

1 September 2017



1) Which African country during August

2017 implemented world's toughest plastic ban with provisions of imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000? – **Kenya**

Explanation: On 28 August 2017 the east African country Kenya joined more than 40 other countries that have banned, partly banned or taxed single use plastic bags, including China, France, Rwanda, and Italy.

– But the provisions in Kenya's plastic ban are the world's toughest till-date. Under the new anti-plastic regulation, Kenyans producing, selling or even using plastic bags will risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines of \$40,000 (£31,000).

– Kenya's law allows police to go after anyone even carrying a plastic bag. It is worth mentioning that many plastic bags drift into the ocean, strangling turtles, suffocating seabirds and filling the stomachs of dolphins and whales with waste until they die of starvation.

2) ISRO's attempt to augment the country's indigenous navigation services through the IRNSS-1H satellite became unsuccessful as the heat shield of the PSLV rocket did not open as the satellite reached sub geosynchronous transfer orbit on 31 August 2017. What was an important fact associated with this unsuccessful launch? – **This was the first time that the private sector had been actively involved in satellite development**

Explanation: The successful launch of the 1,425 kg IRNSS-1H navigational satellite would have ushered a new era in the country's history of space exploration as, for

the first time, the private sector has been actively involved in assembling and testing of a satellite. Till now, the private sector's role was limited only to supplying components.

– But in a rare setback for Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 31

August 2017, the satellite's fourth stage in the launch mission did not go as planned, nearly 20 minutes after satellite had a perfect lift off from the space centre in Sriharikota.

– The PSLV C39 launch vehicle had a problem and heat shield did not separate. The first three stages of the satellite launch were completed as intended. IRNSS 1-H was intended to replace the IRNSS 1-A satellite that was launched on 1 July 2013.

3) Which small bank was given the status of scheduled bank by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during August 2017? – **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd**

Explanation: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd. (USFB), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ujjivan Financial Services Ltd, was given scheduled bank status by RBI during August 2017. USFB commenced its operations as a small finance bank with effect from 1 February 2017. Currently it has full-fledged brick and mortar branches in eight states and two Union Territories.

– The status of scheduled bank will enhance the market acceptability of USFB in its effort to garner institutional deposits at a competitive price and participate more actively in the inter-bank market.

4) What was the GDP growth rate of the Indian economy during April-June 2017 quarter (Q1) that is the lowest in last 3 years? – **5.7%**

Explanation: According to the data released by the Union Government on 31 August 2017, India's GDP grew 5.7% on a year-on-year basis during the April-June 2017 period (Q1). This was thus the lowest growth rate in last 3 years.

– The GDP growth rate for the same quarter last year was 7.9%. The GDP growth rate has been slowing every quarter since March 2016, when it stood at a whopping 9.1%.

– Analysts have owed the slowing rate of growth to disruptions in the economy caused by demonetisation and teething problems after the roll out of GST.

2-5 September 2017



5) Who was appointed the new Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) by the Union Government on 31 August 2017? - **Rajiv Mehrishi**

Explanation: Former Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi was appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on 31 August 2017. His tenure as Union Home Secretary ended on 31 August 2017. He replaces Shashi Kant Sharma who has been occupying the post since 23 May 2013.

– CAG is an authority, established by the Constitution of India, which audits all receipts and expenditure of the Government of India and the state governments, including those of bodies and authorities substantially financed by the government.

6) Who was appointed the Election Commissioner in the 3-member Election Commission of India (ECI) on 31 August 2017? – **Sunil Arora**

Explanation: Senior IAS officer Sunil Arora was appointed the Election Commissioner on 31 August 2017. While Achal Kumar Joti is the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), Om Prakash Rawat is the other Election Commissioner.

– After Nasim Zaidi retired as Chief Election Commissioner in July 2017, there was a vacancy in the ECI.

1) The 3-day BRICS Summit 2017 commenced in which Chinese city from 3 September 2017? – **Xiamen**

Explanation: The 2017 BRICS Summit, which is the ninth edition of the Head of States meet of the 5 BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), commenced in Xiamen, a sub-provincial city in southeastern Fujian province of China, from 3 September 2017. This is the second time that China is hosting the summit after the 2011 summit in Sanya.

