with her time of 48.70s set at the 2006 IAAF World Cup. Ross was the best 400m runner in the world for a decade, ranking No. 1 in the world from 2005-2009 and again in 2012. In addition to her Olympic accolades, she is also a 7-time medalist at the World Championships in Athletics (five of which are gold).

4. Dr. Evan Atar Adaha, who is the official winner of the 2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award, is

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

from which country?

[A] Egypt

[B] South Sudan

[C] Spain

[D] Brazil

Correct Answer: B [South Sudan]

Notes:
Dr. Evan Atar Adaha, surgeon and medical director at a hospital in Bunj of north-eastern South Sudan, has won the prestigious the 2018 UNHCR Nansen Refugee for his outstanding 20-year commitment in providing medical services to people forced to flee conflict. He also provides health services to locals as well as refugees from Sudan's neighbouring Blue Nile State, in the small town of Bunj. South Sudan hosts nearly 300,000 refugees, of whom 92% are Sudanese from the South Kordofan and the Blue Nile regions close to the South Sudanese border. The prestigious award is presented every year to an individual or organization who has dedicated their time going above and beyond the call of duty to help people forcibly displaced from their homes. The Award is named after Norwegian polar explorer Fridtjof Nansen, who served as the first high commissioner for refugees during the failed League of Nations. The 2018 award ceremony will be held on October 1st in Geneva, Switzerland.

5. Jasdev Singh, who passed away recently, was associated with Doordarshan for 48 years as __?

Himani Borkar | himanibj6@gmail.com |

[A] Legal Expert

[B] Marketing Advisor

[C] Content Manager

[D] Hindi Commentator

Correct Answer: D [Hindi Commentator]

Notes:
Renowned hindi commentator Jasdev Singh (87), who was the voice of Indian sports on Doordarshan, has passed away in New Delhi on September 25, 2018. He was a rare commentator who excelled in commentating on every sport including hockey and cricket. Interestingly, he started his career in All India Radio (AIR) in 1955 at their Jaipur station. He was also the voice of sports in AIR for a long time. From 1963, he was also an official commentator on Independence Day and Republic Day parade broadcasts for 48 long years. He had covered 9 editions of Olympics from Helsinki (1968) to Melbourne (2000), 8 hockey World Cups and six Asian Games. Jasdev was also awarded the 'Olympic Order' by IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch at the Seoul edition in 1988 for his role in spreading the Olympic movement. He was conferred with the Padma Shri in 1985 and Padma Bhushan in 2008.

More At @Aj_ebooks

6. Recently, Arun Kumar was appointed as new Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF). Which of the following is the Motto of RPF?

[A] Duty Unto Death

[B] Service and Loyalty

[C] Bahujana Hitaya Bahujana Sukhaya

[D] Service, Security and Brotherhood

Correct Answer: B [Service and Loyalty]

Notes:
Arun Kumar, a 1985 batch officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, has been appointed the new Director-General of Railway Protection Force (RPF). He will hold the charge as RPF's DG till his superannuation on June 30, 2021. He succeeded Dharmendra Kumar. Prior to this post, Arun Kumar was the as Special Director General of Border Security Force (BSF). He has worked in several senior positions including that of Joint Director in Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He was incharge of probe into high profile cases like the murder of 13-year-old Aarushi Talwar in Noida in 2008. The RPF is a security force of India entrusted with protecting railway passengers, passenger area and railway property of the Indian Railways .It has the power to arrest, investigate and prosecute criminals. The force is under the authority of Ministry of Railways. The motto of RPF is "Service and Loyalty".

7. Which city has launched India's first Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS)?

[A] Chennai

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[B] Kochi
[C] Hyderabad
[D] Kolkata

Correct Answer: D [Kolkata]

Notes:
The Mayor of Kolkata Municipal Corporaton (KMC) has recently launched India's first Flood Forecasting and Early Warning System (FFEWS) for Kolkata City to help city officials and citizens act decisively to minimize damage before and during disasters. India's first comprehensive city-level 'FFEWS' will reduce economic loss and impacts on livelihood and improve flood awareness and safety at community level. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) funded the design and implementation of the FFEWS through a $1 million technical assistance to KMC from its Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund under the Urban Financing Partnership Facility.

8. Which alcohol control initiative has been launched by the World Health Organization (WHO), recently?
[A] SAFER
[B] TRUST
[C] UNITE
[D] HAWK

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: A [SAFER]

Notes:
The World Health Organization (WHO) has recently launched a new alcohol control initiative 'SAFER' to prevent and reduce alcohol-related death and disability. It provides five high-impact strategies that can help governments reduce the harmful use of alcohol and related health, social and economic consequences. The WHO-led initiative and action package aim to support global target of reducing harmful use of alcohol by 10% by 2025. It is the newest WHO-led roadmap to support governments in taking practical steps to accelerate progress on health, beat Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) through addressing the harmful use of alcohol, and achieves development targets.

9. The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded jointly to James P Allison and Tasuku Honjo for their discovery of which cancer therapy?
[A] Chemotherapy
[B] Radiation
[C] Surgery
[D] Immunotherapy

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: D [Immunotherapy]

Notes:
The 2018 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded jointly to Dr. James P. Allison of the United States and Dr. Tasuku Honjo of Japan for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation. Both the doctors, working separately, showed in the 1990s how certain proteins act as "brakes" on the immune system's T-cells, limiting their ability to attack cancer cells, and that suppressing those proteins could transform the body's ability to fight cancer. They used immunotherapy to help the cells of the immune system recognize and attack cancer cells. Until their breakthroughs cancer treatment consisted of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Their work led to a fourth class of treatment, harnessing the immune system, what the Nobel committee at the Karolinska Institute called "an entirely new principle for cancer therapy."

10. What is the India's GDP growth forecast for 2018, according to UNCTAD's latest report "Trade and Development Report"?
[A] 6.7%
[B] 7.2%
[C] 7.0%
[D] 7.4%

Correct Answer: C [7.0%]

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Notes:
The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has expected India's economy to grow 7.0% in calendar year 2018 compared with 6.2% in 2017. As per the report "Trade and Development", the effects of demonetization are still evident in private consumption trends within the economy. It also emphasised that countries like India and Thailand, which have been most favoured by foreign investors and experienced the largest spike in asset prices, would be most vulnerable to capital outflows. Further, countries like India which are dealing with Current Account Deficits (CAD) have a tendency of reducing imports. This assumes significance in the wake of India putting in place measures to control the rising CAD and capital outflows.

11. India's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy is to be set up in which city?
[A] Jaipur
[B] Thiruvananthapuram
[C] Baroda
[D] Guwahati

Correct Answer: A [Jaipur]

Notes:
India's first AICTE Training and Learning (ATAL) Academy will be established by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) in Jaipur. In a bid to introduce upgraded teaching methods and modules to make technical education more effective and accountable, AICTE is building the training academies where the faculties would be trained on the eight-module course. The training will be mandatory for new teachers from 2019 & it will be necessary for the existing teachers and assistant teachers while applying for promotions. Beside Jaipur, three other academies slated to come up in Baroda (Gujarat), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala) and Guwahati (Assam) by 2019. The academies were being built on land provided free of cost by the respective state governments with minimum built-up infrastructure facility around the area. These academies will equip candidates with the latest changes in technical education.

12. Who heads the high-level committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)?
[A] Ranjana Prakash Desai
[B] Injeti Srinivas
[C] Arundhati Das
[D] Amit Sagar

Correct Answer: B [Injeti Srinivas]

Notes:
The Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) has recently constituted an 11-member high-level committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to review the existing framework and guide and formulate the roadmap for a coherent policy on CSR under the companies law. The Committee, which will be headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, will analyze outcomes of CSR activities, programmes, projects and suggest measures for effective monitoring and evaluation of CSR by companies. Suggestions are also expected on innovative solutions, use of technology platform to connect stakeholders and social audit. The Companies Act 2013 mandates that firms with a net worth of at least Rs 500 crore or revenue of Rs 1,000 crore or net profit of Rs 5 crore should spend at least 2% of their net profit on CSR. The provision came into force from April 1, 2014. In India, around 14,000 companies are required to spend on various social projects under Section 135 of the Companies Act. The committee will review the Schedule 7 of the Act that defines the activities on which companies have to spend their CSR funds.

13. Who has been appointed the first-ever female major general in the 47 years history of Bangladesh?
[A] Nasreen Jahan
[B] Selina Hossain
[C] Monica Ali
[D] Susane Giti

Correct Answer: D [Susane Giti]

Notes:

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Dr Susane Giti has been appointed the first-ever female major general in the 47 years history of Bangladesh. She was presented with the rank badge of Major General by Bangladesh Army chief General Aziz Ahmed and Quarter Master General Lt General Md Shamsul Haque on September 30. Currently, she is the HOD of pathology department of Armed Forces Medical College. According to the Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR), Giti joined the medical wing of the Bangladesh armed forces in 1986 as a captain. She was also the first woman to pass FCPS degree in Hematology in 1996.

14. Which Indian origin personality has been named as Chief Economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)?

[A] Sashi Cheliah

[B] Shand Panesa

[C] Gita Gopinath

[D] Guruswamy Jayraman

Correct Answer: C [Gita Gopinath]

Notes:

Gita Gopinath, professor at Harvard University, has been appointed chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The India-born economist will succeed Maurice (Maury) Obstfeld, who is to retire at the end of 2018.With this, Gopinath will become the 2nd Indian after former RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan to be appointed to the position. According to the IMF statement, Gopinath who is a US citizen and an Overseas Citizen of India, is co-editor of the American Economic Review and co-director of the International Finance and Macroeconomics Program at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). She is co-editor of the current Handbook of International Economics with former IMF Economic Counsellor Kenneth Rogoff. Currently, Gopinath is the John Zwaanstra Professor of International Studies and Economics at Harvard University. She is the third woman in the history of Harvard to be a tenured professor at its esteemed economics department and the first Indian since the Nobel laureate Amartya Sen to hold that position.

15. The 17th century 'Oonth Kadal' bridge, which is in news recently, is located in which state?

[A] Punjab

[B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Himachal Pradesh

[D] Jammu & Kashmir

Correct Answer: D [Jammu & Kashmir]

Notes:

The 17th century 'Oonth Kadal' is a Mughal period arch-shaped bridge, located at the middle of the picturesque Dal lake in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. Recently, it is in news because the Government of Germany has granted Rs 32 lakh for the conservation of the camel hump-shaped bridge. The restoration of the bridge will bring focus on significance of Dal Lake as part of global cultural and natural heritage. The Oonth Kadal project has come as a shot in the arm for the six Mughal gardens located near the Dal lake, which has made its entry into UNESCO's Tentative List of World Heritage Sites. Built in 1670s, Oonth Kadal attracted foreign photographers and Bollywood directors, who shot many songs around it. Of late, it was crumbling due to the apathy shown towards conservation by the local authorities. Oonth Kadal is a stone masonry bridge and was essentially part of the erstwhile Chaudhri Soth (also called Soth-i-Chodri) that started at end of Naidyar Bridge in Kralyar, Rainawari and opened at Ishber Nishat.

16. Which new initiative has been launched by the Government of India (GoI) to promote use of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG)?

[A] CBG-U

[B] SATAT

[C] STAAR

[D] AMOKSH

Correct Answer: B [SATAT]

Notes:

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan has recently launched an innovative initiative called SATAT (Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation) in New Delhi on 1st October 2018 to promote Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) as an alternative fuel. In it, Public sector oil

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

marketing companies – Indian Oil, Hindustan Petroleum and Bharat Petroleum – will seek expression of interest from potential entrepreneurs to set up CBG production plants and make it available in the market for use as auto fuel. The Bio-gas is produced naturally through a process of anaerobic decomposition from waste / bio-mass sources like agriculture residue, cattle dung, sugarcane press mud, municipal solid waste, sewage treatment plant waste, etc. After purification, it is compressed and called CBG, which has pure methane content of over 95%. Compressed Bio-Gas is exactly similar to the commercially available natural gas in its composition and energy potential. Thus, this move will benefit vehicle-users as well as farmers and entrepreneurs.

17. The nationwide Action Research Project of Gram Panchayat development scheme has been launched from which city?

[A] Agra
[B] New Delhi
[C] Jaipur
[D] Gwalior

Correct Answer: D [Gwalior]

Notes:
The nationwide Action Research Project of Gram Panchayat development scheme has been inaugurated by the Minister of Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar at a function organized at Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh on October 1. The project is designed for the sustainable and holistic development of rural areas of the country. According to official information, the Project is currently being implemented in 467 Gram Panchayats covered in 98 clusters of 19 States of the country. Through this project, special efforts will be made to raise the standard of living of the poorest people of the society and to enhance human development. The main purpose of this project is to ensure the overall development by capacity building, administrative reform and public participation.

