

– Current Affairs –

March 2018

India wins Best Exhibitor Award at ITB- Berlin

India has won the “Best Exhibitor Award ” at ITB – Berlin on its last day. ‘ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet’ was convened at Berlin, Germany from 7th March to 10th March 2018. India was represented by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism Mr. K. J. Alphons along with a couple of Tourism Ministry officials. More than 100 countries participated in the ITB- Berlin meet with their respective Tourism Ministers. India’s Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism) presented a short film named “Yogi of the Racetrack ” in the meet. The said the short film has got 3.2 million hits in 60 hours.

Who will be the new head of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)?

- A. Frank Noronha
- B. T S Baku
- C. Ira Josh
- D. Sitanshu Kar

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Sitanshu Kar, an officer of 1983 batch of Indian Information Service (IIS), will be the new head of the Press Information Bureau (PIB) after superannuation of Frank Noronha on April 30. He will take charge as PIB head on 1st May 2018. Presently, he is the director general of All India Radio (AIR)'s News Services Division (NSD).

Which city observed Less Traffic Day to combat pollution?

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai

D. Mumbai

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Bengaluru observed the 2nd edition of Less Traffic Day, a campaign launched in Feb 2018 to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion in the city.

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WHO steps up fight against tobacco

The World Health Organization has launched new guidelines on the role that tobacco product regulations can play in reducing tobacco demand. The new guide, titled 'Tobacco product regulation: Building laboratory testing capacity' was launched at the 2018 World Conference on Tobacco or Health. The laboratory guide has information on how to test tobacco products and what products to test.

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Which state announces pension for single women through Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh scheme?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Andra Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Tamilnadu

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the 'Mukhyamantri Mahila Kosh' scheme that will offer pension to unmarried women above 50 years of age. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced this scheme on the occasion of International Women's Day.

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By how many percent the per capita availability of milk has risen in India?

- A. 15.6%
- B. 21.3%
- C. 25.2%
- D. 26.4%

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

The per capita availability of milk has risen by 15.6 percent from 307 gms a day to 355 gms per day between 2013-14 and 2016-17.

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SBI reduces charges on non-maintenance of minimum balance

The country's largest lender, SBI has slashed charges for non-maintenance of Average Monthly Balance (AMB) in savings accounts by nearly 75 percent. The revised charges will be effective from April 01, 2018 and will benefit over 25 crore customers. The charges for non-maintenance of AMB for customers in Metro and Urban centers have been reduced from a maximum of Rs 50 per month to Rs 15 per month. Similarly, for Semi-Urban and Rural centers, the charges have been reduced from Rs 40 every month to Rs 12 and Rs 10 GST charges will be applicable over and above the rates specified above.

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This becomes first alcohol-free village in Ranchi district of Jharkhand.

- A. Rodiya
- B. Jaipur
- C. Banlotwa
- D. Nawadih

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

Banlotwa has become the first alcohol-free village in Ranchi district of Jharkhand. Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das lauded the residents of the village for achieving this feat and has given Rs 1 lakh cash to the village head of Banlotwa. It is to be noted that, two years ago, Raghubar Das had announced that any village becoming alcohol-free would be given Rs. 1 lakh for its development. Mr. Das stated that people of Banlotwa have joined hands to make the village nasa mukti (alcohol-free). Even Jharkhand state government wants to ensure greater participation of the people in bringing about change and development.

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Begum Hamida Habibullah passed away at the age of 102, she was a Former minister from:

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Gujarat

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Former Uttar Pradesh minister and Congress leader Begum Hamida Habibullah passed away on Tuesday at her residence in Lucknow after a prolonged illness. She was 102.

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Indian economy to grow at 7.3% in FY19: World Bank

The World Bank projected India's GDP growth at 7.3% for the next financial year and accelerate further to seven point five per cent in 2019-20. India's Growth Story, expects the economy to grow at a rate of 6.7 per cent in the current financial year ending March 31, 2018.