– In a significant diplomatic win for India, the BRICS nations on 4 September 2017 for the first time, named Pakistan-based groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Haqqani network in a strongly-worded declaration condemning terror on 4 September 2017. While Pakistan is a close ally of China, the statement makes a strong reference to the need for states to act against terror. But it has not been named in the declaration adopted by BRICS.

– Prime Minister Narendra Modi is representing India in this summit.



2) Nirmala Sitharaman created history as she became the first-ever full-time woman

defence minister of India on 3 September 2017. Who was the only other woman to head country's defence ministry? – **Indira Gandhi**

Explanation: Until now, the only woman to head India's Defence Ministry was former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She first headed the Defence Ministry in 1975 and again in 1980-82. But she looked after the Defence Ministry as part-time charge apart from her primary duties as the Prime Minister.

– On 3 September 2017 Nirmala Sitharaman became the first-ever full-time Defence Minister of the country as she was elevated from minister of state (Commerce Ministry) to Cabinet Minister (Defence Ministry).

– She has a Masters in economics from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi and has worked for PwC, London and briefly with BBC World Service. She joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2008, and was made a member of the national executive and was nominated as party spokesperson in 2010.



3) Who was given the important charge of Rail Ministry from Suresh Prabhu in the expansion undertaken on 3 September 2017?

– **Piyush Goyal**

Explanation: Piyush Goyal was appointed the new Rail Minister by the Union Cabinet on 3 September 2017. He took charge from Suresh Prabhu who had earlier on 23 August 2017 offered to quit following two train derailments in span of four days. Prabhu was shifted to the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

– Goyal has been given the responsibility in the third reshuffle following his performance as Union Power Minister. He initiated several projects like electrification of villages, Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) to revive

debt-ridden power distribution companies (DISCOMS) and solar power.

4) How many new ministers were added to Union Council of Ministers of the Narendra Modi government in the expansion undertaken on 3 September 2017? – **Nine**

Explanation: Nine new ministers (all ministers of state – MoS) were inducted into the council of ministers in the Narendra Modi government on 3 September 2017. These nine new ministers are – **Shiv Pratap Shukla** (Mos

– Finance Ministry), **R.K. Singh** (MoS – Power and New and Renewable Energy Ministry), **Ashwini Kumar Choubay** (MoS – Health Ministry), **Satyapal Singh** (MoS – HRD and Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation), **Virendra Kumar** (MoS-Women & Child Development), **Alphons Kannanthanam** (MoS – Tourism Ministry and Electronics and IT), **Anant Kumar Hegde** (MoS – Skill Development Ministry), **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** (MoS – Agriculture Ministry) and **Hardeep Singh Puri** (MoS – Housing and Urban Affairs).

– On the other hand Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas got the additional charge of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, portfolio held earlier by Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

– With this expansion, the strength of Union Council of Ministers went up from 73 to 76.

5) Which entity won the television and digital rights for the Indian Premier League (IPL) for a period of five years for a staggering Rs 16347.5 crore on 4 September 2017? – **Star India**

Explanation: According to an announcement made by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 4 September 2017, Star India has won the television and digital rights for the Indian Premier League (IPL) for a period of five years, from 2018 to 2022. BCCI bagged Rs. 16347.5 crore from a single bidder for both the rights.

– Sony had held the broadcast rights for ten seasons, from 2008 to 2017 while Star held the previous digital rights till the 2017 season.

– The testimony to IPL’s growth as the premier sporting property of the country is reflected by the fact that the previous 10-year bid for TV rights was bought by Sony at Rs. 8200 crore in 2008.

6 September 2017



6) Who was nominated as the new US ambassador to India by President Donald Trump on 1 September 2017? – **Kenneth Juster**

Explanation: President Donald Trump nominated Kenneth Juster, a top economic aide, as the next US ambassador to India.

– Juster is the Deputy Assistant to the US president for International Economic Affairs and Deputy Director of his National Economic Council. As the Under Secretary for Commerce, he had played a key role in developing the civilian nuclear cooperation agreement between the US and India.

– If his nomination is confirmed by the US Senate, he will replace the incumbent Richard Verma.

