

– Current Affairs –

November 2016

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Cabinet Constitutes Special Committee for Inter-Linking of rivers

- i. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the constitution of “Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers” in compliance with Supreme Court judgment 2012.
- ii. The decision was taken in a Cabinet meeting chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- iii. The committee will be responsible for the monitoring of the precious Inter-linking of River Projects to be carried out under National Perspective Plan 1980 of Government of India.
- iv. The special committee will also submit status-cum-progress report bi-annually to Union Cabinet to facilitate faster and appropriate decisions regarding the project.

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Russia withdraws from International Criminal Court

Russia has officially withdrawn from International Criminal Court (ICC) after President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order in this regard. The executive order mentioned that Russia is pulling out of the 2002 Rome Statute, which establishes the ICC’s status and powers. However, Russia had never ratified the statute meaning it was never member subject to its jurisdiction. ICC based in The Hague, Netherlands is an intergovernmental organization and international tribunal.

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SC Ask Major Search Engines to Delete Pre-Natal Sex Determination Ads within 36 Hours

- i. Supreme Court has ordered the search engines Google, Yahoo and Microsoft on November 17, 2016, to “delete” the advertisements, hosted by them, related to pre-natal sex determination in India within 36 hours.
- ii. For this a bench of two Justices Dipak Misra and Amitava Roy has directed the Centre of India to appoint a nodal agency to monitor the websites.
- iii. The nodal agency would then inform the search engines about any such advertisements on the websites and Google, Microsoft and Yahoo would delete them within 36 hours.

iv. The nodal agency is also directed to give advertisements on TV, radio and in newspapers that if anybody comes across anything that is linked with identifying a girl or a boy (at pre-natal stage), it should be brought to the notice of the nodal agency.

v. The direction includes a ban on advertisement of any content violative of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act including a ban on advertisements of kits for foetal sex determination, addresses of foreign clinics that provide assistance in the illegal act, or any related information in this regard.

Oxygen Partners Federal Bank for Cash Management Services

Federal Bank has tied up with Oxygen to expand the bank's e-collection facility to the about 3 lakh-retail outlets of Oxygen. The agreement was exchanged between Chief Operating Officer, Federal Bank, Shalini Warriar, and Pramod Saxena, Founder and Chairman of Oxygen, in the New Delhi on November 17, 2016.

Conference of Corporate Heads on 'Giving Back to Society' at BSE

i. About 500 corporate heads gathered at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on November 17, 2016, for a conference to discuss on topic 'business with a purpose' in order to inculcate the sense of "giving back to society".

ii. Aim: To focus on how business entities can give back to the society by empowering others.

iii. The conference was organised by Artha Forum. Artha Forum is an independent not-for-profit initiative founded by Rajeev Srivastava, CEO and managing partner of Basil Partners and late Dr Narendra Desai, chairman of Apar Industries.

iv. The event included launch of the book "Business with a Purpose" that focused on 'Earning with Integrity', and 'Spending with Compassion' which is a philosophy of Artha Forum.

v. The key speakers in the conference were ISKCON Spiritual Guru Radhanath Swami Maharaj, chairman of Piramal Group Ajay Piramal, and CEO of BSE Ashish Chauhan.

BSE :

◆ The Bombay Stock Exchange(BSE) is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Kala Ghoda, Mumbai, Maharashtra, India and Asia's first stock exchange.

◆ CEO: Ashish Chauhan

◆ Founded: July 9, 1875

◆ Headquarters: Mumbai

Donald Trump picks Michael Flynn as NSA

United States president-elect Donald Trump has named Michael Flynn, an ex-army general as his National security adviser. Flynn served as Mr Trump's top military advisor during the Presidential campaign. Mr Trump chose Republican Senator Jeff Sessions as his Attorney General and Congressman Mike Pompeo as Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

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PM Inaugurates Rail Vikas Shivar via Video Conferencing

- i. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Rail Vikas Shivar at Surajkund (Faridabad, Haryana) through video conferencing on November 18, 2016.
 - ii. The conference laid emphasis on the importance of innovation in today's technology driven century, and the need of two aspects, namely, 'Gati' (speed) and 'Pragati' (progress) in our Railway system.
 - iii. The Prime Minister emphasized that Indian Railways has to develop and be financially strong especially for the benefit of India and particularly those working for the Railways.
 - iv. The Prime Minister said that the focus of his Government's Rail Budgets is to bring fundamental transformation in the system of Railway.
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Sindhu wins maiden Super Series Premier title

Olympic silver medallist P.V. Sindhu clinched her maiden Super Series Premier title after edging out Sun Yu of China in the finals of the USD 700,000 China Open badminton tournament in Fuzhou, China. Sindhu, who became the toast of the country after becoming the first Indian woman to win a silver at Rio Games, continued her rampaging run as she lifted the prestigious title after beating Sun 21-11 17-21 21-11 in the summit clash that lasted an hour and nine minutes.

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PM Modi to launch Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awas Yojna in Agra

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awas Yojna, an ambitious housing scheme for rural poor, in Agra on November 20, 2016.
- ii. Pradhan Mantri Grameen Awas Yojna which was previously known as Housing For All, was launched on June 25, 2016 with an aim of constructing about 2 crore houses across the nation to provide affordable housing to all Indian citizen below poverty line by the year 2022
- iii. Mr Modi will also give away the allotment letters to 50 beneficiaries of the scheme that aims to provide about 3 crore new housing units countrywide.
- iv. The Prime Minister will also address the BJP supporters in the city for the party's electoral campaign in the region for the next year's Assembly elections.

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World's first heart transplant doctor passes away

Renowned heart surgeon Denton Cooley, who performed the world's first artificial heart transplant in the United States, has passed away at the age of 96 in Houston, Texas. Cooley, who was the founder of Texas Heart Institute, pioneered many techniques still used in cardiovascular surgery.

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Modi launched Haryana's year-long golden jubilee celebrations of Haryana

i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Haryana's year-long golden jubilee celebrations of Haryana in Gurugram. PM Modi kicked-off Haryana's 'Swarna Jayanti' celebrations from Gurugram's Tau Devi Lal stadium on November 1, 2016.

ii. The Haryana Government has decided to set up Gurugram Development Authority(GDA) to avoid overlap in its functional and operational responsibilities and provide functional empowerment in administrative and financial structures at the local level

iii. 7 states celebrates state formation Day on November 1 2016 – Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

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PM inaugurates Chhattisgarh foundation day celebrations; Unveils Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya's statue

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated Chhattisgarh's 16th foundation day celebrations in Naya Raipur. The Prime Minister will later address people gathered on the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee ground, where the 5-day long Rajyotsava is being held. Chhattisgarh Governor B D Tandon and Chief Minister Raman Singh are also present at the site. Mr Modi unveiled the statue of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya in Naya Raipur. He also dedicate to people, 'Ekatma Path' and the Bus Rapid Transport System in the city.

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Govt to launch equity fund of up to \$2 billion.

i. The Indian government and three state-run firms would jointly prepared an equity fund of up to \$2 billion for renewable energy companies to help New Delhi meet its clean energy goals.

ii. Private and public companies would be able to immerse into an initial amount of more than \$1 billion starting next fiscal year.. India's government hopes the Clean Energy Equity Fund (CEEF) would attract pension and insurance funds from Canada and Europe.

iii. Around \$600 million of the initial pool would come from the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund, under the finance ministry, and the rest from state entities NTPC Ltd, Rural Electrification Corp and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency.

iv. The program would depend on getting as much as \$175 billion in funding with 70 percent of that apparently in bank loans and the rest as equity.

Union Cabinet approved New PLR (Productivity Linked Reward) Scheme

New PLR (Productivity Linked Reward) Scheme was approved by Union Cabinet. The approval came on 27th October 2016. It is for Dock Labour and Port employees. This scheme will be applicable for 3 years. 38000 Port & Dock workers will be benefitted. Yearly money outgo will be around INR 49 crore. Payment will be based on 50% individual & 50% All India performance. Arrear payments for 2014-15 will be based on enhanced wage buckets. The new scheme will ensure cooperative work atmosphere. Industrial relationship will be improved. Productivity will be enhanced.