18. Pandit Tulsidas Borkar, who passed away recently, was the legendary exponent of which musical instrument?

[A] Harmonium
[B] Flute
[C] Drum
[D] Banjo

Correct Answer: A [Harmonium]

Notes:
Pandit Tulsidas Borkar (83), the legendary harmonium exponent, has passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra on September 29, 2018. Born in Borim (Goa), he was conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2016 for his contributions to Indian music. He was also a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2005. Borkar was known for both solo performances as well as his unique style of accompanying Indian classical singers. Among others, he had accompanied legendary singers such as Ustad Amir Khan, Bhimsen Joshi and Kishori Amonkar.

19. Which of the following will become the 2nd Indian state after Rajasthan to set up Ministry for cows?

[A] Uttar Pradesh
[B] Madhya Pradesh
[C] Gujarat
[D] Jharkhand

Correct Answer: B [Madhya Pradesh]

Notes:
On September 30, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced to set up a Ministry for Cows at a function in Khajuraho in Chhattarpur district to take care of cattle in a better way. It was attended by Digambar Jain monk Vidhyasagarji Maharaj. The cow ministry will replace the existing Madhya Pradesh Gaupalan Evam Pashudhan Samvardhan Board (MPGEPSB) because it (board) has limitations. If Madhya Pradesh implements the decision, it will become the 2nd Indian state after Rajasthan to get a cow ministry. Earlier, the MP government opened the India's first cow sanctuary under the board in

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

September 2017 at Agar Malwa district. The sanctuary is spread over 472 hectares, with a capacity for housing 6,000 cows. The Board also runs 600 cow shelters across the state where there are roughly 1.4 lakh bovines. The state is slated for assembly polls later this year along with Chhattisgarh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and possibly Telangana.

20. Who has been named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games 2018?

[A] Mehuli Ghosh

[B] Saurabh Chaudhary

[C] Manu Bhaker

[D] Lakshya Sena

Correct Answer: C [Manu Bhaker]

Notes:

Teenage shooting star Manu Bhaker has been named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Youth Olympic Games to be held at Buenos Aires in Argentina from October 6-18. Goa Olympic Association Secretary Gurudutta D Bhakta will be the Chef-de-Mission of the contingent. It is India's largest ever contingent at the Youth Olympics. Hockey 5s has most number of Indian participants with 18 (nine each in men's and women's team) while track and field has seven athletes. Other Indian participants are: shooting (4), recurve archery (2), badminton (2), swimming (2), table tennis (2), weightlifting (2), wrestling (2), rowing (2), boxing (1), judo (1), sport climbing (1).

21. Which state government has recently launched its own food security scheme to cover the poor people who left out of the National Food Security Act (NFSA)?

[A] Odisha

[B] Assam

[C] Maharashtra

[D] Goa

Correct Answer: A [Odisha]

Notes:

On the occasion of 149th Gandhi Jayanti, the Odisha government has launched its own food security scheme to benefit 25 lakh poor people that were excluded from the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik at the State Secretariat in Bhubaneswar. The beneficiaries will get 5 kg of rice per person per month at the rate of Rs 1 per kg. The State government will spend Rs. 443.5 crore per annum to support the scheme and Rs. 221.75 crore in the current financial year.

22. India has been ranked 5th along with which of the following countries in pictorial warnings on cigarette packets, according to latest Canadian Cancer Society report?

[A] Indonesia and Malaysia

[B] Nepal and Vanuatu

[C] Hong Kong and Thailand

[D] Timor Leste and Brazil

Correct Answer: C [Hong Kong and Thailand]

Notes:

India has been ranked 5th, jointly with Hong Kong and Thailand, in terms of the largest pictorial warning on cigarette packs with 85% of both sides of the packets covered, according to latest Canadian Cancer Society report. As per 2018 report, Out of 206 nations, Timor Leste has the largest warning on cigarette packages in the world with 92.5% on front and back, followed by Nepal and Vanuatu with 90% and New Zealand at fourth with 87.5%.The Cigarette Package Health Warnings: International Status Report 2018 highlighted that 118 countries worldwide have made pictorial warnings mandatory, representing a global public health achievement, and 58% of the world's population is covered by this regulation. The current report is the 6th Canadian Cancer Society international report on cigarette package health warnings. The report released in Geneva at the 8th session of the Conference of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) revealed that there was tremendous international momentum for plain packaging of tobacco.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

23. India's tallest National flag from the average city elevation has recently installed in which city?
[A] New Delhi
[B] Guwahati
[C] Gandhi Nagar
[D] Kolkata

Correct Answer: B [Guwahati]

Notes:
On the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal hoisted India's tallest National Flag from the average city elevation at the Gandhi Mandap in Guwahati. The 9,600 sq ft flag stands on a 319.5 ft flag pole at Gandhi Mandap, a memorial for Mahatma Gandhi atop the Sarania Hill in the heart of Assam's principal city. The tip of the flag pole from the base of the hill is about 300 metres that makes it the tallest from the mean sea level. It carries a flag of 120×80 feet dimension. Though, considering only the height of the flag pole, the National Flag at Gandhi Mandap is the third tallest in the country after Punjab's Attari border (360 ft) and Pimpri Chinchwad Bhakti Shakti Chowk, Pune (351 ft). The total cost of the National Flag installation project is Rs 2.92 crore, which includes operations and maintenance for a period of one year.

24. Thampi Kannanthanam, who passed away recently, was associated to which of the following regional cinemas?
Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |
[A] Tamil
[B] Malayalam
[C] Telugu
[D] Odia

Correct Answer: B [Malayalam]

Notes:
Thampi Kannanthanam (64), the noted Malayalam film director, has recently passed away in Kochi, Kerala on October 2, 2018. He was most active during the period 1980-90. His most notable directorial films include Rajavinte Makan, Vazhiyorakazchakal, Bhoomiyile Rajakkanmar, Indrajaalam, Naadody, Chukkan, and Maanthrikam. He had also directed a Hindi film 'Hadd' starring Jackie Shroff and Ayesha Jhulka. Kannanthanam had also penned the scripts for movies like Janmantharam and Freedom.

25. The joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise "IBSAMAR 2018" has kicked off in which country?
[A] India
[B] Brazil
[C] South Africa
[D] South Korea

Correct Answer: C [South Africa]

Notes:
The 6th edition of joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise "IBSAMAR 2018" between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies has started at Simons Town, South Africa from 1st Oct 2018. The aim of the 13-day exercise is to undertake collective training for participating navies, building inter-operability and mutual understanding as well as sharing of best practices. The Indian Navy is represented in IBSAMAR VI by Guided Missile Frigate Tarkash, Guided Missile Destroyer Kolkata, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I, Seaking and Chetak helicopters as well as a MARCOS contingent. The exercise includes both harbour and sea phases with various navigation and seamanship evolutions, surface weapons firing, force protection exercises, antipiracy exercise, anti-air and anti-submarine exercise as well as flying operations. Apart from professional activities, sports and social engagements are also planned.

26. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day of Older Persons?
[A] Tapping the Talents of Older Persons in Society
[B] Take a Stand Against Ageism
[C] Celebrating Older Human Rights champions

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[D] Sustainability and Age Inclusiveness in the Urban Environment

Correct Answer: C [Celebrating Older Human Rights champions]

Notes:
The International Day of Older Persons is observed on 1st October every year to reaffirm the commitment to promoting the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by older persons. The 2018 theme is, 'Celebrating Older Human Rights champions'. The purpose of the day is to recognise the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives. According to the United Nations, almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60, and by 2050, 2 billion people, over 20% of the world's population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth. With this in mind, enhanced attention to the particular needs and challenges faced by older people is clearly required.

27. Who will head the Group of Ministers (GoM) to examine modalities for 'calamity tax' under GST?

[A] Ravi Shankar Prasad

[B] Narendra Singh Tomar

[C] Suresh Prabhu

[D] Sushil Modi

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: D [Sushil Modi]

Notes:
The Government of India (GoI) has recently constituted a 7-member ministerial panel headed by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Modi to examine modalities for revenue mobilisation in case of natural calamities and disasters. The panel would submit its report to the GST Council by October 31. The Group of Ministers (GoM) has been set up to examine the legality of imposing a new tax on certain goods to raise resources for natural calamity-hit states like Kerala. The panel would look into five issues flagged by the Council, including whether the new tax should be levied only in the state concerned or should it be an all-India levy, and that should it be on specified luxury or sin goods only. Besides, the GoM will look at whether National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)/ State Disaster Response Fund (SRF) mechanism is sufficient to deal with calamities as well as define circumstances where the 'calamity tax' can be imposed. Other issues such as the legal aspect of imposition of such a tax within the GST would also be looked at.

More At @AJ_ebooks

28. The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) has recently concluded in which city?

[A] Gandhi Nagar

[B] New Delhi

[C] Kanpur

[D] Ahmedabad

Correct Answer: B [New Delhi]

Notes:
The Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention (MGISC) has recently concluded in New Delhi on October 2. The purpose of the 4–day event was to share sanitation success stories and lessons from the participating countries. In it, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres addressed the convention. MGISC is organised by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to mark the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi. The convention also coincides with the fourth anniversary of the launch of Swachh Bharat Mission. 53 Ministers of Sanitation from around the world and more than 160 international representatives from 68 countries participated in the convention. The international conference brings together Sanitation Ministers and other leaders in WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene) from around the world.

29. Which of the following women physicists has won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics?

[A] Lisa Randall

[B] Lisa Randall

[C] Donna Strickland

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[D] Gabriela Gonzalez

Correct Answer: C [Donna Strickland]

Notes:
American scientist Arthur Ashkin, French engineer Gerard Mourou and Canadian professor Donna Strickland have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for their work in the field of laser physics. Dr. Ashkin has been awarded the Prize "for the optical tweezers and their application to biological systems. Dr. Mourou and Dr. Strickland have been awarded "for their method of generating high-intensity, ultra-short optical pulses". With this, Dr. Strickland has become the third female laureate to win the Nobel Prize in Physics, after Maria Goeppert-Mayer and Marie Curie.

30. Who has been named as the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Paralympic Asian games 2018?

[A] Devendra Jhajharia

[B] Thangvellu Mariyappan

[C] Amit Kumar Saroha

[D] Girisha Nagarajegowda

Correct Answer: B [Thangvellu Mariyappan]

Notes:
Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |
Rio Paralympic gold medallist Thangvellu Mariyappan has been named as flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the 3rd Paralympic Asian games to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from October 6-13. India will field its biggest ever contingent of 302 members including athletes, coaches, support staff, escorts and officials. The Indian contingent were initially denied entry on Oct 1 when they arrived at the Games Village as the Sports Ministry had not till then cleared funds to the tune of $2.5 lakh. However, the issue was later resolved.

31. Which of the following union ministries has won the 'Swachchta Hi Seva' award, recently?

[A] Ministry of Law and Justice

[B] Ministry of Information and Broadcasting

[C] Ministry of Defence

[D] Ministry of Railways

Correct Answer: D [Ministry of Railways]

Notes:
The Ministry of Railways has been declared the best department for its contribution to "Swachchta Pakhwada" under the "Swachchta Hi Seva" category of awards in an inter-ministry initiative organised by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to promote cleanliness in government offices and health facilities. The award was presented to the Railway Ministry on the 4th anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The 'Swachchta Hi Seva' campaign was launched in 2017 to spur the public to donate their time for building toilets and cleaning public places.

32. India signed $240 million loan pact with ADB for safe drinking water in which of the following districts of West Bengal?

[A] North 24 Parganas

[B] Bankura

[C] Purba Medinipur

[D] All of the above

Correct Answer: D [All of the above]

Notes:
On October 3, the Government of India (GoI) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed $240 million loan for providing safe and sustainable drinking water to about 1.65 million people in three districts of the state of West Bengal affected by arsenic, fluoride, and salinity. The purpose of the project is to mitigate these risks through provision of continuous potable water through metered connections to about 390,000 individual households in three districts – Bankura, North 24 Parganas, and Purba Medinipur. The project is supported by a grant of $3 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, financed by the Government of Japan, and a $2 million grant from ADB's Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF). This will support the state government in strengthening its smart

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

water management system, improve flood-related early warning and response, and provide training on operation and maintenance as well as climate change and disaster resilience.

33. Which of the following has been declared the cleanest government university in the Swachh Campus ranking 2018?

[A] Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak

[B] Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar

[C] Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi

[D] Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur

Correct Answer: A [Maharshi Dayanand University, Rohtak]

Notes:
The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister, Prakash Javadekar has recently announced the "Swachh Campus rankings 2018" under different categories. In it, Haryana's Maharshi Dayanand University (MDU) has been declared the cleanest government varsity by the HRD Ministry, followed by Guru Nanak Dev University in Punjab's Amritsar. The rankings were decided on the basis of a survey under the 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaign. The Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS) in the national capital has been ranked third among the government institutions followed by Algappa University in Tamil Nadu's Karaikudi and Acharya Nagarjuna University in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur. The universities were assessed for toilets adequacy and maintenance, garbage clearance system, hostel kitchen hygiene and sophistication of equipment, water purity, storage, distribution facility, campus greenery and rainwater harvesting, use of solar systems and villages or neighbourhood adoption for hygiene.