1) Which banking entity was declared a domestic-systemically important bank (D-SIB) by the Reserve Bank of India on 4 September 2017 with which it became the third to get this status? – **HDFC Bank Ltd.**

Explanation: According to an announcement made by the RBI on 4 September 2017, private sector lender HDFC Bank Ltd has been declared a domestic-systemically important bank (D-SIB). With this, the bank joined State Bank of India (SBI) and ICICI Bank Ltd, which have been tagged as D-SIBs, or “too-big-to-fail” for the third consecutive year.

– RBI declares a list of D-SIBs every year. The first list was released in 2015, in which SBI and ICICI Bank were named systemically important.

– The D-SIB classification means the collapse of these lenders could have a cascading impact on the entire financial system and the economy. These entities are mandated to maintain a progressively higher share of risk-weighted assets as tier-I equity, which is a measure of the bank’s core capital.

In case of HDFC Bank, the additional capital surcharge will be applicable from 1 April 2018.



2) Which city became the ninth India city to have its metro rail system on 5 September 2017? – **Lucknow**

Explanation: Uttar Pradesh’s capital Lucknow became the ninth Indian city to have its own operational metro rail system after Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation’s (LMRC) first phase was flagged-off by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on 5 September 2017.

– The 8.5 km long first phase from Transport Nagar to Charbagh comes under LMRC’s “Priority Corridor” section. It will be operational for the public from 6 am to 10 pm daily. It is worth mentioning that former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and his father Mulayam Singh Yadav had flagged off the trial run on the same stretch in December 2016.

– Eight Indian cities having operational metro services are – Kolkata, Delhi, Bengaluru, Gurugram (Gurgaon), Mumbai, Jaipur, Chennai and Kochi.

3) During September 2017 five banks of the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) agreed to establish local currency credit lines and develop cooperation on credit ratings. Which entity is representing Indian in the BRICS ICM? – **Exim Bank of India**

Explanation: Exim Bank of India, Brazil’s Banco Nacional de Desenvolvimento Economico e Social, China Development Bank, Development Bank of Southern Africa and Vnesheconombank of Russia are the 5 representative banks in the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM).

– On 2 September 2017, the CEOs of these 5 banking entities establish a framework mechanism to extend credit lines in local currencies to the BRICS ICM members and the BRICS companies against guarantees of the signatory banks.

– The use of local currencies will help promote mutually beneficial economic cooperation, mitigate currency risks, increase trade, and facilitate companies in accessing the BRICS markets.

4) During September 2017 which foreign bank received RBI’s approval to offer banking services in India through the wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) model and thus became the second foreign bank to receive this approval? – **DBS Bank Ltd.**

Explanation: Singapore-based DBS Bank Ltd. has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to offer banking services in India through the wholly owned subsidiary (WOS) model. This announcement was made by DBS on 4 September 2017.

– DBS thus became the second foreign bank to operate through the WOS model in India after State Bank of Mauritius.

– It is worth mentioning that RBI wants foreign lenders in India to function through wholly-owned subsidiaries in order to insulate banking operations from any crisis the parent may be facing and also to ensure better regulation. In November 2013 RBI released a framework for the setting up of wholly-owned subsidiaries by foreign banks in India.



5) What is the name of the Indian-origin executive who on 5 September 2017 was nominated as the next CEO of Novartis, the largest drugmaker of Europe? – **Vasant Narasimhan**

Explanation: 41-year old Vasant Narasimhan, a Harvard-trained doctor, was nominated as the next Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Novartis Pharma AG. He is presently Chief Medical Officer and global head of drug development at Novartis.

– This announcement was made by Novartis on 5 September 2017 after the surprise departure of CEO Joseph Jimenez after eight years at the helm. Jimenez will retire on 1 February 2018.

– Novartis is the largest drug maker of Europe and one of the largest in the world. It is based in Basel, Switzerland. Company's 2016 revenue stood at over \$48 billion.

7 September 2017



1) What is the name given to the most powerful Atlantic Ocean hurricane in recorded history

that hit the islands of the north-east Caribbean on 6 September 2017? – **Hurricane Irma**

Explanation: Hurricane Irma is the most powerful hurricane ever recorded over Atlantic Ocean. It is the first Category 5 hurricane to impact the northern Leeward Islands of Antigua on record.