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Who is elected as Nepal President recently?

- A. Bidya Devi Bhandari
- B. Ram Baran Yadav
- C. Kumari Laxmi Rai
- D. Gongzim

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Nepal's first woman President Bidya Devi Bhandari was re-elected for a second term in office with an overwhelming majority. Incumbent President Bhandari, the Left alliance's candidate was elected with more than a two-thirds majority as she defeated her Nepali Congress (NC) rival Kumari Laxmi Rai in the presidential election.

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Which of the following city does not have broadband speed faster than India's average speed of 20.72 mbps?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Delhi
- C. Vishakhapatnam
- D. Mumbai

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D Mumbai don't have broadband speed faster than India's average speed. Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Delhi also scored above the country's average.

India ranks 133rd in 2018 global happiness index

India ranked 133rd in the World Happiness report 2018. The report ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels, and 117 countries by the happiness of their immigrants. Burundi ranked last in the index.

Hamida Habibullah recently passed away. She was the former minister of which state?

- A. West Bengal
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Tripura

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Begum Hamida Habibullah, former Uttar Pradesh minister, died due to a long term illness at her home in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Begum Hamida Habibullah was 102 years old. She was a former Rajya Sabha member. She entered politics and joined the Congress party around 1965. She became an MLA from Haidergarh. She was made the state minister of social and Harijan welfare, national integration and civil defence from 1971 to 1973. She was tourism minister from 1971 to 1974. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee (UPCC) till 1980. She was the president of Mahila Congress, UPCC, in the 1972 to 1976 period.

Tai Tzu Ying is world no. ___ Badminton player

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Tai Tzu Ying is world no.1 badminton player.

1st G20 Ministerial meeting held in Argentina

The first G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors began in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the presence of 57 delegations from countries and institutions.

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Which ministry organizing the event in the first National workshop on POSHAN Abhiyan in New Delhi?

- A. Ministry of Human Resource Development
- B. Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- C. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D. Ministry of Women and Child Development

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

The first National workshop on POSHAN Abhiyan involving all the states and union territories was held at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi. The Ministry of Women and Child Development is organizing the day-long workshop with participation from all the states/UTs. It is been organized to provide a complete orientation on the POSHAN Abhiyan, to explain the key components of the Abhiyaan and to provide handholding in using the software involved. The Ministry of WCD is also launching five e-ILA (e-Incremental Learning Approach) courses and two ECCE(Early Childhood Care and Education) software modules.

=====

Where was the 3rd edition on National Conclave on mines and minerals organised?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Chennai
- C. Mumbai
- D. New Delhi

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

The Ministry of Mines has organised the 3rd National Conclave on Mines and Minerals in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by the Minister of Mines, Narendra Singh Tomar.

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Singapore Airport rated World's best, Mumbai ranked 63rd

The Singapore Changi Airport has been named the world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by consultancy firm Skytrax. The Incheon International Airport in South Korea and Haneda Airport in

Japan were placed second and third respectively. The Mumbai airport has been ranked 63rd, the airports in Bangalore and Delhi are at 64th and 66th place respectively.

What is the name of the mathematician, who won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory?

- A. James G. Arthur
- B. Robert Langlands
- C. Edward Frenkel
- D. Terence Tao

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory. The prize was established by the Norwegian government in 2002 to honour outstanding scientific work in the field of mathematics. Along with the Fields Medal, it is one of the world's most prestigious maths prizes.

Which company is developing its own blockchain related technology?

- A. Microsoft
- B. Google
- C. Facebook
- D. LinkedIn

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Google is developing its own blockchain related technology.

India's first sign language dictionary of 3000 words launched

The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has launched India's first Sign Language Dictionary of 3000. The dictionary has been developed by Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC) under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). This dictionary is available in both print and video formats.

Which of the following becomes the 1st city in North India to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras?