34. Which national level entrepreneurship awareness campaign has been launched by SIDBI?

[A] Youth For Work

[B] SAFAR

[C] Udyam Abhilasha

[D] e-Udyam

Correct Answer: C [Udyam Abhilasha]

Notes:
On the 149th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched a National Level Entrepreneurship Awareness Campaign – Udyam Abhilasha, in 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States. The purpose of the campaign is to inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise. The 6-day campaign would run parallel from 3rd October across India. It would create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to the aspiring youths, encouraging them to enter the admired segment of entrepreneurs. The SIDBI has partnered with Common service centres, e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, set up by the Ministry of Electronics and IT for implementing the campaign. SIDBI is the principal financial institution for the promotion, financing and development of the MSME sector.

35. Which of the following women scientists has won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Chemistry?

[A] Christiane Volhard

[B] Ada Yonath

[C] Frances H. Arnold

[D] Carol W. Greider

Correct Answer: C [Frances H. Arnold]

Notes:
The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2018 with one half to Frances H. Arnold "for the directed evolution of enzymes" and the other half jointly to George P. Smith and British scientist Sir Gregory P. Winter "for the phage display of peptides and antibodies". Dr. Arnold and Dr. Smith are American scientists. Now, Dr. Arnold is only the fifth woman to be awarded the prize for chemistry. The methods developed by the laureates have been put to work to create new enzymes and antibodies used in promoting a greener chemicals industry, mitigating disease and saving lives. The prize highlights the narrowing of the gap between biology and some fields of chemistry as chemists turn to nature for inspiration.

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

36. What is the theme of the 2018 World Habitat Day (WHD)?
[A] Cities and Climate Change
[B] Housing at the Centre
[C] Municipal Solid Waste Management
[D] Cities, magnets of hope

Correct Answer: C [Municipal Solid Waste Management]

Notes:
The World Habitat Day (WHD) is observed every year on first Monday in October across the world to raise awareness about need for affordable housing for all in urban areas, cities and towns. The purpose of day is to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns. On 1st October 2018, the day is celebrated with 'Municipal Solid Waste Management' & slogan 'Waste-wise cities' to highlight the issue of municipal solid waste management challenge as global issue that affects everyone.

37. Who has been elected as the new President of Iraq?
[A] Barham Salih
[B] Fuad Masum
[C] Jalal Talabani
[D] Mashal Ajil al-Yawer

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: A [Barham Salih]

Notes:
Barham Ahmed Salih, the veteran Kurdistan politician, has been elected as the new President of Iraq on 2nd October 2018. He received 219 votes and defeated Fuad Hussein, who secured 22 votes. Salih is a former prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and a former deputy prime minister of the Iraqi federal government. The new president will have 15 days to task the nominee of the largest parliamentary bloc with forming a new government. However, President Saleh has named veteran Shia Islamist politician Adel Abdul Mahdi as prime minister-designate & ended months of deadlock. Now, Mr. Mahdi will have to oversee the reconstruction of Iraq following the four-year battle against the jihadist group Islamic State (IS), which left tens of thousands of homes and business destroyed and displaced more than three million people. Under a de facto power-sharing deal agreed in Iraq after the 2003 US-led invasion that overthrew Saddam Hussein, the Iraq's presidency is held by a Kurd, while the prime minister is Shia and the speaker of parliament is Sunni.

More At @Aj_ebooks

38. Which of the following cities is the venue of the first-ever General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA)?
[A] Pune
[B] New Delhi
[C] Chennai
[D] Kolkata

Correct Answer: B [New Delhi]

Notes:
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever General Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi from 2nd October 2018. He pitched for "one-world, one-sun, one-grid", to harness the energy potential offered by the sun. Beside this, PM Modi also announced the "universalization" of membership for the first treaty-based international government organization headquartered in India that will help provide a platform for climate justice. The same event also marked the inauguration of the 2nd IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting, and the 2nd Global RE-Invest (Renewable Energy Investors' Meet and Expo). Over 150 speakers including 55 international speakers from 15 countries will take part in it. The India and France-led ISA is an inter-governmental treaty-based organisation of countries between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn to promote solar energy in the member nations.

39. The 31st All India Railways Chess tournament 2018 has started in which city, recently?
[A] Tiruchirappalli

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[B] Guwahati
[C] Jabalpur
[D] Kanpur

Correct Answer: A [Tiruchirappalli]

Notes:
The 31st All India Railways Chess tournament 2018 has started at Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu on October 3. The 4-day tournament has formally inaugurated by General Manager of Southern Railway, SM Kulshreshta. The event is being conducted in Swiss League Format at both team and individual levels. Around 87 players including five grandmasters and 18 international masters from 14 Zonal Railways and seven Production Units from across Indian Railways are participating in the event. The successful players from this tournament will represent Indian Railways in the National Chess Championship to be held in November 2018.

40. The world's largest dome has recently inaugurated in which country?
[A] Israel
[B] Iran
[C] India
[D] Bangladesh

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: C [India]

Notes:
On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the world's largest dome at the Maharashtra Institute of Technology (MIT)'s World Peace University (MIT-WPU) campus at Loni Kalbhor, Pune. The dome is 160 ft in diameter and 263 ft tall. It is larger in area than the dome at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City (which is 136 ft. in diameter and 448 ft. in height). The prayer hall can accommodate about 3,500 people and is embellished with more than 50 statues of saints, philosophers, scientists and statesmen from India and the world. Each of the statues, created by the noted artist 'Ram V. Sutar', is 4m in tall and weighs up to two tonnes. The dome will be home to teachings of saints, spiritual leaders, philosophers and scientists from around the world as it will profess humanity and world peace. It will house India's first library called Saint Dnyaneshwara World Peace Library which will have books sourced from over 100 countries across the globe.

41. Sahyog HOP TAC-2018 is held between India and which country?
[A] Sri Lanka
[B] South Africa
[C] Thailand
[D] Vietnam

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: D [Vietnam]

Notes:
On October 4, the first ever Indo-Vietnam Coast Guard joint exercise – Sahyog HOP TAC -2018' held in the Bay of Bengal off Chennai between Indian and Vietnam Coast Guards (VGC). According to an official press release, Coast Guard ships Shaurya, Arnvesh and inreceptor boat C-431 along with a Dornier aircraft and Chetak helicopter participated in the joint exercise. The purpose of the exercise was to acquaint the coast guards of the two countries with each others' capabilities and strengthening the working level relationship to rescue lives at sea. The highlight of the exercise was a scenario of hijacking an oil ship and subsequent rescue of its crew in the coordinated joint operation of both the countries. The exercise was conducted under the supervision of Inspector General Paramesh Sivamani Commander Coast Guard Eastern region, and was witnessed by Vietnam Coast Guard Commandant Major General Nguyen Van Son.

42. Which IIT has decided to establish an 'Academy of Leadership'?
[A] IIT Bombay
[B] IIT Indore
[C] IIT Madras
[D] IIT Kharagpur

Correct Answer: D [IIT Kharagpur]

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Notes:
The IIT Kharagpur (IIT-Kgp) has decided to establish an 'Academy of Leadership', which intends to develop innovative programmes combining the core curricula in science and engineering disciplines with philosophy and liberal arts. This academy will be based not only on scientific and technical training, but the teachings of ancient philosophies, reasoning, systems engineering and the past successes and failures of humanity. It will be called 'Partha S Ghosh Academy of Leadership', named after management consultant/strategist and philanthropist Partha S Ghosh. The institute has already received donation of $1 million from Ghosh, who is often addressed as a 'creative problem solver' and a 'visionary leader' by the government and industry leaders across multiple nations in Asia Pacific, Europe and America. Under this academy, programmes would be developed to nurture leadership qualities in individuals and organisations.

43. Which technology-driven futuristic initiative will be roll out by the Civil Aviation Ministry to make hassle-free air travel for passengers?
[A] BHIM Yatra
[B] Bharat Yatra
[C] Digi Yatra
[D] Aadhaar Yatra

Correct Answer: C [Digi Yatra]

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Notes:
Union Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu has recently released the policy on the biometric-based digital processing of passengers at airports called "Digi Yatra" to make hassle-free air travel for passengers. Digi Yatra is about Facial Recognition based passenger processing which is a common standard being adopted the world over. It will facilitate paperless travel and avoid identity check at multiple points. In the first phase in February 2019, Hyderabad and Bengaluru international airports will have the system on a pilot basis. In the second phase, in April 2019, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) will roll out the programme initially at Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada airports later on, all airports will adopt the system. Under the Digi Yatra, passenger can get a Digi Yatra ID by sharing minimum details like Name, e-mail ID, Mobile number and details of one approved Identity proof where Aadhar ID is not mandatory. This DigiYatra ID will be shared by passengers while booking ticket. Airlines will share the passenger data and DigiYatraID with the departure airport

44. The first-ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' has recently held in which city?
[A] Dehradun
[B] Shimla
[C] Guwahati
[D] Patna

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: B [Shimla]

Notes:
The first-ever Regional Conference on 'Women in Detention and Access to Justice' has recently held in Shimla on October 4-5, 2018. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) organized the conference in collaboration with the Prison Department, Himachal Pradesh. This conference is organised with a view to provide a platform for the prison personnel of all ranks at the national level to share their candid views on various operational as well as administrative issues not only with their counterparts, but also with other experts of national repute in this field and also to identify best practices and standards in the working of Correctional Administration to meet new challenges in the present day's context to bring out prison reforms in objective terms.

45. India has launched which humanitarian assistance operation to provide assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia?
[A] Operation Trident
[B] Operation Samudra Parakram
[C] Operation Maitri
[D] Operation Samudra Maitri

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: D [Operation Samudra Maitri]

Notes:
The 'Operation Samudra Maitri'has been launched by the Government of India (GoI) to provide massive humanitarian assistance to the earthquake and tsunami victims in Indonesia. Two Indian Air Force aircrafts – C-130J and C-17 – departed recently with medical personnel and relief material. The C-130J aircraft is carrying a medical team along with tents and equipment to set up a field hospital. The C-17 aircraft is carrying medicines, generators, tents and water to provide immediate assistance. Three Indian Naval Ships – INS Tir, INS Sujatha and INS Shardul – have also been mobilised to carry out Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). These ships are likely to reach the Central Sulawesi province of Indonesia on October 6. The death toll in Indonesia's twin quake-tsunami disaster, which decimated parts of the central Indonesian island of Sulawesi, has already climbed to nearly 1,400. An estimated 2.4 million people were affected, 61,867 displaced and 66,000 homes destroyed.

46. The team of scientists has recently identified regions in the wheat genome responsible for density of which micro-nutrient in wheat grain?
[A] Iron
[B] Zinc
[C] Calcium
[D] Nitrogen

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: B [Zinc]

Notes:
The scientists have recently identified regions in the wheat genome responsible for concentration of zinc in wheat grain. They have also identified candidate genes involved in zinc concentration in wheat. The findings can potentially help in developing wheat varieties with enhanced levels of the micro-nutrient. The researchers have found 39 new molecular markers and two genome segments that carry important genes for zinc uptake, translocation, and storage by analyzing zinc concentrations. A total of 330 wheat lines were analysed from different environments in India and Mexico. The genome-wide association approach, used in human disease research, was applied in this study to locate genome segments linked to zinc uptake. This study was jointly conducted by researchers from International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), Flinders University, Australia; Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana; Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley Research, Karnal; and Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi. It must be noted that about 30% of Indian population is estimated to have zinc deficiency. Children below 5 year of age and pregnant women are more vulnerable for nutrient deficiency.

More At @Aj_ebooks

47. What is the theme of the 4th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF – 2018)?
[A] Vigyan se Vikas
[B] Science for Transformation
[C] Building Partnerships Impacting Society
[D] Making of a New India

Correct Answer: B [Science for Transformation]

Notes:
On October 5, the 4th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF – 2018) has started at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The mega science expo will be formally inauguratedby the President Shri Ram NathKovind. It is being organized by Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Earth Sciences in association with Vijnana Bharati. The theme of this edition of Science Festival is "Science for Transformation". IISF-2018 is expected to be represented by approximately 10000 delegates including 5000 students, 550 teachers, 200 students from North-East Region, 20 international delegates and approximately 200 startups.

48. India has signed $150 million loan pact with which international organisation to establish its first-ever Global Skills Park (GSP) in Madhya Pradesh?
[A] ADB
[B] AIIB
[C] World Bank
[D] IMF

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: A [ADB]

Notes:
India has signed $150 million loan pact with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to establish its first-ever Global Skills Park (GSP) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The aim of the GSP is to enhance the quality of Technical and Vocational Education And Training (TVET) System in the State and create a more skilled workforce. The new GSP campus will consist of core Advanced Training Institutes including the Center for Occupational Skills Acquisition and the Center for Advanced Agricultural Training as well as other support services focusing on entrepreneurship, training of trainers, and skill-related research. The campus will have training facilities focusing on skills for manufacturing, service, and advanced agricultural jobs, benefitting about 20,000 trainees and trainers. The Project will also help in modernizing 10 industrial training institutes across the state by renovating training infrastructure and upgrading skills courses to align with industry and market needs.