Highlights

Union Cabinet on 27th October 2017 approved the New PLR (Productivity Linked Reward) Scheme.

The scheme is for Dock Labour and Port employees and applicable for 3 years

India & Palestine inked deals

On 31st October 2016, Palestine and India inked MoU. It was for setting up a Techno Park at Ramallah. For the Park, India will grant USD 12 million. Palestine will provide the land for this project. It was announced in 2015 during Pranab Mukherjee's (President) visit to the nation. The park will act as IT hub. The infrastructure will be world class. It will provide one-stop solution for all IT related services and issues. Foreign as well as host IT firms will benefit from the Park. Universities, related institutions and local businesses will benefit from the Park. It will also ensure creation of business and jobs. Young Palestinians will get opportunities for growth & better future.

Highlights

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Government launched new Health initiatives

On 9th November 2016, two health initiatives were launched by the Union Health Ministry. The first one is HII (Healthy India Initiative) magazine. It is also known as 'Swastha Bharat-ek pehal'. The second one is an app called NMT (No More Tension) mobile app. It is to promote health & related communication programmes. HII will be quarterly magazine. Various health aspects will be discussed in the magazine. Some are child & women health, seasonal ailments, elderly health, safe medication etc. It will be available as both traditional magazine and e-magazine. Next issue will be released in 13 languages apart from English & Hindi. NMT (No More Tension) App will help in managing stress. Also, information regarding symptoms & management of stress will be given. Users can measure stress level & learn techniques for control.

Highlights

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Sunway TaihuLight from China named globe's fastest supercomputer

China's Sunway TaihuLight declared fastest supercomputer in the world. It was revealed in the TOP500 Supercomputer Semi-annual list. The list released on 14th November 2016. Chinese made computers have topped the list for 8th consecutive times. Sunway is also the first Chinese SC without any US technology or processor. This list is considered among the most influential ranking. Experts from Germany & US compile the ranking. It is based on Linpack performance benchmark. Second place was also grabbed by China (Tianhe-2). Titan from US came third in the list.

Highlights

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PM gives away Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has presented the Ramnath Goenka Awards for Excellence in Journalism at a function in New Delhi. The honour acknowledges exceptional work across 28 categories in print, broadcast and online journalism in English, Hindi and regional languages. The Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards, the biggest annual event in the Indian media calendar, was instituted by the Ramnath Goenka Foundation in 2005 to celebrate the legacy of the founder of The Indian Express Group. It recognises excellence in journalism and showcases outstanding contributions by individuals each year. In both the size of the award and its scope, these are the largest news media awards in the country. With this year, over 300 journalists from over 50

news organisations – domestic and international – have received these awards. Its categories cover investigative, political and sports journalism, non-fiction writing, feature writing, sports and entertainment, commentary and work done in regional languages.

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ICANN's 57th annual general meeting held in Hyderabad

i. The Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) runs the World Wide Web and has begun its 7 days annual general meeting in Hyderabad.

ii. This is the first meeting after the US give up its operational authority over the internet in September last year. This is the second time India host the meeting after 2008.

iii. The conference would discuss transitional issues of internet governance, besides issues related to domain name system

iv. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is a nonprofit organization that is responsible for coordinating the maintenance and procedures of several databases related to the names paces of the Internet, ensuring the network's stable and secure operation

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Maharashtra first to launch cyber police stations in all districts

Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to have a cyber-police station in each district to take on cyber criminals. In this regard, state government is converting 42 state-of-the-art cybercrime labs into cyber police stations simultaneously. These cyber police stations will also be set up at police commissionerate and Range IG offices. Any offence related to cybercrime will be registered in these police stations at district level. Besides, additional cyber police stations will also be set up in some cities.

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Central Government approves to Implement Price Support Scheme

i. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has given its approval for implementation of Price Support Scheme(PSS) for procurement of Groundnut in Gujarat during the Kharif season 2016-17

ii. Price Support Scheme for Oil Seeds and Pulses , it was implemented through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED).

iii. It has directed NAFED and SFAC to initiate the procurement immediately at MSP + Bonus at Rs 4220/Qtl.

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Union Government launches Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

The Union Govt launched Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) to provide free health check-ups to pregnant women at government health centres and hospitals. The Scheme was

launched by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda in New Delhi. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his monthly radio address Mann Ki Baat in June 2016. The national programme aims to provide pregnant ladies free ante-natal services (ANC) and required treatment for free on 9th of every month. Objectives of the scheme are:

- (i) Provide healthy life to the pregnant women.
- (ii) Lowering the maternity mortality rate.
- (iii) Making pregnant women aware of their health issues and diseases.
- (iv) Making sure safe delivery and healthy life of the baby.

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Andhra Pradesh tops World Bank's energy-saving rankings

- i. In ease of doing business Andhra Pradesh ranked no. 1 from the World Bank in India in energy efficiency. The ranking of the states were released in the World Bank's study report titled – 'India's State Level Energy Efficiency Implementation Readiness'.
- ii. Andhra Pradesh topped with overall score of 42.01 followed by Rajasthan (41.89), Karnataka (39.34) and Maharashtra (39.29). Kerala, Gujarat, Delhi (UT), Punjab, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh are the other states in the top ten ranking in that order.
- iii. Andhra Pradesh topped the list by achieving an energy saving of 1,500 million units (MU) i.e. around 650 MW in two years through use of LED lighting.
- iv. State Principal Secretary (Energy and Infrastructure) Ajay Jain told that the state government has launched a new initiative 'AP Energy Star', making it compulsory to obtain only five-star rated appliances like air conditioners, refrigerators, ceiling fans and water pump sets in future.

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President approves payment of 2% DA from July 1

President Pranab Mukherjee on 04 November 2016 approved the 2% hike in Dearness Allowance to central government employees, a move that could benefit 50.68 lakh employees and 54.24 lakh pensioners. DA is provided to employees and pensioners to minimise the impact of price rise on their earnings. Earlier this year, DA was hiked 6% to 125% of the basic pay.

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India ranked 102nd on enabling cross border trade: WEF

India has improved its ranking by four places to 102nd position among 136 economies in terms of enabling cross border trade according to the World Economic Forum (WEF). The 'Global Enabling Trade Report 2016' published by WEF and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation assesses the performance of 136 economies by way of Enabling Trade Index (ETI). Singapore is leading the top ten economies that are enabling trade across borders followed by the Netherlands and Hong Kong SAR at second and third places, respectively. Among the Brics nations, India, China and South Africa have

improved their ranking from the previous edition. While India's position has jumped four slots to 102, that of South Africa has improved three places to 55 while that of China stood at 61 compared with the previous ranking of 63.

NIT Agartala signs 3 MoUs with ONGC, NEEPCO business

i. National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) and iBuild

ii. The MoU would be valid for five years in the sector of knowledge updating, collaborative research in oil sectors, imparting training and conducting short term courses, which will facilitate a better atmosphere for research and development

iii. NEEPCO will provide internship training, joint collaborative research to mitigate industrial problems related to power generation

iv. ONGC will provide space for the students' in hand on experience in exploration works and iBuild will support for incubation, mentoring and funding to develop business models based on feasible innovation.

Trump nominated Seema Verma to head Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Donald Trump, the new President-elect of the United States, nominated Seema Verma to the post of Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. She is the second Indian-American to be placed in one of the top administration positions, only after Nikki Haley, who created history by becoming the first-ever Indian-American to be appointed to a cabinet-level position under any US president. Seema Verma will be expected to work along with the newly elected Health and Human Services Secretary- Tom Price.

Indian Railways, IRCTC include transgender as third gender

i. Indian Railways and IRCTC have included "transgender as third gender" in the option alongside male and female in ticket reservation and cancellation forms both online and offline

ii. The Delhi-based lawyer had made the representation after the Delhi high court in February had asked him to approach the Railway Ministry while disposing of his petition.

iii. The Railway ministry notify that hijras, eunuchs, apart from binary gender to be treated as third gender for the purpose of safeguarding their rights under Part III of our Constitution and the laws made by the parliament and the State Legislature.