- A. Chandigarh
- B. Guwahati
- C. Ahmedabad
- D. Chennai

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

Chandigarh becomes the 1st city in North India to install Automatic Speed Gun Cameras with digital displays for traffic management. The high-tech speed cameras are equipped with night vision technology and will record the speed of oncoming traffic, helping Chandigarh Police to issue challans to anyone driving above the city speed limits. Chandigarh also happens to be among a few cities to accept driving on high-beam inside the city limits as a punishable offense.

=====

Who is the first English bowler to reach the 400 test wickets in Test cricket?

- A. Derek Underwood
- B. James Anderson
- C. Tim Robinson
- D. David Smith

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

James Anderson is the first English bowler to reach the 400 test wickets in Test cricket, Stuart Broad being second.

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Balesh Sharma named CEO of Vodafone-Idea India merged entity

Vodafone India and Idea Cellular have announced Vodafone veteran Balesh Sharma as CEO of the proposed new telecom operator. Sharma is currently the chief operating officer at Vodafone India.

=====

The Seventh India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting was held in?

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi

- C. Chennai
- D. Patna

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

The 7th India-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting led by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry was held in New Delhi. Both the sides reviewed the progress in the areas of political, trade & investment, S&T, cybersecurity, capacity building, security, space, and culture. India and Egypt are two of the world's oldest civilizations that have enjoyed cordial relations based on commonality of views on regional and international issues.

Tencent is ___ company

- A. Automobile
- B. Mobile
- C. Social media
- D. Soft toys

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

Tencent is a social media company.

As per Census 2011 data, which state was resides with the highest number of beggars?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. West Bengal
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Bihar

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

As per Census 2011 data, India is home to 413670 beggars. Among all state and Union Territories, highest number of beggars resides in West Bengal (nearly 81000 beggars), while Lakshadweep has only two beggars. Out of total 413670 beggars in India, 221673 are males and 191997 are females. In terms of highest number of beggars, West Bengal is followed by Uttar Pradesh (65835 beggars) and

Andhra Pradesh (30218 beggars). Among Union Territories, New Delhi has highest number of beggars (2187).

=====

Who will take over as the CEO of Tata Power from May?

- A. Salil Parekh
- B. Chandrasekharan
- C. Cyrus Mistry
- D. Praveer Sinha

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

Praveer Sinha will take over as the CEO of Tata Power from May.

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Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel wins season's first Grand Prix

Ferrari's German driver Sebastian Vettel won the F1 season's opening Grand Prix and overall his third Australian Grand Prix title in Melbourne. Defending F1 champion Mercedes' British driver Lewis Hamilton, who had begun the race at the pole position, came second ahead of Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen.

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Recently this country overtakes Saudi Arabia to become India's top crude oil supplier.

- A. Iran
- B. Iraq
- C. Nigeria
- D. Kuwait

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Iraq overtook Saudi Arabia to become India's top crude oil supplier by supplying 38.9 million tonnes (MT) crude oil in the current financial year. It was fifth of India's oil needs. India is 80% dependent on imports to meet its oil needs. India had imported 184.4 MT of crude oil during April. Saudi Arabia traditionally has been India's top oil source but Iraq dethroned it. Saudi Arabia supplied 30.9 MT of crude oil in first 10 months.

=====

Gitanjali Gems is owned by ____

- A. Nirav Modi
- B. Mehul Choksi
- C. Lalit Modi
- D. None of the above

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Gitanjali Gems is owned by Mehul Choksi.

Govt sets up Subhash Chandra Garg Committee to regulate fintech sector

The Union Government has set up 8 member steering committee look into the development and regulation of the financial technology (fintech) sector in India. It will be headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Garg. The move follows an announcement by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley in the Budget.

Which Indian shooter won gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol?