49. Which of the following has been declared the "cleanest religious place" in India at Safaigiri Summit and Awards 2018?
[A] Jagannath Temple, Puri
[B] Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, J&K
[C] Kashi Vishvanath Temple, Varanasi
[D] Meenakshi Temple, Madurai

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: B [Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, J&K]

Notes:
The cave shrine of Mata Vaishnodevi in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) has been declared the "cleanest religious place" in the country. Over 81.78 pilgrims visited the shrine in Trikuta hills in the district in 2017. Mata Vaishno Devi shrine has won the prestigious 'cleanest religious place' award at Safaigiri Summit and Awards 2018 ceremony organised by the India Today Group in Mumbai on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti. The award has been given in recognition of the significant strides made by the shrine board for ensuring sanitation and cleanliness all along the tracks and in the entire shrine area. The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVSB) has introduced water less urinals based on 'flush-me-not' technology to curtail water consumption significantly and reverse vending machines to promote scientific disposal and recycling of PET bottles. This is the 2nd successive year when the board has been awarded in the field of sanitation as in 2017 it had received the 'Special Swachh Iconic Place' award under the 'Swachhta Hi Seva' campaign of the Government of India (GoI).

50. The 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference "India Chem 2018" was held in which city?
[A] Mumbai
[B] New Delhi
[C] Chennai
[D] Kolkata

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: A [Mumbai]

Notes:
The 10th Biennial International Exhibition & Conference "India Chem 2018" was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra from October 4-6. The conference was jointly organised by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). India Chem 2018 will showcase Government policy for sustained growth in the sector that will provide platform for investors, both domestic and international, and other stakeholders to interact and forge alliances. It is one of the largest composite events of Chemicals and Petrochemicals industry of the Asia Pacific region. The event comprises of an international exhibition and a conference of representatives of participating global giants from various associated fields.

51. What is the India's rank in Visa's 2018 Government e-Payment Adoption Ranking (GEAR)?
[A] 35th
[B] 28th
[C] 19th
[D] 15th

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: B [28th]

Notes:
India has been ranked 28th among 73 countries in the Visa's 2018 Government e-Payment Adoption Ranking (GEAR). The 2018 GEAR is an Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) global Index and benchmarking study commissioned by Visa. This is the third edition of the study after those in 2007 and 2011. It ranks governments by quantifying their e-payment capabilities based on various indicators. The survey has lauded India for taking "rapid strides" in advancing government e-payments capabilities and called it one of the top- performing countries in terms of Citizen-to-Government (C2G), Government-to-Citizen (G2C), Business-to-Government (B2G), Government-to-Business (G2B) transactions. Norway leads the pack in the 73-country ranking, followed by France and Denmark. The 73-country survey looks at availability of government electronic transaction services and the underlying environment of mechanisms that support digitisation for all transactions in a market, such as policy and infrastructure.

52. What is the theme of the 2018 World Teachers' Day (WTD)?

[A] Valuing teachers, improving their status

[B] A call for teachers

[C] Teaching in Freedom, Empowering Teachers

[D] The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher

Correct Answer: D [The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher]

Himani Borkar | himanibj6@gmail.com |

Notes:
The World Teachers' Day (WTD), also known as International Teachers Day, is held every year on October 5 to focus on "appreciating, assessing and improving the educators of the world" and to provide an opportunity to consider issues related to teachers and teaching. The day also commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the 1966 ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. For 2018, the UNESCO adopted the theme: "The right to education means the right to a qualified teacher". It commemorates the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and serves as a reminder that the right to education cannot be realized without trained and qualified teachers.

53. Who has been appointed the Chief Statistician of India (CSI)?

[A] T A Vina

[B] Nipun Singh

[C] Pravin Srivastava

[D] Malti Saxena

Correct Answer: C [Pravin Srivastava]

Notes:
Pravin Srivastava, the 1983-batch Indian Statistical Service officer, has been appointed as new Chief Statistician of India (CSI). This appointment comes into effect from the date of his assuming charge of the post till the date of his superannuation (August 31, 2020) or until further orders, whichever is earlier. He has worked in the ministries of statistics and health in various positions, and briefly in the Union Public Service Commission, in his 35-year career. He was a secretary to the Indian Statistical Commission, popularly known as the Rangarajan Commission, which laid the foundation of the modern statistical system. The National Statistical Commission was set up in 2005 on its recommendations.

54. India's first 'Methanol Cooking Fuel Program' has launched in which state?

[A] Assam

[B] Manipur

[C] Himachal Pradesh

[D] Jammu & Kashmir

Correct Answer: A [Assam]

Notes:
In Assam, the Namrup-based Assam Petrochemicals Limited (APL) rolled out Asia's first cannisters based and India's first "Methanol Cooking Fuel Program" on 5th October 2018. The project has been promoted by NITI Aayog. The safe handling cannister based cooking stoves are from Swedish Technology and through a Technology transfer a large-scale cooking stove manufacturing plant will come up in India in the next 18 months producing 10 lakh Cookstoves and 1 Crore Cannisters per year.

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

This technology is very unique, it handles methanol extremely safely, does not need regulator or any piping system. In it, Ritu Bordoloi of Namrup has become the India's first owner and user of a cooking stove fuelled by methanol. She was one of 500 people who were handed over a stove with two 1.2-litre canisters of methanol, as part of a pilot project by APL. The APL is the India's first public sector producer of methanol and formalin from natural gas as feed stock.

55. Who has been appointed India's Ambassador to UN Conference on Disarmament?

[A] T S Vijiyan

[B] Narmada Kapoor

[C] Pankaj Sharma

[D] Vijay Seth

Correct Answer: C [Pankaj Sharma]

Notes:
Pankaj Sharma has been appointed India's Ambassador & permanent representative to United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. Sharma is currently the joint secretary (Disarmament and International Security Division) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). He will replace Amandeep Gill.

56. Which Indian personality has been appointed the Chairman of the Working Committee (WoCo) and Director on the Board of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE)?

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

[A] Rajnish Kumar

[B] M K Sharma

[C] Girish Chaturvedi

[D] Vikram Limaye

Correct Answer: D [Vikram Limaye]

Notes:
Vikram Limaye, the MD and CEO of National Stock Exchange's (NSE), has been appointed the Chairman of the Working Committee (WoCo) and Director on the Board of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE). The decision was taken at the global body's 58th general assembly and annual meeting that is currently underway in Athens, Greece. The WFE is the global industry association for exchanges and clearing houses. It represents nearly 45,000 listed companies & has its headquarters in London. It works with policy makers and regulators around the world to support the development of effective rules and standards for exchanges and market participants.

More At @Aj_ebooks

57. Which of the following cities is the venue of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) of Indian Region?

[A] Patna

[B] Shimla

[C] Indore

[D] Guwahati

Correct Answer: D [Guwahati]

Notes:
On October 7, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) of India Region, Zone III has started in Guwahati, Assam. The four-day conference will discuss on several issues on North East region. During the conference, Women empowerment, Skill development, connectivity are some of the topics that would be discussed. Sumitra Mahajan, the Lok Sabha Speaker will also launch the North East chapter of Speaker's Research Initiative during the conference. The MPs and MLAs from the North-East are likely to attend the conference.

58. Which of the following states police have decided to conduct joint operations and share information to combat Left Wing Extremism (LWE)?

[A] Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

[B] Chhattisgarh and Odisha

[C] Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

[D] Odisha and Andhra Pradesh

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: D [Odisha and Andhra Pradesh]

Notes:
The Odisha and Andhra Pradesh Police have recently decided to conduct joint operations and share information to effectively combat the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) in the border areas of the two states. This was decided in a meeting in Bhubaneswar, which was attended by Odisha DGP R P Sharma, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart R P Thakur and other senior police officers of both the states engaged in anti-maoist operations. The aim of the initiative is to enhance the inter-state coordination and cooperation, particularly conducting joint operations in the core areas like the CutOff area in Malkangiri district to effectively combat and contain the LWE menace.

59. What is the current repo rate, as per RBI's 4th bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for 2018-19?

[A] 6.0%

[B] 6.75%

[C] 6.5%

[D] 6.25%

Correct Answer: C [6.5%]

Notes:
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept all key policy rates unchanged in its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy review, which is recently announced on October 5, 2018. A six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by Governor Urjit Patel, decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% and the reverse repo rate at 6.25%. Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends to banks, while the reverse repo is the rate at which RBI borrows money from banks. Accordingly, the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate too were kept at 6.75%. On the growth front, RBI retained GDP growth projection for 2018-19 at 7.4%.

60. The Indo-Japan bilateral maritime exercise "JIMEX 18" has started at which of the following cities?

[A] Chennai

[B] Kochi

[C] Visakhapatnam

[D] Agartala

Correct Answer: C [Visakhapatnam]

Notes:
The bilateral maritime exercise "JIMEX 18" has started between Japan and India at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on October 7. The aim of the 8-day exercise is to enhance interoperability, improve understanding and imbibe the best practices of each other. The Japanese vessels, under the command of Rear Admiral Tatsuya Fukada, Commander, Escort Flotilla-4 (CCF-4), are participating in the third edition of Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX 2018) with the ships of Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet. The Indian Navy would be represented by three indigenously designed and built warships and a fleet tanker. The ships participating are INS Satpura, multipurpose stealth frigate, INS Kadmatt, Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, Missile Corvette and INS Shakti, the Fleet Tanker.

61. Natwar Thakkar, who passed away recently, was the renowned Gandhian from which state?

[A] Tripura

[B] Nagaland

[C] Mizoram

[D] Arunachal Pradesh

Correct Answer: B [Nagaland]

Notes:
Eminent Gandhian Natwar Thakkar (86), popularly known as 'Nagaland's Gandhi', has passed away in Guwahati on October 7, 2018. The social activist had founded the Nagaland Gandhi Ashram at Chuchuyimlang village in Mokokchung district. His efforts to spread Gandhian philosophy and peace had earned him the sobriquet 'Nagaland's Gandhi'. He has also built a library in a remote village. In recognition of his selfless service and contributions towards the society, Thakkar was honoured with

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

numerous awards including India's fourth higher Civilian Award Padma Shri in 1999 by the then President of India, K.R. Narayan. He belongs to the Maharashtra state of India but migrated to Nagaland for social work at the age of 23 in 1955.

62. Which Indian sportsperson has won the Girls title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships 2018?

[A] M S Jyoti

[B] Anupama Ramachandran

[C] Manasvini Sekar

[D] Keerthana Pandian

Correct Answer: D [Keerthana Pandian]

Notes:

Keerthana Pandian from India has won the girls' title in the IBSF World Under-16 Snooker Championships by defeating Belarussian rival Albina Leschuk 3-1 in the final. It's her first international crown. In the corresponding boys category, Ben Martens of Belgium clinched the title in St Petersburg, Russia, according to information received from the media cell of International Billiards & Snooker Federation (IBSF).

63. Who has been adjudged man-of-the-tournament at the 2018 Under-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament?

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

[A] Harsh Tyagi

[B] Ayush Badoni

[C] Prabh Simran Singh

[D] Yashasvi Jaiswal

Correct Answer: D [Yashasvi Jaiswal]

Notes:

The 2018 Under-19 Asia Cup cricket tournament was held in Bangladesh from September 29 to October 07 at Chittagong and Cox's Bazar. In the final, India defeated Sri Lanka by 144 runs to win the tournament for the 6th time. India outplayed Sri Lanka in all departments by first scoring an imposing 304 for six after skipper Prabh Simran Singh won the toss and elected to bat. Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (85) and Anuj Rawat (57) made solid foundation with 121-run stand. Ayush Badoni's unbeaten knock of 52 off 28 balls helped India to reach a mammoth total. The island nation were never in the chase as they were all out for 160 in 38.4 overs losing wickets at regular intervals with left-arm spinner Harsh Tyagi's registering brilliant figures of 6 for 38 in 10 overs. For his consistency (318 runs in the tournament), Jaiswal was adjudged man-of-the-tournament.

More At @Aj_ebooks

64. Which state government has recently launched the Sashakt Kisan Yojana (SKY) & Krishi Samuh Yojana (KSY)?

[A] Arunachal Pradesh

[B] Odisha

[C] Punjab

[D] Haryana

Correct Answer: A [Arunachal Pradesh]

Notes:

The Arunachal Pradesh Government has recently launched the Chief Minister's Sashakt Kisan Yojana (SKY) and Chief Minister's Krishi Samuh Yojana (KSY) in Itanagar. The Sashakt Kisan Yojana (SKY) will subsume three state flagship programmes, namely – CM's Employment Generation Scheme (EGS), CM's Agri-Mechanization Programme (AMP) and CM's Flagship Programme on Tea and Rubber. The aim of the KSY is to empower the farmers through cooperative approach, by providing timely supports and marketing interventions of the government for better price realization and doubling farmers' income.