– National Hurricane Center (NHC) of the United States began monitoring a tropical wave over the western coast of Africa from 26 August 2017. It continued to strengthen and turned into a Category 5 hurricane by 5 September 2017, with winds of up-to 295 kmph being generated.

– Irma is threatening the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba and the state of Florida in the US. Authorities on the Leeward Islands of Antigua and Barbuda cut power and urged residents to shelter indoors as they braced for Hurricane Irma's first contact with land early on 6 September 2017.

– Category 5 hurricanes are rare and are capable of inflicting life-threatening winds, storm surges and rainfall.

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2) Which institution remained the top university in India in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2018 despite slipping to the 251-300 grouping? – **Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore**

Explanation: Indian institutes continued to perform poorly in global university rankings with Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore sliding in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2018. These prestigious rankings published annually by the UK-based university ranking agency THE were released on 5 September 2017.

– Though IISc remained the top university in India, it was placed in the 251-300 groupings of the best universities, a fall from the 201-250 cohort of the previous edition of the ranking.

– After first 200 ranks THE places universities in groups instead of assigning them individual ranks. IISc, IIT Bombay (351-400), IIT Delhi (501-600), IIT Kanpur (501-600) and IIT Kharagpur (501-600) were the top five Indian schools in the 2018 rankings.

– Oxford University continues to be the top ranked university in the world followed by Cambridge University (2nd), California Institute of Technology and Stanford University (both jointly third) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (5th).

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3) What are the names of two new contraceptives launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 5 September 2017 as it aims to bring down fertility rate to 2.1% by year 2025? – **'Antara' and 'Chhaya'**

Explanation: 'Antara' and 'Chhaya' are the names of two new contraceptives launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on 5 September 2017. While 'Antara' is an injectable contraceptive that is effective for three months,

'Chhaya' is a contraceptive bill that is effective for one week.

– The contraceptives, which are available for free in Medical Colleges and District Hospitals at present, have so far been launched in 10 states that includes Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Haryana, West Bengal, Odisha, Delhi and Goa.

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4) What was the name of the noted woman journalist known for raising anti-establishment voices who was shot dead in Bengaluru on 5 September 2017 thus resulting in huge protests all over the country? – **Gauri Lankesh**

Explanation: Gauri Lankesh was a journalist and activist who worked as the editor of Kannada weekly '*Lankesh Patrike*'. She was known in Karnataka and beyond as a firebrand journalist and her voice was among the most courageous anti-establishment voices in Karnataka. Gauri was also known for being a critic of right-wing Hindu extremism. She was one of the few female editors in Kannada press.

– She was shot dead outside her residence in Bengaluru in the evening of 5 September 2017. While the motive for her assassination was still being probe, numerous protests by journalists, intellectuals, rationalists and left-aligned bodies started from 6 September 2017 all over the country to protest against Gauri's murder.

– Her murder was compared to murders of rationalist writers like M.M. Kalburgi, Govind Pansare and Narendra Dabholkar.

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5) What is the name of the new digital portal launched by the Vice-President on the occasion on Teachers' Day on 5 September 2017 that seeks to enable, accelerate and amplify solutions in the realm of teacher education? – **DIKSHA**

Explanation: DIKSHA (diksha.gov.in) is the name of the new portal launched by the Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on 5 September 2017. The primary objective of this portal is to provide world class digital infrastructure for the teachers and make their task easier and more fruitful.

– This portal was inaugurated by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu in a programme held in New Delhi. Diksha portal will aid teachers to learn and train themselves for which assessment resources will be available. It will help teachers to create training content, profile, in-class resources, assessment aids, news and announcement and connect with the teacher community.

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8 September 2017



1) Which state is poised to develop India's first Hyperloop route, the most futuristic transport mode, as it signed an agreement with a US company on 7 September 2017? – **Andhra Pradesh**

Explanation: The government of Andhra Pradesh on 7 September 2017 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with California-based Hyperloop Transportation Technologies (HTT) to develop India's first Hyperloop route in the state.