- A. Manu Bhaker
- B. Kavita Yadav
- C. Gayatri Pawaskar
- D. Heena Sidhu

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

India's Manu Bhaker has won gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol and Ravi Kumar has won bronze medal in the men's 10m air pistol in the ISSF World Cup in Guadalajara, Mexico. Manu Bhaker defeated Mexico's Alejandra Zavala with 10.8 in the last shot of the 24 shot final of the women's 10m air pistol. She topped with 237.5 and won gold medal in the women's 10m air pistol. She is just 16 years old. Alejandra Zavala finished at the second position with 237.1 and France's Celine Goberville came third with 217.0 in the women's 10m air pistol.

Who is the only man to play in both cricket and football World Cups?

- A. Mohammad Rafique

B. Jack Alabaster

C. Don Bradman

D. Viv Richards

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

Cricket legend Viv Richards is the only man to play in cricket and football World Cups. Richards won the first two editions of the Cricket WC with West Indies and was apart of Antigua's squad in the 1974 FIFA WC qualifiers.

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Chandragiri becomes first 'all women' station in Andhra Pradesh

The South Central Railway (SCR) management has named the Chandragiri station in Guntakal Division, near Tirupati as the first 'all-women railway station' in Andhra Pradesh. The transition process was done by deploying women staff to handle all the day to day activities including train operations, ticketing, security and other relevant duties.

=====

Which of the following imposed a fine of 54 Crore rupees on Jet Airways, IndiGo, SpiceJet for unfair business practices?

A. CVC

B. NCLT

C. SEBI

D. CCI

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a fine of over Rs. 54 crore on Jet Airways, IndiGo, and SpiceJet over alleged cartelisation, unfair business practices with respect to fixing fuel surcharge on cargo transport. Jet Airways was fined Rs.39.81 crore while the penalties on IndiGo and SpiceJet are Rs.9.45 crore and Rs.5.1 crore, respectively.

=====

RBI has recently imposed a penalty on which bank over counterfeit notes?

A. IndusInd Bank

B. HDFC Bank

C. Union Bank

D. SBI

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Answer: D

RBI imposes penalty on SBI over counterfeit notes

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Delhi Police launches 'all women patrolling squad'

The South District Police in Delhi launched an 'all women patrolling squad' on March 8, 2018, on the occasion of International Women's Day. The squad named 'Knightingale' has been formed to ensure safety and security of women at public places. The squad comprises 16 women personnel, aged between 20-35 years, in the ranks of sub-inspectors and constables who have been trained in unarmed combat and driving.

=====

World ATM (Air Traffic Management) Congress WATMC 2018 held in _____.

- A. Spain
- B. Canada
- C. Malaysia
- D. Singapore

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) participated and showcased its achievements and initiatives in World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018 held at IFEMA, Feria de Madrid, Spain from March 6 to 8. World ATM Congress is the world's largest international air traffic management (ATM) exhibition and conference attracting thousands of delegates each year.

=====

According to the data released by the Chinese General Administration of Customs, by how many percent India's export has increased to China?

- A. 10%
- B. 20%
- C. 40%
- D. 60%

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

India's exports to China rose by nearly 40%, according to the data released by the Chinese General Administration of Customs. A record high of \$84.44 billion was reached by India-China bilateral trade last year despite the tensions between the two nations over several issues.

=====

Indian women earn 20 per cent lesser than men: Report

According to a report released, women in India earn 20 per cent lesser than men, although the gender gap narrowed down by around five percentage points in 2017. The report by monster.com called Monster Salary Index (MSI) revealed that the current gender pay gap in India stands at 20 per cent, where men earned a median gross hourly salary of Rs 231, while women earned Rs 184.8.

=====

Minister of MSME launched a portal named "Udyam Sakhi" for women entrepreneurs in _____.

- A. New Delhi
- B. Patna
- C. Kolkata
- D. Hyderabad

Answer: Option A

Explanation:

At the Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, Minister of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) - Giriraj Singh launched a portal named "Udyam Sakhi" for women entrepreneurs of India. The portal is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low cost products and services in order to empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.

=====

Passport details made mandatory for loans above _____

- A. Rs.25 crore
- B. Rs.50 crore
- C. Rs.1 crore
- D. None of the above

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Passport details made mandatory for loans above Rs.50 cr.