65. Which state government has recently launched the Nirman Kusuma programme?

[A] Assam

[B] Odisha

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[C] Nagaland
[D] Kerala

Correct Answer: B [Odisha]

Notes:
Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has recently launched the Nirman Kusuma scheme for providing financial assistance to the children of construction workers for their technical education in the State. In it, an ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600 & a diploma student to get Rs. 26,300 per annum. A total of 1,878 students will get benefit from the programme. The total cost of the project is around Rs. 1.09 crore that has been deposited to the accounts of the beneficiaries.

66. Who has been appointed the new deputy National Security Advisor (NSA)?
[A] Puneet Khanna
[B] R N Ravi
[C] Samant Goel
[D] V Johri

Correct Answer: B [R N Ravi]

Notes:
R N Ravi, the former Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), has been redesignated as the deputy National Security Advisor (NSA). He is also the Central government interlocutor for talks with Naga insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-IM) and will continue to be the centre's interlocutor for Nagaland. He has been shaping a peace accord with the NSCN (IM). Now, Mr. Ravi will be the third deputy reporting to national security adviser Ajit Doval after former RAW chief Rajinder Khanna and former diplomat Pankaj Saran. A 1976-batch IPS officer of the Kerala cadre, Ravi retired as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau in 2012.

67. Who heads the reconstituted Pollution watchdog Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA)?
[A] Bhure Lal
[B] Ajay Mathur
[C] Navroz K. Dubash
[D] Arunabha Ghosh

Correct Answer: A [Bhure Lal]

Notes:
The Government of India (GoI) has reconstituted Supreme Court-empowered Environment Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority (EPCA), which is tasked with taking various measures to tackle air pollution in the National Capital Region (NCR). The tenure of the last EPCA expired on 3rd October 2018. Former secretary Bhure Lal will continue to be the chairman of reconstituted Pollution watchdog EPCA. The purpose of the EPCA is to protect & improve the quality of the environment, and prevent & control the environmental pollution in the NCR. The EPCA is also mandated to enforce Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in the city as per the pollution levels.

68. Who has become the India's first judoka to win a medal at the Olympics – junior or senior?
[A] Garima Chaudhary
[B] Kalpana Thoudam
[C] Tababi Devi Thangjam
[D] Shushila Likmabam

Correct Answer: C [Tababi Devi Thangjam]

Notes:
India have opened their medal account in the 2018 Summer Youth Olympic Games with two Silvers in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 7. The first went to Tushar Mane in shooting and later Tababi Devi Thangjam in Judo in Girl's 44kg category. With this, Thangjam from Manipur has created history by becoming the India's first judoka to win a medal at the Olympics – junior or senior. While Mane bagged silver in the men's 10m air rifle event with a score of 247.5. India is being represented by 46 athletes in 13 sports in the prestigious event. This is India's largest ever contingent at the Youth Olympics. Earlier,

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

India won two medals – a silver and a bronze – in the 2014 Youth Olympics in Nanjing in China.

69. Which of the following have been awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize for Economics?

[A] Damian Roland and Christina Choung

[B] William Nordhaus and Paul Romer

[C] Daniel Kahneman and Richard H. Thaler

[D] Friedrich Hayek and Elinor Ostrom

Correct Answer: B [William Nordhaus and Paul Romer]

Notes:

US duo William D. Nordhaus and Paul M. Romer have won the 2018 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences for research "about innovation, climate and economic growth". Laureate Romer was honoured for his work on the endogenous growth theory, which has generated vast amounts of new research into the regulations and policies that encourage new ideas and long-term prosperity. While Laureate Nordhaus was specifically honoured for "integrating climate change into long-run macroeconomic analysis". His research shows that the most efficient remedy for problems caused by greenhouse gas emissions is a global scheme of carbon taxes uniformly imposed on all countries. Nordhaus was the first person to create a quantitative model that describes the global interplay between the economy and the climate. His model is now widespread and is used to examine the consequences of climate policy interventions, for example carbon taxes. & The pair will share the 9 million Swedish kronor (S$1.3 million) prize.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

70. Which Indian company has recently announced Rs 1.5 crores Aarohan Social Innovation Awards (ASIA) to push innovation in social work?

[A] Tata Motors

[B] Mahindra & Mahindra

[C] Infosys

[D] Reliance Industries

Correct Answer: C [Infosys]

Notes:

Recently, Infosys Foundation announced Rs 1.5 crores Aarohan Social Innovation Awards (ASIA) to push innovation in social work following increase in funds under the government rules. The awards would be given in six categories including healthcare, rural development and destitute care. The purpose of the awards is to recognise and reward individuals, teams or NGOs that are developing unique solutions for the social sector that have the potential to positively impact the underprivileged in India, at scale. The application for the first edition of the awards would be available from October 15 till this year-end. Participants can submit entries describing their work in the form of videos that can be uploaded on the Aarohan social innovation awards website. Under the government rules, it is mandatory for certain categories of company to spend, in every financial year, at least 2% of the average net profits made during the three immediately preceding financial years, in pursuance of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy.

More At @Aj_ebooks

71. Which Indian organization has won the 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & The Pacific 2018'?

[A] SBI

[B] ESIC

[C] RBI

[D] NABARD

Correct Answer: B [ESIC]

Notes:

The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the 'ISSA Good Practice Award' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at the "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia recently. The award recognizes the measures taken by ESIC for extension of coverage-SPREE (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees), reduced rate of contribution rates for 24 months in newly implemented areas and raising the wage limit for coverage under the ESI Act, etc. The ISSA (International Social Security Association) is the principal international organization for Social Security Organizations, Govternments & Departments of Social Security. The Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific is a triennial Forum, which is the

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

most important social security event in the Region. The Forum provides unique opportunities to CEOs and Managers of ISSA Member Institutions to discuss key social security challenges and share their experiences.

72. M N Paloor, who passed away recently, was the modernist poet of which language?

[A] Odia

[B] Telugu

[C] Tamil

[D] Malayalam

Correct Answer: D [Malayalam]

Notes:

Well-known Malayalam poet Paloor Madhavan Namboothiri (86), popularly known as M N Paloor, has passed away at Kovoor, Kerala on October 9, 2018. Paloor, one of the early poets to have modern views, is the author of some of the finest Malayalam poems of the latter half of the 20th century. His poems traced the sufferings of mankind involving all the complexities of a highly urbanised system. He was honoured with the Sahitya Akademi Award for his autobiography 'Kathayillathavante Katha' in 2013. Some of his major collections include 'Pedithondan,' 'Theerthayathra,' 'Bhangiyum Abhangiyum,' 'Sangamasangeetham,' 'Pachamanga' and 'Sarga Dhara'. Paloor won the Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, the state's highest literary honour, in 1983 for his collection 'Kalikalam'. He also received the Asan Prize for poetry in 2009.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

73. Who will chair the high-level Strategic Policy Group (SPG) to assist National Security Council (NSC) to review the security affairs of the country?

[A] Ajit Doval

[B] Amitabh Kant

[C] V K Saraswat

[D] Sanjay Mitra

Correct Answer: A [Ajit Doval]

Notes:

The Union government has constituted the high-level Strategic Policy Group (SPG) to assist the National Security Council (NSC), which advises the prime minister on matters of national security and strategic interests. The SPG will be chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and its members include the NITI Aayog vice chairman, the cabinet secretary, the chiefs of the three defence services, the RBI governor, the foreign secretary, the home secretary, the finance secretary and the defence secretary. The secretary of the Department of Defence Production and Supplies, the scientific adviser to the defence minister and the secretary (R), Cabinet Secretariat will also be members of the panel. The group will assist the National Security Council and undertake among other tasks, a long-term strategic review of country's security affairs.

More At @Aj_ebooks

74. Which of the following states has become partner state at 2018 Goa International Film Festival (GIFF)?

[A] Jharkhand

[B] Himachal Pradesh

[C] Assam

[D] Mizoram

Correct Answer: A [Jharkhand]

Notes:

Jharkhand will be the partner state at Goa International Film Festival (GIFF-2018), which is scheduled to be held from 20th to 28th of November. The decision was taken recently in meeting between Secretary of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting ,Mr. Amit Khare and Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, Sudhir Tripathy at Ranchi. This will allow Jharkhand to showcase its culture and favourable film making incentives announed by the state government. It was decided to open community radio station at every districts of Jharkhand. It was also decided to organize Jharkhand Film Festival (JFF), under Indian Panorama, in two towns of Jharkhand in the first month of next year.

75. Which union Ministry has launched the "India for Humanity"?

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[A] Ministry of Rural Development
[B] Ministry of Railways
[C] Ministry of External Affairs
[D] Ministry of Defense

Correct Answer: C [Ministry of External Affairs]

Notes:
On October 9 , External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj launched the "India for Humanity" in New Delhi under which the Jaipur Foot artificial limb will be distributed free of cost to the needy across the world. The initiative is launched in collaboration with the charitable organization "Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti" (BMVSS) to honour Mahatma Gandhi's service to humanity. 'India for Humanity' features a year-long series of artificial limb fitment camps in a number of countries spanning the globe to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The purpose of the initiative is to provide for the physical, economic and social rehabilitation of the differently-abled around the world by helping them regain their mobility and dignity to become self-respecting and productive members of society. The BMVSS was founded in 1975 & is better known by its trademark limb Jaipur Foot. It is among the world's largest organisations for the fitment of artificial limbs and till date has served over 1.73 million amputees.

76. Who is the winner of India's first Gold Medal at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics?

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

[A] Srihari Nataraj
[B] Mehuli Ghosh
[C] Jeremy Lalrinnunga
[D] Manav Thakkar

Correct Answer: C [Jeremy Lalrinnunga]

Notes:
On October 9, Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga from Mizoram has scripted history by clinching India's first-ever gold at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Men's 62kg Group A weightlifting, Jeremy posted successful attempts of 120kg and 124kg in snatch and 142kg and 150kg in clean & jerk. With his best successful attempts of 124kg in snatch and 150kg in clean & jerk for a combined 274kg, he won the gold medal.

77. Who is the winner of India's first Gold Medal at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics?

More At @Aj_ebooks

[A] Srihari Nataraj
[B] Mehuli Ghosh
[C] Jeremy Lalrinnunga
[D] Manav Thakkar

Correct Answer: C [Jeremy Lalrinnunga]

Notes:
On October 9, Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga from Mizoram has scripted history by clinching India's first-ever gold at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In Men's 62kg Group A weightlifting, Jeremy posted successful attempts of 120kg and 124kg in snatch and 142kg and 150kg in clean & jerk. With his best successful attempts of 124kg in snatch and 150kg in clean & jerk for a combined 274kg, he won the gold medal.

78. On which date, the 2018 World Post Day (WPD), is observed recently?

[A] October 11
[B] October 8
[C] October 10
[D] October 9

Correct Answer: D [October 9]

Notes:
The World Post Day (WPD) is observed every year on 9 October to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. It was declared World Post Day at the 1969 UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan. The proposal was submitted by Anand Mohan

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Narula, a member of the Indian delegation. Since then, the day has been celebrated all over the world to highlight the importance of the postal services. The 2018 theme is: "Imagine you are a letter travelling through time. What message do you wish to convey to your readers?". This year's observance of World Post Day highlights the sector's value not just for delivering the mail, but for delivering good.

79. Who clinched India's first gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games?

[A] Paramjeet Kumar

[B] Sandeep Chaudhary

[C] Farman Basha

[D] Devanshi Satijawon

Correct Answer: B [Sandeep Chaudhary]

Notes:

Javelin thrower Sandeep Chaudhary has clinched India's first gold medal at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para Games with a best throw of 60.01m in Indonesia on October 8, 2018. In the 49kg men's powerlifting event, Farman Basha claimed the silver and Paramjeet Kumar won the bronze. Swimmer Devanshi Satijawon then picked up a silver in women's 100 metre butterfly category and Suyash Jadhav clinched the bronze in the men's 200 metre individual medley category. In Badminton, India lost to Malaysia 1-2 in the semifinals to settle for a bronze.

80. What is the India's growth rate for FY19, as per latest IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report?

[A] 7.3%

[B] 7.4%

[C] 7.5%

[D] 7.6%

Correct Answer: A [7.3%]

Notes:

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted a growth rate of 7.3% for India in FY19 and 7.4% in FY20. In 2017, India had clocked a 6.7% growth rate. The latest World Economic Outlook (WEO) Report has predicted a slightly lower growth rate than it made projections in the April 2018 WEO for 2019. The prediction is lower due to recent increase in oil prices and the tightening of global financial conditions. The report said, in India, important reforms have been implemented in recent years, including the Goods and Services Tax (GST), the inflation-targeting framework, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), and steps to liberalise foreign investment and make it easier to do business. India's medium-term growth prospects remain strong at 7.75%, benefiting from ongoing structural reform. If the projections are true, then India will regain the tag of the fastest growing major economies of the world, crossing China with more than 0.7 percentage point in 2018 and an impressive 1.2 percentage point growth lead in 2019.