IRCTC:

◆ Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation, is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways that handles the catering, tourism and online ticketing operations of the Indian railways.

◆ Headquarters: New Delhi

◆ Established: 1999

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Union government on 7 November has approved the policy to blacklist on which companies are involved in corruption recently?

A.Steel

B.Defence

C.Airplane

D.Chemical

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Defence

Explanation:

The government on 7 November approved the policy to blacklist defence companies which are involved in corruption and wrongdoing related to arms purchase. The government has decided to impose heavy fine on the blacklisted companies instead of blanket blacklisting, and complete banning would be the last option with no other choice left. DAC gave Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to purchase 83 Tejas Mark 1A aircraft worth Rs 50,025 crore.

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The Indian Army has successfully completed the task of laying an irrigation pipeline for the villagers in which place?

A.Dehradun

B.Western Delhi

C.Eastern Ladakh

D.Ghorakhpur

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Eastern Ladakh

Explanation:

The Indian Army successfully completed the task of laying an irrigation pipeline for the villagers in Demchok region of Eastern Ladakh. The project was undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi

National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for the purpose of linking the village with a “hot spring”. The Chinese troops tried to hinder the laying of the pipeline by putting a fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) hut on the border and claiming that no construction was allowed on the border resulting in three days confrontation ending on 5 November.

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Indian Army signed MoU with which bank for Defence Salary Package ?

- A. Corporation Bank
- B. Co-operative Bank
- C. State Bank of India
- D. Reserve Bank of India

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A. Corporation Bank

Explanation :

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army and Corporation Bank on the Defence Salary Package. The signing formalities were chaired by the Adjutant General, Lt Gen Rakesh Sharma, and was attended by top officials of Corporation Bank headed by Mr. Gopal MurliBhagat, Executive Director.

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Punjab Termination of Water Agreements Act was passed in which year?

- A. 1981
- B. 2001
- C. 1995
- D. 2004

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D. 2004

Explanation:

A five-judge Constitution Bench led by Justice Anil R. Dave ruled that Punjab Termination of Agreements Act 2004 was invalid and that Punjab was bound to share the water of Ravi-Beas River with Haryana and complete the construction of the Sutlej-Yamuna Link (SYL) canal for water sharing.

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Indian railway and Assam has announced a Joint Venture for the construction of four elevated railway tracks in the state. What is the project cost?

A.Rs. 2500 Crore

B.Rs 4732 Crore

C.Rs 5000 Crore

D.Rs. 3332 Crore

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C. Rs. 5000 Crore

Explanation:

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu, on November 10, 2016, announced a joint venture project worth Rs. 5000 crore with Assam government for the construction of four elevated railway tracks between Kamakhya and New Guwahati.

Who was awarded with Uttarakhand Ratna Award on the occasion of 17th foundation day of the state?

A.ND Tiwari

B.S Nihal Singh

C.Prof. Raj Bisaria

D.Khanduri

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.ND Tiwari

Explanation:

On the occasion of 17th foundation day, on November 10, 2016, the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat gave the Uttarakhand Ratna Award to the former chief minister Narayan Dutt Tiwari at the Chief Minister's residence.

Who has written the book titled "Back To The Roots, A definitive Guide To Grassroots & Football Development' ?

A.Prabir Das

B.Shaji Prabhakaran

C.Jeje Lalpekhlua

D.Gouramangi Singh

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B. Shaji Prabhakaran

Explanation:

Shaji Prabhakaran, the FIFA Regional Development Officer for South and Central launched a book authored by him titled, 'Back To The Roots, A definitive Guide To Grassroots & Football Development', at a Hotel in New Delhi on November 07, 2016 in the presence of AIFF President Mr. Praful Patel, AIFF General Secretary Mr. Kushal Das and Indian Footballing legends I. M. Vijayan, Bhaichung Bhutia, Jo Paul Ancheri and Bruno Coutinho.

How many medals have been won by India at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships in Singapore?

A.31

B.30

C.29

D.28

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.29

Explanation:

Rio Olympian Sandeep Tomar, Amit Dhankar and Satyawart Kadian bagged gold medals in their respective men's freestyle categories, totally India has won 29 medals at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships in Singapore. Men's Freestyle –57kg wrestler Sandeep Tomar clinched Gold medal, Men's Freestyle – 70kg wrestler Amit Dhankhar clinched Gold medal, Men's Freestyle – 97kg wrestler Satyawart clinched Gold, Roubaljeet clinched Silver medal and so on.

The three day Buddha Mahotsava celebration kicked off in which state on November 4 2016 that was organised by the District Administration of West Kameng?

A.Madhya Pradesh

B.Arunachal Pradesh

C.Bhutan

D.Nepal

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation:

The three day Buddha Mahotsava celebration kicked off in Arunachal Pradesh on November 4 2016 with vibrant cultural display from Monpa, Sajolang(Miji) Aka, Sartang, Bugun and Sherdukpen tribes of the region at Buddha Park, Bomdila. It was organised by the District Administration of West Kameng to promote tourism in the state. The festival commemorates the life and teachings of Lord Gautama Buddha. Hundreds of Buddhist monks playing cymbals and drums are present at the festival.

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Which country has lifted the Asian Federation Cup by defeating Bengaluru Football Club 1-0 at Doha?

A. Bangladesh

B. Saudi Arabia

C. Iraq

D. Iran

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C. Iraq

Explanation:

Air Force Club, Iraq has lifted the Asian Federation Cup by defeating Bengaluru Football Club 1-0 at Doha. Bengaluru FC had become the first Indian club to qualify for the final after they defeated defending champions Johor Darul Ta'zim 4-2 on aggregate in the semifinals. No Indian team in the sport has ever won an Asian level title since the national side bagged the Asian Games Gold at Jakarta in 1962.

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What is the name of online platform has been launched in India which explains the country's central and state laws in a user-friendly method?

A. Theeksha

B. Nyaaya

C. Suhaya

D. Subiksha

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Nyaaya

Explanation:

The internet is a huge space, rich in knowledge and resources. It is also a dark place where information is unfiltered and not always student-friendly. India Grid for Learning, launched by INGEGNO, is an education marketplace and Identity Access Management (IAM) platform in India, that aims at creating a continuous synchronised teaching and learning experience for educators, institutions and schools.

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Akodara becomes India's first Digital Village

Akodara village in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat has earned the coveted tag of becoming India's first digital village in India. The village with a total population of 1,191 people and 250 households uses a various cashless system for payments of goods and services. All transactions in the village are carried out through digital modes like SMS, net-banking or debit cards. The village was adopted by ICICI Bank under its Digital Village Project in 2015 and made cashless by adopting digital technology. The project was launched in January 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochar to mark 60-year-celebration of the ICICI group's existence.

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Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas sign MoU to boost to skill initiatives in the Hydrocarbon Sector

MSDE Secretary Rohit Nandan and MoPNG Secretary K. D. Tripathi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to scale up skill development initiatives in the Hydrocarbon and allied sectors among other areas of cooperation.

Objectives of MoU :

- i. To develop comprehensive skill development plans for existing and potential workforce in alignment with National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF)
- ii. To certify existing workforce in the hydrocarbon sector for Recognition of Prior Learning under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
- iii. To promote and scale-up apprenticeship training under National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme
- iv. To facilitate the setting-up of Skill Development Institutes/Centres of Excellence for vocational training to meet sectoral needs

Key People :

- ◆ Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas (Independent Charge): Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
- ◆ Minister of State for Development & Entrepreneurship(Independent Charge) : Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

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Amitabh Bachchan's PINK to have a special screening at United Nations

Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan's film Pink, which dealt with crime against women, has been invited for a special screening at the United Nations head quarters in New York. Pink, directed by Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, also starred Taapsee Pannu, Andrea Tariang and Kirti Kulhari in lead roles. It was released on September 16. The film was written by Ritesh Shah, the film- a modern Indian courtroom drama- highlights the issue of gender violence.