– Hyperloop is a cutting-edge technological disruption in the transportation industry. It comprises a sealed tube or system of tubes through which a pod may travel free of air resistance or friction conveying people or objects at very high speeds.

– The proposed route for the Hyperloop between the city centers of Vijayawada and Amaravati could potentially turn a trip of more than one hour into a 6 minute ride. The ambitious project will use a Public Private Partnership (PPP) model with funding primarily from private investors.

2) Scientists of which CSIR laboratory have successfully developed an artificial leaf that absorbs sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water, as was disclosed during September 2017? – **National Chemical Laboratory (Pune)**

Explanation: Scientists of Pune-based National Chemical Laboratory, a lab under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), have successfully developed an artificial leaf that is capable of absorbing sunlight to generate hydrogen fuel from water. This development is important as it may provide clean energy for powering eco-friendly cars in the future.

– The leaf developed by scientists is basically an ultra-thin wireless device that mimics plant leaves to produce energy using water and sunlight. The device consists of semiconductors stacked in a manner to simulate the natural leaf system.

– When visible light strikes the semiconductors, electrons move in one direction, producing electric current. The current almost instantaneously splits water into hydrogen – which researchers believe is one of the cleanest forms of fuel as its main byproduct is water. The device of an area of 23 square centimetres could produce 6 litres of hydrogen fuel per hour.

– National Chemical Laboratory’s research was published in the Scientific Reports, an online, open-access journal from the publishers of Nature during September 2017.

3) On 7 September 2017, SEBI imposed Rs. 2,423 crore fine on which entity and its directors, which is the highest-ever penalty on defaulters by SEBI? – **PACL Ltd**

Explanation: Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 7 September 2017 imposed Rs. 2,423 crore fine on PACL Ltd and its four directors for illegal fund mobilisation through various schemes that were used by the group to garner over Rs. 49,000 crore from the public.

– While PACL group, which had collected money in the name of real estate projects among other schemes, was asked by SEBI nearly three years ago to refund Rs. 49,100 crore to the investors, the regulator has passed a fresh order to impose a monetary penalty for violation of SEBI’s Prevention of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices Regulations.

– This is the highest penalty ever imposed by SEBI on any alleged capital market defaulter ever. PACL was engaged in illegal mobilization of funds from public that was allegedly invested in various areas like infrastructure and real-estate projects.



4) India’s Ministry of Power’s iconic UJALA (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable Lighting for All) Scheme was launched in which foreign country on 7 September 2017? – **Malaysia**

Explanation: The UJALA programme has been one of the prime achievements of Government of India in promoting and executing the concept of energy efficiency. It is a zero-subsidy programme executed by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under Ministry of Power, Government of India. It is the world’s largest and most extensive LED distribution programme.

– On 7 September 2017 UJALA Scheme was launched in the State of Melaka, Malaysia. Under this scheme, each household in Melaka will get 10 high quality 9-watt LED bulbs at a cost of only RM 10, which is a special price and is almost half of what in begin offered in the market. The initiative will have the logistical assistance and facilitation support from Green Growth Asia, which is a not for profit organization.

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5) Naval Exercise ‘SLINEX 2017’, that started from 7 September 2017 in Visakhapatnam, is a joint naval-exercise between India and – Sri Lanka

Explanation: SLINEX (Sri Lanka India Naval Exercise) are a series of biennial naval exercises between the Indian Navy and the Sri Lanka Navy. The first-ever SLINEX was held on 2005.

– SLINEX 2017 is the latest edition of this joint exercise. It started near Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh from 7 September 2017. It focuses on fleet work, seamanship, communication support, replenishment at sea, Visit Board Search and Seize (VBSS) operations and helicopter operations. It will conclude on 14 September 2017.

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9 September 2017



1) In a major step towards breaking gender barriers in the Indian Army, the Army took the decision to induct 800 women in which wing on 8 September 2017? – Military Police

Explanation: Indian Army on 8 September 2017 took the decision to induct women in the Military Police wing. Initially, 800 women will be inducted in the military police, a wing in which women were not allowed till now. Since 1992 women are allowed in select areas in the military such as administrative wing and logistical wing. However, women have been the part of army’s medical core for many decades.