More At @Aj_ebooks

81. Who is the author of the book "The Paradoxical Prime Minister: Narendra Modi And His India"?

[A] Shashi Tharoor

[B] Sanjay Baru

[C] Piyush Goyal

[D] Ravi Mantha

Correct Answer: A [Shashi Tharoor]

Notes:

The book "The Paradoxical Prime Minister: Narendra Modi And His India" has been authored by Congress parliamentarian Shashi Tharoor. It is divided in five sections comprising 50 chapters & will release on 26th October 2018. The first section takes a close look at Modi's life and times. The other four sections look at key aspects of the way in which Modi's government functions and the lasting and often "deleterious impact" it has had on Indian society, major institutions, the economy, foreign policy and our fundamental values. In this explosive new book, Tharoor gives us an extraordinary portrait of Narendra Modi and his years in power. The book is currently available for pre-orders on Amazon.

82. Kishour Giri, who passed away recently, was the noted singer and music director from which

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

state?

[A] Arunachal Pradesh

[B] Assam

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Odisha

Correct Answer: B [Assam]

Notes:
Kishour Giri (63), the noted Assamese singer and music director, has passed away in Guwahati on October 7, 2018 . He lent his voice to various social issues. He would often be seen on the streets of Guwahati, strumming a guitar and singing or raising his voice against the many evils that plague the society. Giri, who could play a number of musical instruments, including the guitar, violin and mandolin, composed music for a few Assamese films and television serials. Recently, he had appealed to the public and the state government, in his signature style, for financial support to 'Village Rockstars', India's official entry to 2019 Oscars. Like the legendary Bhupen Hazarika, he too believed that the society needs 'gaan' (songs) instead of gun.

83. Which sports personality has been honoured with the Ramineni Foundation's outstanding person award?

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

[A] Sakshi Malik

[B] Pullela Gopichand

[C] Dipa Karmakar

[D] P V Sindhu

Correct Answer: B [Pullela Gopichand]

Notes:
On October 7, Badminton coach Pullela Gopichand has been honoured with the Ramineni Foundation's Outstanding Person award. The award was presented by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. He also presented special awards to Telugu literary wizard Garikapati Narasimha Rao, film director Nag Ashwin Reddy and writer C Venkata Ramana. The Ramineni Foundation, based in the US, was established in 1995 and ever since has been honouring eminent persons for their achievements in various fields. The outstanding person award carries Rs 2 lakh and special awards Rs 1 lakh each.

84. As per which section of the Representation of the People Act 1951, the Election Commission of India (ECI) to fill casual vacancies in Karnataka but not in Andhra Pradesh?

More At @Aj_ebooks

[A] Section 153A

[B] Section 154A

[C] Section 151A

[D] Section 152A

Correct Answer: C [Section 151A]

Notes:
The section 151A of the Representation of the People Act of 1951 mandates the Election Commission of India (ECI) to fill the casual vacancies in the Houses of Parliament and State Legislatures through bye elections within six months from the date of occurence of the vacancy. But, this is only if the remainder of the term of a member who is newly elected is one year or more. The term of 16th Lok Sabha is upto 3rd June, 2019. Therefore, it is understood that some newspapers have reported that the ECI on the one hand announced the bye elections to fill the 3 casual vacancies in Lok Sabha from Karnataka while the bye elections to fill 5 vacancies in LS from Andhra Pradesh have not been announced. As the vacancies from Karnataka have occurred more than one year before the expiration of the term of House, bye elections are required to be held under Section 151A of R. P. Act 1951 to fill these vacancies within 6 months from the date of occurrence of vacancies that is 18th& 21st May, 2018. In the case of vacancies from Andhra Pradesh, there is no need to hold bye elections as the remaining term of the Lok Sabha is less than one year from the date of occurrence of vacancies that is 20th June, 2018.

85. Which Indian organisation has recently organised Workshop on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' in New Delhi?

[A] NABARD

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[B] NASSCOM
[C] Press Council of India
[D] NITI Aayog

Correct Answer: D [NITI Aayog]

Notes:
NITI Aayog has organised Workshop on 'Best Practices in International Arbitration' in collaboration with ICC International Court of Arbitration in New Delhi on 10 October 2018. It purpose is to strengthen dispute resolution mechanisms and to not only encourage 'Make in India' but also to 'Resolve in India'. The workshop would cover basic concepts of international arbitration and include best practices on drafting, selection of arbitrators, enforcement of arbitral awards, role of courts in the arbitration life cycle, among other topics, with information sharing sessions to be conducted by world class faculty and practitioners from the United Kingdom, Singapore, Paris and India.

86. The Government of India (GoI) with the support of which organization is organizing the '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products – Achieving the SDGs 2030'?
[A] WHO
[B] UNO
[C] FAO
[D] UNICEF

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: A [WHO]

Notes:
The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) with the support of World Health Organization (WHO) is organizing the '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products – Achieving the SDGs 2030' at New Delhi from 9 -11 October 2018. The main purpose of the 2nd World Conference 2018 is to take forward the recommendations from the 1st World Conference 2017 and build on the work done for access to medical products in the context of SDGs (including trade agreements) in line with GPW 13 of WHO, foster new approaches in innovation landscape for medical products and health technologies for accelerating research and innovation and identify knowledge, information and policy options on the interface of international trade and health to achieve SDG 2030 goals.

87. Who has become the first shooter from India to claim a gold at the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics?
[A] Manu Bhaker
[B] Tushar Mane
[C] Mehuli Ghosh
[D] Anjum Moudgil

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: A [Manu Bhaker]

Notes:
Shooter Manu Bhaker has become the first shooter from India to claim a gold at the 3rd edition of Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina on October 9, 2018. She finished on top of the podium in women's 10m air pistol event with a score of 236.5. With this, she also became the first Indian woman to win Gold in the ongoing event. Earlier, weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won the India's first-ever gold medal at the 2018 Youth Olympics in Men's 62kg Group A weightlifting. At the Youth Olympics 2018, Manu Bhaker was also the flag-bearer of the Indian contingent.

88. What is the India's rank at the 2018 Henley Passport Index?
[A] 91st
[B] 81st
[C] 71st
[D] 61st

Correct Answer: B [81st]

Notes:
India has been ranked 81st at the 2018 Henley Passport Index with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 60 destinations. The strength of the passport is determined by the number of countries a country gives

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

free access to. The index is updated in real-time, as and when visa-policy changes come into effect. As per the 2018 index, Indians have access to travel without a visa to 60 countries – which includes Bhutan, Mauritius, Nepal, Fiji, among others. The index is topped by Japanese passport, which means Japanese passport holders enjoy the most visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to the most destinations at 190. Singapore acquired 2nd postion, with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 189 destinations. France, Germany, and South Korea follow at third with visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 188 destinations. The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most comprehensive database of travel information, and is enhanced by extensive in-house research. In it, Afghanistan and Iraq were ranked lowest on the index, as they have free-visa access to only 30 countries.

89. The researchers of which country have developed the world's first bio-electronic medicine?

[A] Germany

[B] United Kingdom

[C] United States

[D] France

Correct Answer: C [United States]

Notes:
Researchers at the Washington University in the US have developed the world's first bio-electronic medicine — an implantable, biodegradable wireless device that speeds nerve regeneration and improves the healing of a damaged nerve. According to the study published in the journal Nature Medicine, the device is the size of a dime and the thickness of a sheet of paper.The technology, called "bioelectronicmedicine," provides therapy and treatment over a clinically relevant period of time and directly at the site where it's needed, thereby reducing side-effects or risks associated with conventional, permanent implants. Though, the device has not been tested in humans, the findings offer promise as a future therapeutic option for nerve injury patients.

90. Who has been appointed the new Solicitor General of India?

[A] Ranjit Kumar

[B] Kunal Mangal

[C] Tushar Mehta

[D] Pankaj Jain

Correct Answer: C [Tushar Mehta]

Notes:
Senior Advocate Tushar Mehta has been appointed as Solicitor General of India (SGI). He will remain in office till 30th of June, 2020 or till further orders. Mr Mehta is currently serving as the Additional Solicitor General. The post of Solicitor General was vacant since October last year after the resignation of Ranjit Kumar.

More At @Aj_ebooks

91. What is the theme of the 2018 World Mental Health Day (WMHD)?

[A] Mental health in the workplace

[B] Psychological First Aid

[C] Dignity in Mental Health

[D] Young people and mental health in a changing world

Correct Answer: D [Young people and mental health in a changing world]

Notes:
The World Mental Health Day (WMHD) is observed every year on 10 October to raise the awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilize efforts in support of mental health. It is a day for global mental health education, awareness and advocacy against social stigma. The 2018 theme is "Young people and mental health in a changing world".

92. Which Indian armed force has launched an innovative mobile health App 'MedWatch'?

[A] Indian Air Force

[B] Indian Navy

[C] Indian Army

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[D] Indian Coast Guard

Correct Answer: A [Indian Air Force]

Notes:
On the occasion of 86th anniversary, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched an innovative mobile health App named 'MedWatch' in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of 'Digital India, Ayushman Bharat and Mission Indradhanush'. The app is conceived by the doctors of IAF and developed in house by Directorate of Information Technology (DIT) with ZERO financial outlay. 'MedWatch' will provide correct, Scientific and authentic health information to airwarriors and all citizens of India. The app is available on www.apps.mgov.gov.in and comprises of host of features like information on basic First Aid, Health topics and Nutritional Facts; reminders for timely Medical Review, Vaccination and utility tools like Health Record Card, BMI calculator, helpline numbers and web links. It is the first mobile health app in the three Armed Services and was launched by Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa at New Delhi on 08 Oct 18.

93. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day of the Girl?

[A] With Her: A Skilled Girl Force

[B] Empower Girls: Before, during and after crises

[C] Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls

[D] The Power of Adolescent Girl: Vision for 2030

Himani Borkar (himanib46@gmail.com)

Correct Answer: A [With Her: A Skilled Girl Force]

Notes:
The International Day of the Girl is observed every year on October 11 to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights. Today's generation of girls are preparing to enter a world of work that is being transformed by innovation and automation. Educated and skilled workers are in great demand, but roughly a quarter of young people, most of them female, are currently neither employed nor in education or training. Of the 600 million adolescent girls that will enter the workforce in the next decade, more than 90% of those living in developing countries will work in the informal sector, where low or no pay, abuse and exploitation are common. Hence, under the 2018 theme "With Her: A Skilled Girl Force", the day will mark the beginning of a year-long effort to bring together partners and stakeholders to highlight, advocate for and invest in girls' most pressing needs and opportunities to attain skills for employability.

94. India's first 2G Ethanol Bio-Refinery will be set up in which state, where ethanol will be produced from rice straw?

[A] Assam

[B] Odisha

[C] Rajasthan

[D] Punjab

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: B [Odisha]

Notes:
India's first second generation (2G) Ethanol Bio-Refinery will set up in Bargarh district of Odisha by 2020, where ethanol will be produced from rice straw. The proposed plant will be set up by the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) at an estimated cost of Rs 100 crore. The foundation stone of which was laid on 10th October 2018. The bio-refinery will have a capacity to produce 3 crore litre of fuel-grade ethanol annually using rice straw as feedstock. The Bargarh Bio-Refinery will utilise about 2 lakh tonne of rice straw annually as feedstock which will be sourced from nearby locations including Bhatli, Ambabhona, Attabira, Sohela, Burla and Lakhanpur. The refinery will be based on zero-liquid discharge plant technology where water will be recycled back into the plant. Blending of ethanol in petrol will also reduce greenhouse gas emissions as compared to fossil fuels. Apart from Odisha, BPCL will also set up bio-refineries in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. . The National Biofuel Policy of India 2018 targets 20% Ethanol blending to Petrol by 2030. However, due to non-availability of Ethanol, the current Ethanol blending in Petrol is about 3 to 4%.

95. What is the India's rank in the 2018 Oxfam world inequality index?

[A] 168th

[B] 133rd

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[C] 147th
[D] 135th

Correct Answer: C [147th]

Notes:
India has been ranked 147th among 157 countries at the UK-based charity Oxfam International's 'Commitment to Reducing Inequality (CRI) Index' 2018. The 2nd edition of the annual index finds that countries such as South Korea, Namibia and Uruguay are taking strong steps to reduce inequality. However, countries such as India and Nigeria "do very badly" overall. In reference to India, the index finds that the tax structure looked reasonably progressive on paper but in practice much of the progressive taxation, like on incomes of the richest, was not collected. India also fared poorly on labour rights and respect for women in the workplace.The index was topped by Denmark, followed by Germany, Finland, Austria and Norway.