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Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu to head CMs Committee on Demonetisation

i. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has been nominated by the Central Government to head the sub-committee of Chief Ministers of five States constituted to deal with the situation arising out of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 denomination notes.

ii. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley requested Chandrababu Naidu to head the committee which would study various aspects after demonetization and how it has affected different sections of the people.

iii. Chief Ministers Sivaraj Singh Chauhan (Madhya Pradesh), Nitish Kumar (Bihar), Narayana Swamy (Puducherry) and Manik Sirkar (Tripura) will be the other members. The five-member committee will study the public problems due to demonetization of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 currency notes and would submit its report to the Centre for taking required steps.

iv. The move aims to stop the Opposition's attack on the Centre's demonetization decision. The Opposition organised 'Jan Aakrosh Diwas' on November 28 to protest against the move.

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Culture ministry releases coins to mark 500th anniversary of Hindu saint

Union culture ministry released a commemorative non-circulation Rs 500 coin and a Rs 10 circulation coin as part of the yearlong celebrations marking the 500th anniversary of Hindu saint and social reformer Shri Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's visit to Vrindavan. Narendra Kumar Sinha, secretary, ministry of culture released the coins as the government is commemorating the 500th anniversary of Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's Coming to Vrindavan by organising various programmes and exhibitions on Krishna Chaitanya Mahaprabhu's life and teachings in association with Vrindavan Research Institute and ISKCON.

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Rajasthan Govt to launch Annapurna rasoi programme to provide cheap food to weaker sections

i. Rajasthan government has decided to start an initiative "Annapurna rasoi programme" to provide quality meal at cheap price to people belonging to the weaker section and labourers.

ii. Motto of Annapurna rasoi: Food to All and Respect to All

iii. Under the initiative, labourers, rickshaw pullers, auto drivers, students, working women, elders and other weaker section will be provided breakfast at Rs 5 per plate and lunch/dinner at Rs 8 per plate.

iv. The scheme will be started in 12 districts in the first phase which include Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Ajmer, Kota, Bikaner, Bharatpur, Pratapgarh, Dungarpur, Banswara, Baran and Jhalawar.

v. 80 vans will be used to distribute the food in the listed districts and the menu, quantity and rate will be displayed on the van.

vi. The staff of the raso is would be given a specific uniform including an apron, cap, gloves. The remaining 21 districts would be covered in the second phase.

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Indian Women's team wins Gold at the 7th World Carrom Championship

Indian women's carrom team defeated Sri Lanka to win the gold at the seventh World carrom championship in Birmingham (UK) on Friday. India's S Apoorwa and Kajol Kumari also won gold in the women's doubles event. Meanwhile, the men's team lost to Sri Lanka to win the silver medal in the competition.

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Himachal Pradesh Approves 'Mukhya Mantri Shikshak Samman Yojana'

i. The Himachal Pradesh cabinet approved "Mukhya Mantri Shikshak Samman Yojana" in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh held on November 10, 2016.

ii. The meeting aimed at motivating the teachers to give overall good results particularly in subjects like Maths, Science and English etc.

iii. The teachers who will give 100 percent results for a period of 5 years will be given one year extension in service in addition to monetary rewards.

iv. The scheme applied to Trained Graduate Teachers (TGT), Post Graduate Teachers (PGT), Headmasters and Principals.

v. The meeting also decided to hold the winter session of the state Assembly at Dharamsala from December 19 to December 23, 2016.

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Union Govt unveils steps to boost cyber security

Union Government has unveiled a slew of measures in an attempt to strengthen cyber security in India. It was announced by the Union Minister for Electronics and IT Ravi Shankar Prasad at the Economic Editors' Conference-2016. The conference was organised by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Finance in New Delhi. Central Government is taking measure to strengthen Cert-IN (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team), the governments'

cyber security arm Mandatory for all organisations having a significant IT infrastructure will need to appoint cyber security officers.

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NSDA Signs MoU with British Council to Collaborate for Joint Research in Skills Sector

i. Gemmell, director of National Skill Development Agency(NSDA) and The British Council representative Dr. Sunita Chhibba signed a MoU to collaborate for undertaking joint research projects in the area of skill development.

ii. Aim: To promote knowledge exchange and research collaborations between UK and India in the skills space and to strengthen capacity of research organisations in both the countries

iii. Under this partnership, the topic for the joint research study in first year of collaboration is “Future Skills” that will focus on, understanding labour market trends and identifying future employment in India in selected manufacturing and service sectors in view of changing technology.

=====

Termination clause in N-deal with Japan not binding on India: Government

The Union Government has said that the “termination” clause in the recently signed historic civil nuclear deal with Japan will be not binding on India. But the “termination” clause merely records the “views” of the Japanese side considering its “special sensitivities” as Japan is the only nation to have suffered a nuclear attack. Besides, the Union Government has also insisted that India has made “no additional commitments” over the similar agreements signed with the US and other countries.

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12-km-long elevated railway corridor to be set up in Guwahati under Smart City Project

i. The Centre on November 10, 2016, announced the construction of a 12-km-long elevated railway corridor inside Guwahati, worth Rs 5,000 crore, as a part of the smart city project.

ii. The project covering the entire corridor between Kamakhya and New Guwahati will be elevated

iii. The Indian Railways will form a joint venture in the form of a special purpose vehicle with the state government to implement the project.

iv. There will be 7 platforms in the 12 km stretch and the terminals will be developed for commercial purposes too.

v. The three stations in Kamakhya, Guwahati and New Guwahati will be connected to metro line, which is coming up in the city soon.

vi. There will be 4 elevated tracks with 12 level crossings and it will take just 15 minutes to cross the stretch.

=====

Demonetisation: RBI sets up panel to oversee ATM recalibrations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed Special Task Force to speed up the process of recalibration of automated teller machines (ATM) to dispense the new denomination notes. The Special Task Force will be headed by S.S Mundra, Deputy Governor, RBI. Representatives from the Union Finance and Home ministries, RBI, State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) will be its members. Besides, representative from each of ATM original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), cash in transit (CIT) companies and white label ATM (WLA) operators will be invited to the Task Force's deliberation . Expeditious reactivation of all ATMs in a planned manner. Draw up an action plan and ensure its implementation for quick recalibration of the ATMs to enable them to dispense the new Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 notes.

Prabhu Lays Foundation Stone Of Rajpura-Bathinda Project

Union Railways Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu laid foundation stone of a railway doubling project, 16 limited height subways and dedicated the newly doubled Mansa-Bathinda rail line to the nation on November 13, 2016 in Punjab.

i. Outlay : Rs 1251.25 crore

ii. He also dedicated to the nation the new station building at Beas, new running room at Ludhiana, Food Plaza at Firozpur Station and inaugurated 5 Water Vending Machines .

iii. Mansa-Bathinda doubling is sanctioned on Delhi-Bathinda route of 297 km length.

Coal supply to thermal plants of Punjab and Rajasthan and the new thermal plant Talwandi Sabo Power Ltd (TSPL) near Saddasinghwal is mostly done through this route.

iv. This project is envisaged to provide the industry, the agriculturists, the armed forces and the rail users in general a seamless connectivity in to the hinterlands and border districts of Punjab state.

India, ADB sign \$500 million loan pact to build 9.8-km Ganga bridge in Bihar

The Union Govt and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have inked a \$500-million loan agreement to build a 9.8 km long road bridge across the Ganga River in Bihar. It will be country's longest river bridge and shall provide better connectivity between North and South Bihar and also Patna and its surrounding areas. In addition to the loan, ADB will \$900,000 in technical assistance. The state govt will provide \$215 million for the project. It is expected to be completed by end of December 2020. The new Ganga Bridge will be located near Patna. It will be first of its kind in India with its height and length customized to deal with climate- related issues such as rise in water levels while ensuring minimum impact on the river. ADB has its headquarterd in Manila, Philippines.