– The decision came a day after Nirmala Sitharaman took charge of the Defence Ministry on 7 December 2017 to become the first-ever full-fledged woman Defence Minister.

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2) What is the name of Pakistan’s largest private bank that was ordered by US banking regulators to shutter its New York office over terror financing concerns on 7 September 2017? –

Habib Bank Limited (HBL)

Explanation: Habib Bank Limited (HBL) that has operated in the United States since 1978 was ordered to close its New York office by US Department of Financial Services (USDFS) on 7 September 2017. The bank was also slapped a \$225 million fine.

– USDFS is the banking regulator in the US and it imposed strictures on Habib Bank for repeatedly failing to heed concerns over possible terrorist financing and money laundering.

– According to regulators, Habib Bank had facilitated billions of dollars of transactions with Saudi private bank, Al Rajhi Bank, which reportedly has links to al Qaeda, and failed to do enough to ensure that the funds were not laundered or used for terrorism.

– It is worth mentioning that in 2006 the bank was ordered to tighten its oversight of potentially illegal transactions but failed to comply.

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3) According to the conclusions made in a recent academic research study, which

uninhabited island of the Lakshadweep Archipelago has vanished due to coastal erosion? – **Parali I**

Explanation: R.M. Hidayathulla, a research scholar from Lakshadweep, in his recently awarded PhD thesis titled “Studies on Coastal Erosion in Selected Uninhabited Islands of Lakshadweep Archipelago with Special Reference to Biodiversity Conservation” has pointed out an uninhabited island (Parali I) in the archipelago has vanished due to coastal erosion.

– Parali I is part of Bangaram atoll and was spread over 0.032 square km in 1968. It has now eroded completely resulting in its inundation, the study claimed. It is also claimed that four such territories in the sea are also shrinking fast.

– The above said research was awarded PhD in July 2017 by Calicut University in Kerala. C C Harilal, Hidayathulla’s guide in the research, said submergence of Parali I was noticed when he visited the Bangram atoll in 2011.



4) Who was appointed the new Chief_Coach of the Indian men’s Hockey team by the Sports Ministry on 8 September 2017? – **Sjoerd Marijne**

Explanation: In an almost stunning decision, Union Sports Ministry on 8 September 2017 appointed Sjoerd Marijne of the Netherlands as the Chief Coach of Indian men’s Hockey team. He is presently the Chief Coach of national women’s Hockey team.

– His appointment was surprising as he has no prior experience of handling a senior men’s side. He replaced his countryman Roelant Oltmans, who was sacked on 2

September 2017 after a few ordinary performances in the past few months.

– On the other had World Cup-winning junior hockey team coach Harendra Singh was appointed High Performance Specialist coach of the senior women’s team.

– The decisions were announced by newly-appointed Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore on his official twitter page. It is worth mentioning that Hockey India (HI) had advertised seeking Oltmans’ successor on its website just three days ago and 15 September 2017 was the deadline to apply for the post. This advertisement was withdrawn on 7 September 2017.



5) Who was elected the new Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) on 7 September 2017? – **Viveck Goenka**

Explanation: Viveck Goenka, Chairman and Managing Director of the Express Group, was selected the new Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI), the pre-eminent news service in India. The election was held at PTI’s 69th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 7 September 2017. N Ravi, former editor-in-chief of ‘The Hindu’ was elected the Vice-Chairman. Both of them were elected unanimously.

– Goenka, who was earlier the vice-chairman, succeeded Riyad Mathew of the Malayala Manorama group. He has been heading the Express Group since the mid-1990s. The group runs English newspapers The Indian Express and The Financial Express, Marathi newspaper Loksatta, Hindi newspaper Jansatta and a host of news websites.

10-12 September 2017



1) What is the name of India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition (round the globe expedition) that was flagged-off from Goa on 10 September 2017? – **“Navika Sagar Parikrama”**

Explanation: “Navika Sagar Parikrama” is the name of India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition that is also considered the first-ever such attempt in the world. This expedition was flagged-off on 10 September 2017 at the INS Mandovi Naval training base near Panaji in Goa by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitaraman..