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Dharun breaks National record in hurdles

Ayyasamy Dharun broke the men's 400m hurdles national record and in the process grabbed a Commonwealth Games ticket on the concluding day of the 22nd Federation Cup National Senior Championships. Dharun erased Joseph G Abraham's over 10-year-old earlier national record of 49.94 made in August 2007 in Osaka. Dharun got his last medal at an Indian Grand Prix event in Bengaluru.

=====

Which state CM announces five lakh rupees health-cum-life insurance scheme for farmers?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Telangana
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Punjab

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced five lakh rupees health-cum-life insurance scheme for farmers in the state. Over 70 lakh farmers across Telangana will be covered under this scheme. In case of death of farmer, amount will be paid to families of farmers. Health insurance will be provided in case of hospitalisation. Entire premium for the insurance will be borne by the Telangana State Government. Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for implementation of this scheme.

=====

Which position is secured by India on the Hurun Global Rich List 2018?

- A. 3rd
- B. 4th
- C. 5th
- D. 8th

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

By replacing Germany, India has reclaimed the third spot on the Hurun Global Rich List 2018 with 131 billionaires. The combined wealth of the Indian billionaires increased by 49%. China ranked first in the list with 819 billionaires while USA ranked second with 571.

=====

Dhanlaxmi Bank appoints Sajeev Krishnan as Director

The board of Thrissur-based Dhanlaxmi Bank has appointed Sajeev Krishnan as a director. In his 39 years of service, Krishnan has worked in various capacities including officiating Managing Director of State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Travancore, CGM of SBT and Chief Vigilance Officer with Corporation Bank.

=====

Who launches Viral Load test for People Living with HIV/AIDS?

- A. Venkaiyah Naidu
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Ram Nath Kovind
- D. J P Nadda

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, launched the "Viral Load testing for all People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)," initiative. This initiative will offer free of cost viral load testing for 12 lakh people living with HIV/AIDS on treatment in India at least once a year. J P Nadda said that, regular viral load testing will improve utilization of 1st line regimens. This in turn will prevent drug resistance and increase the life time of people living with HIV. He also launched the National Guidelines for HIV-1 Viral Load Laboratory Testing, National Operational Guidelines for Viral Load Testing, Standard Operating Procedure for HIV-1 Quant Assay with CBNAAT and Guidelines on Quality Monitoring System for Outsourced Viral Load Tests.

=====

Who broke the world record for the 100-104 age category in the 50m freestyle in swimming?

- A. Jaring Timmerman
- B. George Coronos
- C. Albert Mitchell
- D. William Specter

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

George Coronos, who turns 100 in April, completed the 50m freestyle in 56.12 seconds, surpassing the previous record of 1 min 16 sec set by late Canadian swimmer Jaring Timmerman in 2009.

=====

India has the third highest number of billionaires in the world: Report

According to Hurun's Global Rich List 2018, with 31 new Indians on the list and with a total of 131 names, India comes third after China and USA. China with 819 names and USA with 571 are way ahead in terms of number of billionaires. Industrialist Mukesh Ambani remains India's richest person with a sharp surge of 30 per cent in his net worth to \$26 billion, pushing his global rank to 21st on a worldwide rich list topped by Bill Gates. The list ranked 2,694 billionaires from 68 countries and from 2,157 companies in another record-breaking year for the world's billionaires.

=====

Which state plans to open Academy of Adventure Sports to empower unemployed youth in sports?

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Karnataka
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Haryana

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

Andhra Pradesh government is establishing an Academy of Adventure Sports at Gandikota village on the banks of river Pennar in Kadapa district. The Academy is being established to empower unemployed youth in taking up adventure sports /adventure tourism centres as career building. The government also aims attracting tourists apart from employment generation and promoting adventure sports.

=====

Govt has approved fund under ____ to create safe cities.