Arunachal Pradesh launches Kiosk System for Lohit District

i. Arunachal Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein on November 15, 2016 inaugurated a Kiosk System, which is a touch screen portable device that runs with power supply and provides all the necessary information relating to Lohit District.

ii. The e-Kiosk system will provide details like Lohit Tourism, District Administration, important contacts, public representatives, Jan Suvidha, Helpline, NPR & Aadhar, Disaster Management, Children's Corner with photo galleries at fingertip in a single system.

iii. It is an initiative of Lohit District Administration headed by Deputy Commissioner Danish Asraf. He also has an official app which provides information about the district, which is a first of its kind in the state.

iv. Lohit is an administrative district in the state of Arunachal Pradesh in India. The district headquarters are located at Tezu. As per the report of 2011 it is the third most populous district of Arunachal Pradesh (out of 16), after Papum Pare and Changlang.

=====

India's longest expressway inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

India's longest expressway connecting Agra and Lucknow was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav at Bangarmau in Unnao district of UP. It has been built by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) in a record time of 23 months. The expressway has 2 km dedicated stretch built for fighter jets to land and take-off in times of "war-like emergencies". The entire Expressway is lined with metal beam crash barrier on both sides and wire fencing for safe & secure transit.

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Income Tax Department to launch Project Insight in May 2017

i. The income-tax (I-T) department has signed a contract with L&T Infotech Ltd to launch Project Insight in May 2017 from May 2017. The project will be rolled out in three phases.

ii. Aim of the Project :To effectively utilize the vast amount of information at its disposal more effectively to track tax evaders

iii. This project through implementation of reporting compliance management system, will ensure that third party reporting by entities like banks and other financial institutions is timely and accurate.

iv. It will also set up a streamlined data exchange mechanism for other government departments.

=====

Barack Obama awards his last Presidential Medals of Freedom

U.S. President Barack Obama has bestowed the nation's highest civilian honour for the last time as president. The awards have honour the work of Americans ranging from global philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates to legendary athletes, artists, activists, scientists and others. Basketball star Michael Jordan, actor Robert De Niro and music legend Bruce Springsteen were among the 21 people honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom During a ceremony at the White House President Barack Obama gave out the awards the nation's highest civilian honor for his last time to a diverse group of sports stars, scientists, artists and philanthropists.

=====

Govt sets up HEFA to provide funds for creating infrastructure, promoting research facilities

- i. Government is setting up Higher Education Financing Agency(HEFA) to provide funds for creating infrastructure and promoting research facilities in the Centrally-aided institutions of higher learning. It was announced by Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey
 - ii. The agency will leverage funds from the market, Minister of State for Human Resource Development.
 - iii. The Center will provide equity of Rs.1000Cr for establishing HEFA.
 - iv. The agency will mobilize funds under Corporate Social Responsibility and function as a non-banking financing company.
- =====

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Fifth International Tourism Mart Organised In Imphal

- i. The fifth edition of International Tourism Mart began in Imphal on November 23, 2016.
- ii. The three-day event organized in the capital of Manipur was inaugurated by Chief Minister of the state, Okram Ibobi Singh, and will be held between November 23– 25 2016.
- iii. The event has been organized by The Union Tourism Ministry, in association with the Northeastern states and West Bengal.

iv. Aim: to provide a platform for interaction between buyers, sellers, media, government agencies and other stakeholders, to bring together tourism business unity from overseas as well as all northeastern states and West Bengal.

v. About 57 buyers and delegates from ASEAN countries, Australia, New Zealand, Spain, Russia, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Brazil, South Africa, the UK and the US, along with others are likely to participate in the event.

vi. The International Tourism Mart is an annual event organized in the North Eastern region of the country to highlight the tourism potential of that region in both domestic and international markets. The event is organized annually in the North Eastern States on rotation basis.

vii. Earlier the event took place in Guwahati, Tawang, Shillong and Gangtok respectively.

◆ Union Tourism Minister: Dr. Mahesh Sharma

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Tribals celebrate Wangala harvest festival in Meghalaya

“Hundreds of Garo tribals gathered here recently to celebrate the harvest festival of Wangala with much fervour here.

The festival marks the end of a period of toil for farmers wanting a good output from their fields. Dressed in their traditional fineries, farmers of the tribe gathered together to dance in honour of Saljong, the spirit of the Sun and fertility. The popular dance, known as the Wangala Dance or 100-drum Festival, is an intrinsic part of the post-harvest festival of the region.”

=====

Defence Ministry Released a policy to re-assist blacklisting global defence firms

i. The Union Defence Ministry released new policy ‘Guidelines of the Ministry of Defence for penalties in business dealings with entities’ on November 21, 2016, to relook at the list of the companies that are banned from doing business in India.

ii. Atleast a dozen of global defence firms are presently banned from doing business in India because of allegations of corruption against them. However, due to such blacklisting, the Indian military is not able to access many of the global products.

iii. This blacklisting policy was approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on November 7 and the policy was released by the Defence Ministry on November 21.

iv. New Policy Features:

1. Ban period has been reduced to 5 years from the previous 10 years but the upper ban limit is not specified.

2.It allows doing business with black listed firm for achieving National security only for the purpose of supporting the critical spare and maintenance or if the firm is the only source to support a certain system, but with the approval of the Defence Minister.

=====

Scientists develop artificial human lung model using 3D printing

Scientists from Czech Republic have developed a model of a functioning human lung using 3D printing and other technologies. It has received three patents for its modeling. The model was developed by the research group from the Brno University of Technology. It can be used to simulate problems like asthma or other chronic diseases and their treatments. It is mechanical- and computer-based model of the lung developed by utilizing an array of modern technologies including 3D printing. It can help devise treatment methods with more precision than past testing and tailor it to individual patients.

=====

Railways to introduce 'Tri-Netra' to check collisions

i. Indian Railways all set to launch "Tri-Netra(Terrain Imaging for diesel drivers infrared, enhanced optical and radar assisted system)" to check collisions between tracks.

ii. Tri-Netra system is made up of a high-resolution optical video camera, high-sensitivity infrared video camera and a radar-based terrain mapping system

iii. This system will help to reduce train accidents by keeping a record of the track maintenance and will also provide better visibility during foggy days.

iv. It will provides a locomotive pilot a clear view of up to one kilometre on a straight track.

Indian Railways :

◆ Minister of Railways : Suresh Prabhu

◆ Headquarters: New Delhi

◆ Founded: 1853

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India rises to second place in global business optimism index

The latest Grant Thornton International Business Report for the July-September quarter has placed India 2nd on the global scale for business optimism. During the April-June 2016 period, India was ranked at the 3rd position after being on top for two consecutive quarters. Indonesia took the top spot, with the Philippines coming in third. India was ranked third during the April-June period after being on top for two consecutive quarters. India regained its top position on this parameter, from second position in the April-June period, while profitability expectations also moved up.

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Buddha Mahotsava kicks off in Arunachal Pradesh

- i. The three day Buddha Mahotsava celebration kicked off in Arunachal Pradesh on November 4 2016 with vibrant cultural display from Monpa, Sajolang(Miji) Aka, Sartang, Bugun and Sherdukpen tribes of the region at Buddha Park, Bomdila.
- ii. It was organised by the District Administration of West Kameng to promote tourism in the state.
- iii. The festival commemorates the life and teachings of Lord Gautama Buddha. Hundreds of Buddhist monks playing cymbals and drums are present at the festival.

Vinod Rai to head advisory commission

Vinod Rai has been appointed as the Chairman of Fund Trustee and Advisory Commission of Kerala. He will be entrusted with the responsibility to ensure that the funds of the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) are properly utilised and the interest of investors is protected. Moreover, the board of the reconstituted KIIFB under Chairman Pinarayi Vijayan also decided to appoint Usha Thorat, former Deputy Governor of RBI and Prakash Bakshi, former Chairman of NABARD, as the other members of the FTAC.

India, Britain signed MoUs on IPR, ease of doing business

- i. India and Britain signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) on intellectual property rights (IPR) and ease of doing business following delegation-level talks led by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Theresa May.
- ii. Both the MoUs were exchanged in the presence of Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and her British side Theresa May here. It is intended to promote innovation, creativity and economic growth in both countries.
- iii. It established a broad and flexible framework through which both countries can exchange best practices and work together on training programmes and technical exchanges get bigger awareness on IPRs and better protect intellectual property rights.