96. Which of the following is the venue of the 17th edition of Old World Theatre festival 2018?
[A] Guwahati
[B] Pune
[C] Kolkata
[D] New Delhi

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: D [New Delhi]

Notes:
The 17th edition of Old World Theatre festival 2018 is being organised by India Habitat Centre and the audiences will be able to experience 15 plays starting from October 20 in New Delhi. The theatre festival has been recognised by UNESCO as a "Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity". It will open with "Kutiyattam", which is one of the most stylised and earliest forms of Sanskrit theatre. The 9-day fest will bring to stage productions that mirror the continuities in Indian theatre from the earliest to the most contemporary with a special focus on the next generation of theatre artistes and directors.

97. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched Gold in the 10-metre air pistol event at the 2018 Youth Olympic Games?
[A] Anish Bhanwala
[B] Shardul Vihan
[C] Saurabh Chaudhary
[D] Rushiraj Barot

Correct Answer: C [Saurabh Chaudhary]

Notes:
On October 10, Pistol shooter Saurabh Chaudhary clinched Gold in the 10-metre air pistol event at the 3rd edition of Summer Youth Olympic Games 2018 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It is India's third gold medal in the history of Youth Olympic Games (UOG) and all three have come in this edition in Buenos Aires. Earlier, Shooter Manu Bhaker became the first shooter from India to claim a gold at the ongoing event. She finished on top of the podium in women's 10m air pistol event with a score of 236.5. While, Weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga won India's first ever youth Olympics Gold.

98. Which Indian sportsperson has clinched men's individual recurve gold at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Para-Games?
[A] Harvinder Singh
[B] Mariyappan Thangavelu
[C] Mohammed Yasser
[D] Monu Ghangas

Correct Answer: A [Harvinder Singh]

Notes:
On October 10, Archer Harvinder Singh clinched men's individual recurve gold by defeating China's Zhao Lixue 6-0 in the W2/ST category final. The W2 category of impairment covers athletes with paraplegia, diplegia or double leg amputation below the knee, requiring wheelchair.The ST category is for archers with limited impairment and who may take aim without having to need a wheelchair. In the

More At @AJ_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

track and field events, Monu Ghangas claimed the silver in the men's discus throw F11 category, which deals with visual impairment. While Mohammed Yasser fetched a bronze in the men's shot put F46 category. The F46 category of disability covers upper limb deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired range of movement. Now, India clinched 37 medals including 7 Gold.

99. Which state Prison department has rolled out a smart video- calling facility for female prisoners and inmates lodged at open jails?

[A] Uttar Pradesh
[B] Chhattisgarh
[C] Maharashtra
[D] Odisha

Correct Answer: C [Maharashtra]

Notes:
The Maharashtra Prison department has rolled out a smart video- calling facility for female prisoners and inmates lodged at open jails across the state, after gaining success in its pilot project at Pune's Yerawada Central Prison (YCP). A prisoner can talk to his/her family members for five minutes and will be charged Rs 5. The department has obtained the smartphones for video calling through the Prisoners Welfare Fund. However, the face to face talking facility with the family members will only be available on the mobile phone numbers registered with the department. For security reasons, the conversations will also be tracked by a police constable to ensure that the talks centre around family issues. There are around 28,000 prisoners, which includes both convicts and under-trials, lodged across 54 jails, including 13 open prisons and 2 women prisons in the state.

100. Which state government has decided to set up anti-terrorist force 'Kavach'?

[A] Arunachal Pradesh
[B] Haryana
[C] Jammu & Kashmir
[D] Sikkim

Correct Answer: B [Haryana]

Notes:
The Haryana government has decided to set up an Anti-Terrorist Force (ATF) 'Kavach' to strengthen the present-day security arrangements in the state. The selected Haryana police recruits will be trained by the National Security Guard (NSG). The headquarters of Kavach would be at Gurugram and it would be headed by an officer of inspector general or additional director general of police rank. To deal with terrorist activities, Kavach would have 150 police personnel who would be provided 14 weeks training by the NSG at Manesar.

More At @Aj_ebooks

101. Who has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'?

[A] Veena Sendre
[B] Sanya Sood
[C] Nitasha Biswas
[D] Namita Ammu

Correct Answer: A [Veena Sendre]

Notes:
Veena Sendre from Chhattisgarh has been chosen as India's first 'Miss Trans Queen'. She defeated Namita Ammu of Tamil Nadu to claim the title at the national-level beauty contest organised in Mumbai on October 7. Sendre, a former Miss Chhattisgarh, belongs to Mandir Hasaud village in Raipur.

102. Which of the following musicians has recently won the special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy?

[A] Lalgudi G Jayaraman
[B] Vikku Vinayakram
[C] Hariprasad Chaurasia
[D] Kamala Lakshminarayanan

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: B [Vikku Vinayakram]

Notes:
On 10th October 2018, Ghatam maestro Vikku Vinayakram has recently won the special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Vinayakram is one of the best-known faces of percussion from South India. He plays Carnatic music with the ghatam (an earthen pot), and is credited with popularising the ghatam. This award does not fall under the institution's annual recognitions and honours. It is conferred once in a while to artistes of outstanding calibre who the Music Academy feels deserve an independent recognition. Mr. Vinayakram is the third musician to receive special lifetime achievement award from the Music Academy. The earlier recipients of the award were dancer Kamala Lakshminarayanan and violinist Lalgudi G Jayaraman.

103. Which Indian javelin thrower has won silver in the men's F46 category of the 2018 Asian Para Games?

[A] Devendra Jhajharia

[B] Rinku

[C] Sundar Singh Gurjar

[D] Sandeep chaudhary

Correct Answer: C [Sundar Singh Gurjar]

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Notes:
At the 2018 Asian Para Games, Indian javelin thrower Sundar Singh Gurjar won a silver in the men's F46 category with an effort of 61.33m in which two-time Paralympic gold medalist Devendra Jhajharia finished fourth. In the same event, Rinku picked up a bronze to make it an India-dominated podium. The F46 category of disability covers upper limb deficiency, impaired muscle power or impaired range of movement.

104. Which IIT has collaborated with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance?

[A] IIT-Bombay

[B] IIT-Madras

[C] IIT-Indore

[D] IIT-Kanpur

Correct Answer: B [IIT-Madras]

Notes:
IIT-Madras has collaborated with Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency (TNeGA) to enhance data-driven governance. Through this engagement, the Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC DSAI) at IIT-Madras has agreed to support the State government on various data science and ICT-related challenges. The collaboration is expected to contribute towards various aspects of governance, including education, healthcare, and agriculture. TNeGA is the State nodal agency under the IT department to support and drive all e-governance initiatives of the State government while RBC DSAI is an inter-disciplinary centre for research in AI.

105. Which of the following African countries will host the 2022 Youth Olympic Games?

[A] Senegal

[B] Nigeria

[C] Morocco

[D] Kenya

Correct Answer: A [Senegal]

Notes:
Senegal will host the 4th summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in 2022, the first to take place on the African continent. The 2022 decision was taken at a two-day International Olympic Committee (IOC) meeting on the sidelines of the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympics. Senegal will host the youth games in three places: Dakar; a new city of Diamniadio, close to the capital; and the coastal resort of Saly. The games will be held in May or June, at the end of the dry season to greatly reduce the prevalence of tropical diseases. Thousands of athletes age 15-18 from over 200 countries usually participate in the summer games competing in over 40 sports as diverse as badminton, boxing, fencing, table tennis,

More At @AJ_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

rugby, and weightlifting.

106. Which of the following cities is the venue of the 17th CHG of meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)?

[A] Dushanbe

[B] Sochi

[C] New Delhi

[D] Moscow

Correct Answer: A [Dushanbe]

Notes:
External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has participated in the 17th Council of Heads of Government (CHG-2018) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), which was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from October 11th to 12th .The SCO CHG meeting is a forum that enables India to engage with SCO member countries and Observer states of Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia. It is the first major meeting since Kyrgyzstan took over as chair of the Organisation. The leaders discussed prospects for further development of SCO and exchanged in-depth views on current international and regional issues. This was the 2nd CHG meeting since India became a full member of SCO in June 2017. Last year, CHG meeting was held in Sochi, Russia and was also attended by EAM.

107. Which state government to launch a new scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' ?

[A] Goa

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] Maharashtra

[D] Meghalaya

Correct Answer: D [Meghalaya]

Notes:
The Meghalaya government will launch a new scheme 'Blue Revolution: Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries' on 26th October 2018. The Blue Revolution is being implemented to achieve economic prosperity of fishermen and fish farmers and contribute towards food and nutritional security through optimum utilisation of water resources in a sustainable manner keeping in view the bio-security and environmental concerns. Under the Blue Revolution, the state government will develop new ponds on another 1,000 hectares of land, feed mills and retail outlets since many people do not know the places where they can get local fishes. For the scheme, the Central Government has sanctioned Rs 51 crore.

108. Who has been appointed as the new CEO & MD of low cost carrier AirAsia India?

[A] Dheeraj Sharma

[B] Sunil Bhaskaran

[C] Varsha Jain

[D] Radhika Jha

Correct Answer: B [Sunil Bhaskaran]

Notes:
Tata Group veteran Sunil Bhaskaran has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of low cost carrier AirAsia India with effect from November 15, 2018. He will oversee the next phase of expansion and growth of the company, AirAsia India said in a statement. The airline, jointly owned by Tata Sons and Air Asia Bhd, has been without a CEO for the past six months. Currently, Bhaskaran is vice president of corporate services at Tata Steel and has over three decades of experience in the fields of manufacturing, export and commercial operations with the Tata group. AirAsia India has a market share of less than 5% and a fleet of 19 aircraft.

109. ISRO has recently signed pact with which state University to set up the Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science'?

[A] Assam

[B] Odisha

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

[C] Jammu
[D] West Bengal

Correct Answer: C [Jammu]

Notes:
In Jammu, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently signed pact with the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) to set up the 'Satish Dhawan Center for Space Science' to expand its presence to the northernmost state of India. The space centre at CUJ is proposed to be spread on an area of about 1,150 square metres. It will have facilities for Geospatial Data analysis that will help in sustainable use of natural resources and planning land-use pattern. It will have ground-based observations for Atmospheric Studies, research lab for astrophysics, Atmospheric Sensing and Glacier studies Lab for better use of large quantity of water stored in the form of seasonal snow, ice and glaciers in the rivers of North India. Apart from this, Disaster Management Center will also be set up here that would be able to take up research in the area of different disasters like flood, Landslides, forest fires, drought and climate change.

110. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has launched a Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) service in Assam from Neamati to ____?
[A] Jorhat
[B] Dibrugarh
[C] Majuli
[D] Tezpur

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

Correct Answer: C [Majuli]

Notes:
On October 11, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a Roll on-Roll off (Ro-Ro) service in Assam from Neamati to Majuli island. This service will reduce the road route distance of 423 km that trucks take from Neamati to Majuli Island via Tezpur Road Bridge to only 12.7 km with the use of river route. The IWAI has procured a new vessel MV Bhupen Hazarika at a cost of Rs 9.46 crore for the new service. The vessel which is 46.50 meter long and 13.30 meter wide has a carrying capacity of 8 trucks and 100 passengers. The vessel can sail at the speed of 22 km per house. Majuli is one of the biggest riverine islands in the world located on river Brahmaputra and faces serious challenges of connectivity. It has 144 villages with a population of over 1,50,000. The RoRo service was launched in collaboration between IWAI and Assam government.

More At @Aj_ebooks

111. Annapurna Devi, who passed away recently, was the renowned Hindustani musician of which gharana?
[A] Mewati Gharana
[B] Kirana Gharana
[C] Gwalior Gharana
[D] Maihar gharana

Correct Answer: D [Maihar gharana]

Notes:
Annapurna Devi (91), the renowned Hindustani musician, passed away in Mumbai on October 13, 2018. Born in Maihar (Madhya Pradesh) in 1927, she was the daughter and disciple of Allauddin Khan (who was the founder of Maihar gharana). She was given the name 'Annapurna' by former Maharaja Brijnath Singh of the former Maihar Estate (M.P.), and it was by this name that she was popularly known. Annapurna was an Indian Surbahar (bass sitar) player of Hindustani classical music. She was married to sitar maestro Pandit Ravi Shankar, but he divorced her and went to USA in 1962. After her divorce, she never performed again in public. She had had notable disciples viz.: Hariprasad Chaurasia, Nityanand Haldipur, Nikhil Banerjee, Amit Bhattacharya, Pradeep Barot, Sudhir Phadke, Sandhya Apte and Saswatti Saha.

112. India has recently elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). The headquarters of UNHRC is located at ___?
[A] Geneva
[B] Paris
[C] New York

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

[D] Berlin

Correct Answer: A [Geneva]

Notes:
India has been elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) with the highest number of votes among all 18 countries in the five regional categories. It secured 188 votes in the Asia-Pacific category for a period of three years beginning January 1, 2019. It is followed by Fiji with 187 votes, Bangladesh 178, Bahrain and Philippines 165 each. This will be the fifth time that India will serve on the Geneva-based Council, the main body of the UN charged with promoting and monitoring human rights.