- A. Smart Cities
- B. Make in India
- C. Start up India
- D. Nirbhaya

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

Govt has approved fund under Nirbhaya fund to create safe cities.

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Armen Sarkisian Elected Next Armenian President

Armenian lawmakers elected Armen Sarkisian as the new president of Armenia. He will succeed Serzh Sarkisian. Armen Sarkisian was the ambassador to the United Kingdom. He will assume presidential duties after his predecessor steps down in April 2018. The political shift comes after President Sarkisian in 2015 initiated controversial constitutional amendments to turn the impoverished Moscow-allied country into a parliamentary republic with a powerful Prime Minister.

=====

Which country's team has won the 2018 IBSF Snooker Team World Cup?

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Pakistan
- D. Japan

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

The Indian Snooker team has lifted the first edition of IBSF Snooker Team World Cup title and won the prize money of \$15,000. The Indian duo of Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra defeated Pakistan (Muhammad Asif, Babar Masih) in the best-of-five final played in Doha on March 2.

=====

Serious fraud body has recently sought information from which healthcare company?

- A. Hinduja
- B. Max
- C. Apollo
- D. Fortis

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

The SFIO has sought information and documents from Fortis Healthcare.

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Mukul Sangma tenders resignation as Meghalaya CM

Mukul Sangma submitted his resignation from the post of Meghalaya Chief Minister. Sangma submitted his resignation to Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad in Shillong following the assembly election results.

=====

How many agreements were signed between India and Vietnam recently?

- A. 8
- B. 5
- C. 3
- D. 2

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang also vowed to expand bilateral cooperation in several key sectors, including defence, oil and gas, and agriculture. The three pacts signed after the talks between the two leaders would provide for cooperation in areas of nuclear energy, trade and agriculture.

=====

Which state has launched the scheme 'KHUSHI'?

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Odisha
- D. Uttar Pradesh

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

'KHUSHI' scheme was launched by the Odisha Government to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state.

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India 12th largest holder of US securities

India's exposure to US government securities rose sharply to a high of \$144.7 billion at the end of 2017. In 2017, China was the largest holder of US government securities with holdings to the tune of \$1.18 trillion, followed by Japan at \$1.06 trillion. Among the BRIC countries, India had the third largest exposure while that of Russia was lower at \$102.2 billion.

=====

Which of the following city tops Quality of Governance Survey?

- A. Surat
- B. Bhubaneswar
- C. Pune
- D. Thiruvananthapuram

Answer: Option C

Explanation:

As per fifth edition of the Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS) by Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, Pune is the top city to show improvement in quality of governance in 2017. Pune topped the list with an overall score of 5.1 out of 10. Bhubaneswar showed significant improvement by attaining fourth spot in 2017 survey as compared to tenth in 2016. ASICS measures the preparedness of city administration to deliver high quality standards, political leadership at the city level, municipal finance & staffing, and transparency & citizen participation. Guwahati and Vishakhapatnam were the two new cities that were covered in this survey. However, both these cities fared poorly in the assessment.

=====

The government data showed that India's trade deficit narrowed to _____.

- A. 12 billion dollars
- B. 16.3 billion dollars
- C. 23 billion dollars
- D. 25.2 billion dollars

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

The government data showed that India's trade deficit narrowed to \$12 billion in February from 16.3 billion dollars in the previous month.

=====

Slovenian PM Cerar resigns

Slovenian Prime Minister Miro Cerar has resigned. He resigned after a court annulled the result of a referendum in the latest blow to his crisis-hit government, months ahead of planned elections.

This Indian film bags Grand Prix de Montreal' award at the 21st Festival International du Film Pour Enfants de Montreal Film (FIFEM).

- A. Golmaal Again
- B. Tiger Zinda Hai
- C. Newton
- D. Halkaa

Answer: Option D

Explanation:

Indian film "Halkaa" has won the 'Grand Prix de Montreal' award at the 21st Festival International du Film Pour Enfants de Montreal Film (FIFEM). "Halkaa" was directed by Nila Madhab Panda. Child actor Tathastu has acted as Pichku, the lead role. "Halkaa" was selected among seven international children's films in the official competition of the festival held from 8th to 11th March 2018.