Britain :

- ◆ Capital: London.
- ◆ Currency: Pound Sterling.
- ◆ Prime Minister: Theresa May.

Amitav Ghosh to Be Honored With Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award

Acclaimed Indian American fiction author Amitav Ghosh, 60, has been named for 2016 Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Indian literary space. The award will be presented to him at the upcoming Tata Literature Live! The Mumbai LitFest's annual awards ceremony scheduled for Nov. 20.

=====

Army's Demchok Mission Successfully Completed

- i. The Indian Army successfully completed the task of laying an irrigation pipeline for the villagers in Demchok region of Eastern Ladakh.
 - ii. The project was undertaken under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme for the purpose of linking the village with a "hot spring".
 - iii. The Chinese troops tried to hinder the laying of the pipeline by putting a fibre-reinforced plastic (FRP) hut on the border and claiming that no construction was allowed on the border resulting in three days confrontation ending on 5 November.
 - iv. However the Indian Army repudiated the claim confirming that the restriction was applicable only on defense based construction.
 - v. The Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) strengthened the security measures of the area to prevent the Chinese from further protest and the task successfully completed on 6 November.
- =====

Nadda launches "Healthy India Initiative" magazine and mobile app

The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda has launched Healthy India Initiative magazine and No More Tension mobile App for the promotion of health and to strengthen the health communications programmes.

Healthy India Magazine: It will be a quarterly magazine. It will cater to health-related information and raise awareness about healthy living.

No More Tension App: It will help users to manage stress and will also provide information regarding stress, symptoms and its management.

=====

Tamil Nadu Government Enhanced Maternity Leave From 6 to 9 Months

- i. Chief Minister J Jayalithaa announced increasing motherhood leave period for women government employees from six to nine months, the state government issued an order to implement it.
- ii. A Government Order (GO) of the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department remembered that Jayalithaa had made an announcement in the Tamil Nadu Assembly in September, promising to increase the leave period from the existing six months or 180 days to 270 days.

iii .The maternity leave might be arrange from the “pre-confinement rest to post-confinement recovery, at the option of the women Government servant, the order added those under maternity leave at present are also eligible for 270 days of leave.

iv. Necessary changes to the Fundamental Rules would be issued separately, it added. Woman employees “with less than two surviving children”, were eligible for the 9-month maternity leave with full pay.

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Maharashtra, Canada to work on urban infrastructure, smart cities

Maharashtra government has signed an agreement with Canada to implement a joint action plan on urban infrastructure development in the state. The Canada-Maharashtra action plan seeks to introduce companies, solutions and financing from the North American country for the urban development and implementation of state-led infrastructure projects.

=====

AFSPA extended to 3 districts of Arunachal Pradesh to check Naga faction

i. A notification has been issued by the centre to extend the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in three districts of Arunachal Pradesh.

ii. The Home Ministry’s notification was issued on November 4, to extend AFSPA in the districts of Tirap, Changlang and Longding, each bordering Assam.

iii. The Centre has mentioned “extortion and intimidation” by the cadres of National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), NSCN-IM, who are desperate to regain control from NSCN-K, (Khaplang), as the basic reason for such notification.

iv. AFSPA, enacted in 1958, gives powers to the army as well as state and central police forces to shoot, kill, search houses and destroy any property that is “likely” to be used by insurgents in areas declared as “disturbed” by the home ministry.

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FICCI Launched self-regulation code of conduct for which sector on 21 November 2016?

A. MSME Sector

B. E-Pharma Sector

C. Transportation Sector

D. E-commerce Sector

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B. E-Pharma Sector

Explanation:

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has announced the launch of self-regulation code of conduct for the e-pharmacy sector on November 21, 2016. The main aim of adopting such code of conduct is to overcome the barrier which the E-pharmacy has to face due to lack of such as transparency, accessibility, affordability and awareness to the patients. This will bring effectiveness and efficiency in the Indian Pharmacy.

=====

Two SEBI officials Parmod Kumar Nagpal and Amarjeet Singh have been elected as chairperson of International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). The headquarter of IOSCO is located at?

A. Washington DC, US

B. Madrid, Spain

C. Montreal, Canada

D. Geneva, Switzerland

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B. Madrid, Spain

Explanation:

Two officials of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), Parmod Kumar Nagpal and Amarjeet Singh are elected as chairpersons of two committees set up by IOSCO. The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) is an association of organisations that regulate the world's securities and futures markets. Headquarters Madrid, Spain

=====

The author of novel 'The Story of Lucy Gault' who died on November 21, 2016 at the age of 88 is?

A.Victor Hugo

B.Jules Verne

C.David Foster

D.William Trevor

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.William Trevor

Explanation:

Irish novelist and playwright William Trevor dies in London on November 21, 2016. He was 88. His book was short-listed four times for the Booker Prize including 'The Story of Lucy Gault' in 2002

=====

Global Citizen Festival was organised in which city?

A.Mumbai

B.Jaipur

C.New Delhi

D.Pune

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Mumbai

Explanation:

The Global Citizen Festival has been organized on November 19, 2016, at the MMRDA grounds in suburban Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai. Global Citizen Festival, which is a charitable event, is one of the biggest international music events to be held in the India.

=====

According to the World Health Organization(WHO) which virus is not an emergency any more?

A.Sindbis Fever

B.Zika

C.Tanapox

D.Oropouche Fever

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Zika

Explanation:

The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced in an online press conference on November 19, 2016, that the Zika Virus occurrence will no longer poses a world public health emergency.

=====

When is the World Toilet Day celebrated?

- A. November 19
- B. November 21
- C. November 18
- D. November 20

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A. November 19

Explanation:

World Toilet Day is observed every year on 19th November 2016 to motivate and mobilize millions around the world on issues of sanitation. 2016 Theme : 'Toilets and Jobs'

=====

'Parippida Mission' is launched by which state government to ensure housing for all ?

- A. Kerala
- B. Telangana
- C. J & K
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A. Kerala

Explanation :

Kerala government launched four major programmes—Parippida Mission, Haritha Keralam, Ardram and Life—in the education, health, housing and sanitation sectors. Under "Parippida Mission", the government plans to ensure housing for all, while "Ardram" proposes to upgrade basic facilities in government hospitals without inflating rates.

=====

Name the Android App launched by the Mobile Wallet Payment Firm MobikWik to enable easy digital payment service in area with slow internet connection.

A.MobiKwik Pay

B.MobiKwik Lite

C.MobiKwik Easy

D.MobiKwik Connect

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.MobiKwik Lite

Explanation:

MobiKwik has launched mobile wallet app 'MobiKwik Lite', which will work on basic Internet connection. 'MobiKwik Lite' app available in English and Hindi, later the app will be available in all major Indian languages. This app works on EDGE connection as well, allowing users in areas with slower connections to make digital payments easily.

Which country has rejected a plan to force their government to accelerate the country's exit from nuclear energy on November 27, 2016.

A.Switzerland

B.Syria

C.South Africa

D.Singapore

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Switzerland

Explanation:

Swiss Parliament have rejected a plan to force their government to accelerate the country's exit from nuclear energy after it received a majority from swiss council of states. The plan supported by the Green party would have meant closing three of Switzerland's five nuclear plants in 2029.

Name the campaign launched by Bengaluru based NGO, Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA) to create awareness against child trafficking and missing children in the city.

A.Every5Minutes

B.Every8Minutes

C.Every1Minutes

D. Every 5 Seconds

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B. Every 8 Minutes

Explanation:

Association for Promoting Social Action (APSA), a Bengaluru based NGO, has launched a 16-day campaign 'Every 8 Minutes' to create awareness against child trafficking and missing children in the city. The step was taken after a report released by National Crime Records Bureau showed that a child goes missing in India every eight minutes and 40 per cent of these children remain untraced.

=====

The largest uniformed youth organization National Cadet Corps (NCC) on November 27, 2016, celebrated its _____ raising day in New Delhi.

A. 65

B. 68

C. 69

D. 67

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B. 68

Explanation:

National Cadet Corps (NCC), the largest uniformed youth organisation in the world, celebrated its 68th Raising Day on 27th November 2016. The function was marked by paying homage to the martyrs at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate, New Delhi.