113. The Coffee Day Malnad Ultra Marathon 2018 has started in which state?

[A] Odisha

[B] Tamil Nadu

[C] Karnataka

[D] Kerala

Correct Answer: C [Karnataka]

Notes:
On October 13, the Coffee Day Malnad Ultra Marathon 2018 has flagged off successfully from Lalbaug Estate in Chikmagalur, Karnataka. He event is split into three categories – 50km, 80km and 110km. Here, 811 runners from 13 countries and 22 states from across India gathered at the start line for the flag off of the ultra marathon. There were as many as 43 international runners from UK, Poland, France, USA, Maldives, Germany, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Singapore, Colombia, Japan, and Malaysia who participated in the run with USA having the highest representation of 7 endurance runners. The endurance run also had an incredible number of 143 female runners and also saw participation from people up to 75 years of age. The ultra marathon course will take the runners through the hilly and enchanting terrain of the Western Ghats while offering scenic views of the coffee plantations.

114. NITI Aayog has signed pact with which technological giant for AI tools in agriculture & healthcare?

[A] Google

[B] Microsoft

[C] Infosys

[D] Facebook

Correct Answer: B [Microsoft]

Notes:
NITI Aayog has signed pact with Microsoft India to deploy Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies to address challenges various sectors such as agriculture and healthcare. As per the pact, Microsoft will support NITI Aayog by combining the cloud, AI, research and its vertical expertise for new initiatives and solutions across several core area. It will also accelerate the use of AI for the development and adoption of local language computing, in addition to building capacity for AI among the workforce through education. Under the agreement, Microsoft will provide Niti Aayog advanced AI-based solutions such as farm advisory services, healthcare screening models at primary health centers along with building capacity for AI through education.

115. India's first-ever India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC) has launched in which city?

[A] Bengaluru

[B] New Delhi

[C] Pune

[D] Chennai

Correct Answer: A [Bengaluru]

Notes:
India's first-ever India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched at the 3rd edition of IoT India Congress in Bengaluru, Karnataka on October 10, 2018. The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India and aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between companies from the two countries. It will provide an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship, partnership with vendors, mentoring and non-formal community

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

development that will assist the growth of the companies in different verticals and covers business, technology, investors and customers. The start-ups that are part of IIIC will be given mentorship and guidance and opportunities to participate at all IIIC's global events and experience networking avenues with potential customers. The IIIC was launched by Ramanan Ramanathan, the Mission Director of Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

116. The biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna titled 'Building a Legacy' is authored by whom?

[A] Meena Kandasamy

[B] V Pattabhi Ram

[C] Kiran Desai

[D] J K Rama

Correct Answer: B [V Pattabhi Ram]

Notes:
The biography of late Anumolu Ramakrishna titled 'Building a Legacy' is authored by city-based Chartered Accountant V Pattabhi Ram. It was recently released by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. Ramakrishna, former President and MD at Larsen and Toubro (L&T), was posthumously awarded Padma Bhushan in 2014. He was instrumental in constructing several path breaking buildings including Tirumala queue complex, Hitech city, and Nehru Indoor Stadium. Ramakrishna was born in December 1939 and died on August 20, 2013 at Hyderabad.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

117. Which IIT has signed pact with Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in research and education?

[A] IIT Kanpur

[B] IIT Kharagpur

[C] IIT Madras

[D] IIT Bombay

Correct Answer: B [IIT Kharagpur]

Notes:
The IIT Kharagpur and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) have signed an MoU to facilitate cooperation in research and education between the two institutes in New Delhi on October 11. NTNU is an expert in Hydro Power, Ocean Modelling, Deep Sea Resources and Marine Technology which will be key areas of focus under this MoU. IIT KGP has three departments and centers working in these areas — the Department of Ocean Engineering and Naval Architecture, the Center for Oceans, Rivers, Atmosphere and Land Science and the Department of Civil Engineering with its core areas in Hydrodynamics, Coastal, Marine and Hydraulic Engineering and Wave Modelling .Both IIT KGP and NTNU have trans-disciplinary academic and research programs encompassing science and technology, medicine, social sciences to arts and fine arts and more areas of common interest will be explored in future.

More At @Aj_ebooks

118. Which Indian state has won the FAO's Future Policy Gold Award for 100% organic farming?

[A] Punjab

[B] Rajasthan

[C] Sikkim

[D] Kerala

Correct Answer: C [Sikkim]

Notes:
Sikkim has won the Gold at the 2018 FAO's Future Policy Award (FPA) for its achievement in becoming the world's first totally organic agriculture state. All of its farmland is certified organic. At the same time, Sikkim's approach reaches beyond organic production and has proven truly transformational for the state and its citizens. Uniquely, the state has totally banned the sale and use of chemical pesticides. The transition has benefitted more than 66 000 farming families. The Sikkim tourism sector has benefitted greatly from the state's transition to 100 percent organic: the number of tourists increased by over 50% between 2014 and 2017. Sikkim beat out 51 other nominees from around the world for the award. Brazil, Denmark, Quito and Ecuador shared the Silver award. Nicknamed the "Oscar for best policies", the award is co-organised with the FAO by The World Future Council (WFC) and IFOAM — Organics International, and recognises "the world's best laws and policies promoting agroecology".

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

119. The World Bank has ranked India at which position in it's first-ever Human Capital Index (HCI)?
[A] 135th
[B] 115th
[C] 125th
[D] 145th

Correct Answer: B [115th]

Notes:
The World Bank (WB) has recently released its first-ever Human Capital Index (HCI), which ranked 157 economies on parameters like child mortality, health and education. India is ranked at 115th position in the index with its score of 0.44 on a scale of 0 to 1 coming even below the average score for South Asia. Though, Government of India (GoI) has rejected the findings of the index. India's neighbours Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka were better placed at 106th, 102nd and 74th position, respectively. Singapore topped the poll after it was highly rated for its universal healthcare system, education exams results and life expectancy figures. It is followed by South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland.

120. The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has recently signed pact with which state government to fuel MSMEs growth in state?
Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |
[A] West Bengal
[B] Odisha
[C] Uttarakhand
[D] Assam

Correct Answer: C [Uttarakhand]

Notes:
The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has recently signed pact with the Uttarakhand government to provide access to capital to MSMEs, which will fuel growth of such entities in the state. The bourse will play an active role in nurturing the SMEs and start-ups by increasing awareness along with the government on the opportunities to raise capital, SME exchange guidelines, listing processes, compliances with listing agreement among others. As part of the pact, the exchange will support the efforts of the government in enhancing the financing opportunities for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the state, through listing on NSE's SME platform– Emerge. On its part, the government will facilitate MSMEs to get listed on the NSE Emerge, by supporting such entities financially or otherwise, in bearing the expenses related to listing.

121. What is the theme of the 2018 World Egg Day (WED)?
[A] Eat & Run
[B] Protein for Life
[C] Put an Egg On It
[D] Protein for Good Health

Correct Answer: B [Protein for Life]

Notes:
The World Egg Day (WED) is celebrated every year on the second Friday in October and was first celebrated in 1996. The day helps to raise awareness of the benefits of eggs and their importance in human nutrition. Eggs are one of nature's highest quality sources of protein, and indeed contain many of the key ingredients for life. The proteins contained within eggs are highly important in the development of the brain and muscles, have a key role to play in disease prevention and contribute to general well being. The 2018 theme is "Protein for Life".

122. Which country's team has won the 2018 Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey?
[A] India
[B] Britain
[C] New Zealand
[D] Malaysia

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in

More At @Aj_ebooks

Correct Answer: B [Britain]

Notes:
Great Britain lifted the 8th edition of Sultan Johar Cup Junior Hockey tournament in Johor Bahru, Malaysia on October 13, 2018. In the final, Great Britain defeated India 3-2. The other teams in the tournament were Japan, Australia, Malaysia and New Zealand.

123. What is the India's rank at the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI)?
[A] 113th
[B] 94th
[C] 44th
[D] 103rd

Correct Answer: D [103rd]

Notes:
India has been ranked 103rd among 119 countries in the 2018 Global Hunger Index (GHI). The 2018 GHI report was prepared jointly by global NGOs namely – Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany). The index indicates that the level of hunger and undernutrition worldwide falls into the serious category, at a value of 20.9, down from 29.2 in 2000.

124. Which Indian folk artist has won the 2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize?
[A] Ila Arun
[B] Swaroop Khan
[C] Teejan Bai
[D] Malini Awasthi

Correct Answer: C [Teejan Bai]

Notes:
Dr. Teejan Bai, the folk artist from Chhattisgarh, has won the 2018 Fukuoka Arts and Culture Prize, one of the top honours of Japan. It was the first time she had been formally recognised abroad and she was flabbergasted that anyone in Japan had heard of her or her art: Pandavani. Dr. Teejan is a leading performing artist and a contemporary exponent of Pandavani, a narrative singing of the ancient Indian epic "Mahabharata".

125. Who has won the 2018 New Academy Prize in Literature, which is formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize?
[A] Haruki Murakami
[B] Maryse Conde
[C] Neil Gaiman
[D] Kim Thuy

Correct Answer: B [Maryse Conde]

Notes:
Maryse Conde, a French (Guadeloupean) author of historical fiction, has won the 2018 New Academy Prize in Literature, which is formed in protest to the Nobel Literature Prize. Conde will win about £87,000 raised from crowdfunding and donations, and will receive the prize at a ceremony on 9 December, one day before the Nobel banquet. In 2018, the Nobel Prize in Literature was postponed for the first time since 1949 because of a sexual misconduct scandal that came to light as part of the #MeToo movement.

126. India and which country have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats?
[A] Australia
[B] Russia
[C] Sri Lanka
[D] China

Correct Answer: D [China]

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

Notes:
India and China have launched their first joint programme for Afghanistan to train its diplomats from October 15-26 under the aegis of the Trilateral Cooperation between India, China and Afghanistan. The joint training programme is being held after an understanding for such a cooperation was reached during an informal summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held in April 2018 at China's Wuhan city. This will be a first such project in the war-torn country where China while trying to expand its influence has tacitly backed Pakistan, which has been accused by Afghanistan and the US of backing the Taliban and its most violent attacks in the country destabilising any attempts to restore peace.

127. Who has won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament?

[A] Roger Federer

[B] Borna Coric

[C] Novak Djokovic

[D] Andy Murray

Correct Answer: C [Novak Djokovic]

Notes:
Novak Djokovic, a Serbian professional tennis player. has recently won the 2018 Shanghai Masters Tennis tournament in Shanghai, China. In the final, he beat Croatia's Borna Coric by 6-3, 6-4 to claim his fourth Shanghai title and second Masters title of the year. Djokovic now has 18 consecutive wins. With this win, he overtook Roger Federer and returned to the #2 ranking for the first time since the 2017 French Open.

128. Who has been appointed Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)?

[A] Shekhar C Mande

[B] Girish Sahni

[C] Aman Saxena

[D] Jagdish K Paul

Correct Answer: A [Shekhar C Mande]

Notes:
Dr. Shekhar C Mande, a biologist, has been appointed Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Secretary of the Department of Scientific and Research (DSIR). The position of CSIR DG fell vacant recently with its previous chief Girish Sahni superannuating on August 31. At present, Dr. Mande is the director of the Pune-based National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS) and a top functionary of Vijnana Bharati, the RSS-affiliated swadeshi science movement. He is a fellow of all three major science academies: The Indian National Science Academy, the National Academy of Sciences India, and the Indian Academy of Sciences. Dr. Mande has also worked at the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad.

129. What is the theme of the 2018 International Day For Disaster Reduction?

[A] Reducing Exposure, Reducing Displacement

[B] Reducing Disaster Economic Losses

[C] Home Safe Home

[D] Resilience is for Life

Correct Answer: B [Reducing Disaster Economic Losses]

Notes:
The International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed every year on October 13 to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. The day celebrated how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the risks associated with them. The 2018 theme is 'Reducing Disaster Economic Losses'.

130. Which noted historian has authored the book "Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior"?

[A] Irfan Habib

[B] Sumit Sarkar

More At @Aj_ebooks

More At @Aj_ebooks

[C] Rima Hooja
[D] Uma Chakravarti

Correct Answer: C [Rima Hooja]

Notes:
The book "Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior" is authored by noted historian Rima Hooja, who describes in detail how Maharana Pratap managed to elude capture by the mighty Mughal army for so long and never bowed down to Akbar. This new book on Maharana Pratap examines the life of the great Rajput warrior and also revisits the famous battle of Haldighati with the Mughals saying it remained inconclusive and there was no clear winner. According to author, the story of Haldighati is a story of great courage and sacrifice; of the clash of indomitable wills; of Mughal ambition and expansion versus Rajput pride and honour.

Himani Borkar | himanib46@gmail.com |

More At @Aj_ebooks

© 2018 GKToday | All Rights Reserved | https://www.gktoday.in