Who is Wisden India Almanack's Cricketer of the Year?

- A. M.S Dhoni
- B. Virat Kohli
- C. K.L Rahul
- D. Hardik Pandeya

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

KL Rahul is the 'Cricketer of the Year' in the sixth edition of Wisden India Almanack, which has just been released.

Sangeeta Bahadur appointed Ambassador of India to Belarus

Sangeeta Bahadur has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Belarus. She is an IFS officer of 1987 batch. She is currently Additional Secretary in Ministry of External Affairs.

Who inaugurates Delhi Energy Dialogue (DED) 2018 recently?

- A. Radha Mohan Singh
- B. Dharmendra Pradhan
- C. Nirmala Sitharaman
- D. Piyush Goyal

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first edition of Delhi Energy Dialogue (DED) 2018 in New Delhi. The dialogue was organised by Ashden India Collective (AIC) in alliance with the Climate Parliament and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The dialogue served as a platform for stakeholders in the field of energy and power to deliberate on key developments and challenges for 'energy for all' in India. While inaugurating the dialogue, Mr. Pradhan stated that India is a happening place for energy as every day 40 million people are going to hydrocarbon retail points to meet their demand and 190 million people are getting the benefit of subsidies. He also added that by 2040, India's energy consumption will grow by compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4 per cent and India currently offers 1 lakh crore of bio-fuel and bio-energy business to the world.

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Which country is India's 2nd biggest arms supplier?

- A. France
- B. Israel
- C. Russia
- D. USA

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

USA is India's 2nd biggest arms supplier

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Singapore, Paris are world's costliest cities

Singapore is the world's most expensive city for the fifth straight year. According to the latest Worldwide Cost of Living report 2018 by the Economist Intelligence Unit Syrian capital Damascus was ranked as the world's cheapest city. Paris and Zurich were tied at the second position, followed by Hong Kong and Norway's capital Oslo. The Indian cities of Bangalore, Chennai and New Delhi and Pakistan's Karachi featured among the ten cheapest locations surveyed.

India currently offers _____ quantity of bio-fuel and bio-energy business to the world?

- A. 50 lakh crore
- B. 1 lakh crore
- C. 100 crores
- D. 10 lakh crore

Answer: Option B

Explanation:

Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated the first edition of Delhi Energy Dialogue (DED) 2018 in New Delhi. The dialogue was organised by Ashden India Collective (AIC) in alliance with the Climate Parliament and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). While inaugurating the dialogue, Mr. Pradhan stated that India is a happening place for energy as every day 40 million people are going to hydrocarbon retail points to meet their demand and 190 million people are getting the benefit of subsidies. He also added that by 2040, India's energy consumption will grow by compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4 per cent and India currently offers 1 lakh crore of bio-fuel and bio-energy business to the world.

Which team have the second most victories in the shortest format, that is T20 cricket?

- A. New Zealand
- B. South Africa
- C. India
- D. Australia

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

With the victory against Bangladesh in the T20I tri-series final, the Indian team has now registered the second most victories in the shortest format. India registered 61 wins in 99 T20Is and overtook South Africa's 60 victories out of 103 T20Is till now.

Sony India appoints Sunil Nayyar as MD

Sony India announced the appointment of Sunil Nayyar as its Managing Director (MD) in place of Kenichiro Hibi. Hibi, who was MD of Sony India from 2012 till 2018, has now been appointed as

President of Sony Brazil. Nayar is the first Indian to be appointed as Managing Director for Sony India.

Informal WTO Ministerial meeting held in New Delhi

Representatives from 50 countries gathered in New Delhi for a two-day informal World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial meeting. It will provide an opportunity to engage in free and frank discussions with the hope that it will lead to political guidance on some major issues.

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