=====

Which Indian institute has signed 3 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) and entrepreneurship developer iBuild with a view to generate more employment opportunities?

A. NIT Jamshedpur

B. NIT Raipur

C. NIT Silchar

D. NIT Agartala

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D. NIT Agartala

Explanation:

National Institute of Technology (NIT) Agartala has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO) and iBuild that would be

valid for five years in the sector of knowledge updating, collaborative research in oil sectors, imparting training and conducting short term courses.

=====

What was the gross increase in NPA for Public Sector Banks in India during the July- September 2016 quarter?

A.Rs. 80,000 Crore

B.Rs. 71,521 Crore

C.Rs. 77,777 Crore

D.Rs. 79,977 Crore

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Rs.79,977 Crore

Explanation:

On September 30, gross NPAs of public sector banks increased to Rs.6,30,323 crore against Rs. 5,50,346 crore by June end.This works out to an increase of Rs.79,977 crore on quarter on quarter basis.

=====

Which Indian state has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Thailand on November 29, 2016, for promoting cooperation and collaboration between the states?

A.Assam

B.Manipur

C.Arunachal Pradesh

D.Andhra Pradesh

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation:

Arunachal Pradesh and Thailand signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on November 29, 2016 for promoting cooperation and collaboration between the states. The MoU was signed

between Surindra Rajabhat University Regional Development Strategies (SRRURDS) Foundation of Surin Province, North East of Thailand and Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College (MLBC) in Arunachal Pradesh.

=====

Name the portal launched by The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to provide easier access to academic documents online.

- A.Dastawez Manjusha
- B.Parinam Manjusha
- C.Documents Online
- D.E- CBSE Dastawez

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Parinam Manjusha

Explanation:

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) chairman R K Chaturvedi has launched its digital portal named 'Parinam Manjusha' to provide easier access to academic documents online. Students can find their marksheets, pass certificates, and migration certificates from this portal.

=====

What is the current career-best ranking of Virat Kohli in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings for Test Batsmen?

- A.First
- B.Third
- C.Second
- D.Fifth

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Third

Explanation:

Virat Kohli has moved up to a career-best third spot in the latest MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings for Test Batsmen after coming up with a useful contribution in his team's eight-wicket win over England in the third Test in Mohali. He scored 62 and six not out to move to 833 points, within 14 points of England's Joe Root in a list led by Australia captain Steve Smith.

=====

Malini Subramaniam won 2016 CPJ IPF Award

Journalist M Subramaniam won the 2016 IPF (International Press Freedom) Award.

It is given by CPJ (Committee to Protect Journalists). Event took place at Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

3 other journalists received the award. Can Dundar won the award from Turkey. Oscar Martinez won from El Salvador. Mahmoud A Zeid won from Egypt

These journalists risked their lives & freedom. They report critical events to global community.

Malini reports on police abuses, sexual violence, school shutdown etc.

CPJ IPF award is to honor courageous journalists. They defend press freedom in spite of threats & attacks

CPJ IPF was formed in 1991.

Kerala becomes 3rd ODF (open defecation-free) Indian state

On 2nd November 2016, Kerala became ODF (open defecation-free) Indian state. CM of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan made the announcement. It is the 3rd state to achieve this status. More than 100000 villages have been transformed into ODF. More than 175000 toilets have been constructed. The initiative was named 'Edamalakkudy'. This scheme has helped over 8 lakh people across Kerala. Other programmes launched were Haritha Keralam, Parippida Mission, Ardham etc.

Highlights

On 2nd November 2016, Kerala became ODF (open defecation-free) Indian state

More than 100000 villages have been transformed into ODF

RBI appoints M Rajeshwar Rao as Executive Director

On 7th November 2016, Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as Executive Director of the RBI. He will be succeeding G Mahalingam. Mahalingam took VR (Voluntary Retirement) from RBI (Reserve Bank of India). Rao will head DoSIM (Departments of Statistics & Information Management). He will also head the FMOD (Financial Markets Operation Department) & International Dept. Rao's previous job was as Chief GM of FMOD. He has BA in Economics & MBA from Cochin University. Rao is also Certified Associate- IIB (Indian Institute of Bankers). He joined RBI in the year 1984. Rao also looked after the RMD (Risk Monitoring Department) of RBI.

Highlights

Rajeshwar Rao was appointed as Executive Director of the RBI on 7th November 2016

Rao will head DoSIM, FMOD & International Department

WDD (World Diabetes Day) 2016 observed

On 14th November 2016, WDD (World Diabetes Day) was observed. Theme for this year was 'Eyes on Diabetes'. Activities were held across the world. The objective was promoting importance of early screening. This ensures early type-2 diabetes diagnosis & early treatment for reducing risk. The campaign is held annually. It is led by IDF (International Diabetes Federation) and member associations. Millions of citizens worldwide are engaged for diabetes advocacy & awareness. WDD was formed in the year 1991 by WHO and IDF. Diabetes is majorly a lifestyle disease. Almost 415 million individuals suffer from Diabetes worldwide.

Highlights

WDD (World Diabetes Day) was observed on 14th November 2016

Objective is promoting importance of early screening ensuring early diagnosis & treatment for reducing risk.

Jagdish S Khehar appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman

On 18th November 2016, Jagdish Khehar was appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman. The appointment came from Union Government. NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) was formed in 1995. Its institution was under LSAA (Legal Services Authorities Act), 1987. Eligible candidates receive legal services for free. It also organizes 'Lok Adalats' for speedy case resolution. NALSA's main objective is speedy case disposal & reducing judiciary burden. SC Chief Justice is NALSA's patron-in-chief. Executive Chairman is the second senior-most SC judge. Khehar will be succeeding Anil Dave.

Highlights

On 18th November 2016, Jagdish Khehar was appointed as NALSA Executive Chairman.

Eligible candidates receive legal services for free & 'Lok Adalats' are organised by NALSA

Which date is celebrated as World Vegan Day every year all around the world to raises awareness about animal rights?

A.October 30

B.November 1

C.November 2

D.October 31

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.November 1

Explanation:

World Vegan Day is celebrated every year all around the world on 1st November to raises awareness about animal rights and advocates the widespread adoption of a vegan lifestyle. It was first observed on November 1st, 1994.

=====

Which Indian off – spin bowler has continued to top position in the bowler’s list with 900 points?

A.Umesh Yadav

B.Axar Patel

C.Bhuvneshwar Kumar

D.Ravichandran Ashwin

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Ravichandran Ashwin

Explanation:

India kept its position of most important spot in the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test team rankings while top-ranking off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also continued to top the bowlers’ list.R Ashwin maintained his top position with 900 points. India led the team’s table with 115 points ahead of chief-rivals Pakistan (111) and Australia (108). England were at fourth place followed by South Africa, Sri Lanka, New Zealand, West Indies with Bangladesh and Zimbabwe completing the list.

=====

Who has been appointed as Brand Ambassador of Swachh Rail Mission?

A.Mohan S Kharbanda

B.Bindheswar Pathak

C.Satya Nadella

D.Rahul Agarwal

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Bindheswar Pathak

Explanation:

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu is appointed Sulabh International founder Bindeshwar Pathak as Brand Ambassador of Swachh Rail Mission on October 1, 2016. Indian Railways has joined hands

with Sulabh International to clean some important railway stations across the country as part of the Swachh Bharat mission.

=====

Which Veteran journalist has been awarded with 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award' for his outstanding contribution to journalism?

A.S Nihal Singh

B.Saeed Naqvi

C.Inder Malhotra

D.Ravish Kumar

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.S Nihal Singh

Explanation:

Veteran journalist S Nihal Singh has been awarded with 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award' for his outstanding contribution to journalism which is presented by the Press Council of India. The award will be presented on November 16 to Nihal Singh and carries a cash component of Rs 1 lakh. The other winners of the National Journalism Awards 2016, as per which Renjith Jonh of Deepika Daily has been chosen for his work for the award on Rural Journalism and Developmental reporting.

=====

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Haryana's year-long golden jubilee celebrations of Haryana in which city?

A.Ludhiana

B.Gurugram

C.Patiala

D.Mohali

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Gurugram

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Haryana's year-long golden jubilee celebrations of Haryana in Gurugram. PM Modi kicked-off Haryana's 'Swarna Jayanti' celebrations from Gurugram's Tau Devi Lal stadium on November 1, 2016. The Haryana Government has decided to set up Gurugram Development Authority(GDA) to avoid overlap in its functional and operational responsibilities and provide functional empowerment in administrative and financial structures at the local level.

=====

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has ordered PSBs to report all such matters involving funds over _____

- A. Rs. 1 crore
- B. Rs.2 crore
- C. Rs.5 crore
- D.Rs. 3 crore

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A. Rs. 1 crore

Explanation :

With high level frauds involving industrialists such as Vijay Mallya loan default case revealed, the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has now made it compulsory for the public sector banks to report to it all such matters involving funds over Rs.1 crore announced by Vigilance Commissioner TM Bhasin

=====

Which well known producer and director of Pakistan Television (PTV) has died at an age of 73?

- A.Pervaiz Khattak
- B.Hafiz Hafeezur Rehman
- C.Mohammed Asif
- D.Yawar Hayat Khan

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Yawar Hayat Khan

Explanation:

Iconic Pakistani TV producer Yawar Hayat Khan passes away. Yawar Hayat Khan, well known producer and director of Pakistan Television (PTV) has died. He was 73. He worked in PTV Lahore for about 40 years.

=====

Which Bollywood Actor was named the first Indian ambassador for promoting 2017 Switzerland Tourism's campaign- "Nature wants you back"?

- A.Ajay Devgan

B.Ranveer Singh

C.Akshay Kumar

D.Shahrukh Khan

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Ranveer Singh

Explanation:

Bollywood Actor Ranveer Sing was named the first Indian ambassador for promoting 2017 Switzerland Tourism's campaign- "Nature wants you back". He was in a long vacation in Switzerland three months back.The actor is now looking forward to visiting Switzerland in winter early next year.

=====

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has given its approval for implementation of Price Support Scheme (PSS) for procurement of Groundnut in which state during the Kharif season 2016-17?

A.Gujarat

B.West Bengal

C.Odisha

D.Andhra Pradesh

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Gujarat

Explanation:

Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has given its approval for implementation of Price Support Scheme(PSS) for procurement of Groundnut in Gujarat during the Kharif season 2016-17. Price Support Scheme for Oil Seeds and Pulses , it was implemented through the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED). It has directed NAFED and SFAC to initiate the procurement immediately at MSP + Bonus at Rs 4220/QtI.

=====

Name the Indian-origin researcher has won the German Green Talent award by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research?

A.Anita Sengupta

B.Sharmila Bhattacharya

C.Shamik Chowdhury

D.Kamlesh Lulla

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Shamik Chowdhury

Explanation:

Shamik Chowdhury, a PhD student in environmental engineering from the National University of Singapore was among 25 scholars awarded for their innovative green ideas by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Chowdhury's research was based on green synthesis of 2D graphene nanosheets and their self-assembly into advanced 3D macrostructures for sustainable urban development. The aim is to make a city life more sustainable through green technologies that will be based on renewable raw material.

=====

Name the first woman to be appointed as Attorney General of US has passed away at an age of 78?

A.Victoria Wood

B.Madeleine Lebeau

C.Gale Booth

D.Janet Reno

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Janet Reno

Explanation:

Janet Reno, the first woman to be appointed as Attorney General of US, passed away as a consequence of Parkinson's disease. She was 78. She died at her longtime home in Miami-Dade County, Fla. She served as Attorney General under President Bill Clinton and earned praise for her insensitiveness and independence, at the same time also faced criticism for some high-profile controversies.

=====

India's third largest private sector bank Axis Bank has announced its partnership with which online shopping portal to launch 'Axis Bank Buzz Credit Card'?

A.Flipkart

B.Snapdeal

C.Amazon

D.Shopclues

Answer & Explanation

Answer A.Flipkart

Explanation:

India's third largest private sector bank Axis Bank has announced its partnership with Flipkart to launch 'Axis Bank Buzz Credit Card'. The Buzz credit card is a contactless payment solution that offers various benefits to enhance customers' online shopping experience, while they enjoy the best discounts and offers. Axis Bank Buzz Credit Card powered by Flipkart is specifically designed to provide to the significantly growing and popular online shopping segment in India.

Which language will be included as a part of foreign language in Australia's Pre-schools?

A.Kannada

B.Sanskrit

C.Hindi

D.Bengali

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Hindi

Explanation:

Australia announced an online program for its pre-schools to learn foreign languages, including Hindi from 2017.

=====

Who has been named as the chief of staff to the new administration of the USA president-elect Donald Trump?

A.Zalmay Khalilzad

B.Reince Priebus

C.Steve Bannon

D.John R. Bolton

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Reince Priebus

Explanation:

Donald Trump has named Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus as chief of staff to his new administration and former Breitbart CEO Steve Bannon as chief strategist and senior counselor to the president.

=====

An all-women crew onboard INSV Mhadei was flagged off from Goa to participate in 'Capeto Rio Race 2017'. The race is

- A.Longest continent to Continent yacht race.
- B.Largest humanitarian exercise of world navies
- C.Longest navigation exercise undertaken by Indian Navy
- D.Both A and B

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.Longest continent to Continent yacht race.

Explanation:

An all-women crew of the Indian Navy was set off in the Indian Navy Sailing Vessel Mhadei for the 'Cape 2 Rio Yacht Race 2017' on November 9, 2016.

Veteran RSS leader and leading educationalist of Saurashta region who passed away recently ?

- A.Pravin Maniar
- B.Rajendra Singh
- C.M. S. Golwalkar
- D.K. S. Sudarshan

Answer & Explanation

Answer –A.Pravin Maniar

Explanation:

Veteran RSS leader and leading educationalist of Saurashta region Pravin Maniar passed away at Rajkot, Gujarat. He was 82.

Jallikattu is a religious sports of which state?

- A.Kerala
- B.Tamil Nadu
- C.Karnataka
- D.Andhra Pradesh

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Tamil Nadu

Explanation:

Jallikattu is a bull taming sport played in Tamil Nadu on Mattu Pongal day as a part of Pongal celebrations i.e. harvest festival.

Who is the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas?

A.Dr. Jitendra Singh

B.Dharmendra Pradhan

C.Chaudhary Birender Singh

D.Anant Geete

Answer & Explanation

Answer – B.Dharmendra Pradhan

Explanation:

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan announced that people can get cash at select petrol pumps with SBI machines by swiping their debit cards from November 18 2016.

Name the app launched by Google to scan physical photographs

A.PhotoScan

B.SnapShot

C.ImageScan

D.PicShot

Answer & Explanation

Answer – A.PhotoScan

Explanation:

Google launched a new app called 'PhotoScan' which has been designed to scan and digitise old printed photos. The app detects edges, straightens the image, rotates it to the correct orientation, and removes glare. Then the final image is stored at a specified location.

What was the motive of the conference business with purpose held at BSE among corporate heads?

A.Rewarding society

B.Social Responsibility

C.Giving Back to Society

D.Gifting Society

Answer & Explanation

Answer – C.Giving Back to Society

Explanation:

About 500 corporate heads gathered at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on November 17, 2016, for a conference to discuss on topic 'business with a purpose' in order to inculcate the sense of "giving back to society". Aim: To focus on how business entities can give back to the society by empowering others.

Who will be the Chief Guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention which will be held in Bengaluru from January 7 to 9, 2017 ?

A.Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

B.Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

C.Rodrigo Duterte

D.Antonio Costa

Answer & Explanation

Answer – D.Antonio Costa

Explanation:

Prime Minister of Portuguese, Antonio Costa will be the Chief Guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention which will be held in Bengaluru from January 7 to 9, 2017. The Prime Minister will attend the inaugural function of the convention on January 8, 2017 and address the delegates.