– INSV Tarini, a 55-foot sailing vessel, will be used in the mission. It has been built indigenously by Aquarius Shipyard, Goa and was inducted into the Indian Navy earlier in 2017.

– The mission comprises of 6-member crew of the Indian Navy led by Lt. Cdr Vartika Joshi and would cover the expedition in five legs with stop-overs at four ports (Fremantle (Australia), Lyttleton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (the Falklands) and Cape town (South Africa) for replenishment of ration and repairs as necessary, before returning to Goa in April 2018.

– The other crew members of the expedition are Lt. Cdr. Pratibha Jamwal, Lt. Cdr. Swathi P., Lt. Aishwarya Boddapati, Lt. Sh. Vijaya Devi) and Lt. Payal Gupta.

2) Rafael Nadal raced to a third US Open title as he defeated Kevin Anderson in the men's

singles final of 2017 US Open on 10 September 2017. With this title Nadal has now how many singles Grand Slam titles? – **Sixteen**

Explanation: World no. 1 Rafael Nadal of Spain won his 16th Grand Slam crown on 10 September 2017 as he comfortably defeated South African Kevin Anderson in the men's singles final of 2017 US Open by 6-3, 6-3, 6-4. This was his third US Open title, his earlier two titles coming in 2010 and 2013. Nadal's Grand Slam tally is now just three behind Roger Federer's record 19.

– World No. 32 Kevin Anderson became the first South African in a US championship final since Cliff Drysdale in 1965 and was bidding to become his country's first Slam champion since Johan Kriek at the 1981 Australian Open.



3) Who captured the first tennis Grand Slam title of her career by winning women's singles title of 2017 US Open on 9 September 2017? – **Sloane Stephens**

Explanation: Sloane Stephens won the US Open, beating compatriot Madison Keys by 6-3, 6-0 in the women's singles title of 2017 US Open on 9 September 2017. This was first-ever Grand Slam title for Stephens who was unseeded in the tournament and was ranked 83rd in the world before the tournament. She had defeated hot favourite Venus Williams in the semi-finals.

– Stephens had reached the semi-finals of 2013 Australian Open and had defeated Serena Williams en route. Since then, she has reached a career-high singles ranking of 11 in the world. On the other hand the other finalist Madison Keys was also making her first appearance in a Grand Slam final. Previously, she had made it to the Australian

Open semifinals once before, her previous best performance at a Grand Slam.

– This was the first all American final for the US Open women’s singles since 2002 and the first non-Williams all-American final since 1984.

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4) Which PSU entity is poised to receive the Maharatna status as agreed upon by a committee headed by the Cabinet secretary? – Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL)

Explanation: State-run oil marketing company Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) is all set to become a Maharatna company. The company is at present a Navratna firm. The decision to elevate BPCL to Maharatna status was taken by a panel headed by the Cabinet secretary.

– Under government rules, a firm is eligible for Maharatna status if it is already a listed Navratna firm, has an average turnover, net worth and annual net profit after tax of at least Rs. 25,000 crore, Rs. 15,000 crore and Rs. 5,000 crore, respectively, in the last three years. Moreover, the company should have significant global operations.

– Maharatna and Navaratna state-owned units operate in strategic fields such as coal, petroleum, steel, heavy engineering, power supply, telecommunications and transportation services.

– At present, there are seven Maharatna companies – Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL), Coal India Limited (CIL), GAIL, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), NTPC, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).

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5) Which state recorded India’s lowest infant mortality rate (IMR) consecutively for the last three years, as was disclosed in a report released by the Union Health Ministry during September 2017? – Manipur

Explanation: According to the Health Ministry report, Manipur’s infant mortality rate

(IMR) stands at 9 deaths per 1000 live births, the lowest in the country. This is the third consecutive year that Manipur has achieved this distinction.

– The national IMR, according to the latest available data, is 43 deaths per 1000 births. Better medical facilities, proper and effective immunization, dedicated doctors and health workers, high health consciousness, a tremendous increase in institutional deliveries and women empowerment are being assigned as the key reasons for Manipur’s success.

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6) Who won the prestigious President’s post in the JNU students union (JNUSU) election 2017, the result of which were declared on 10 September 2017? – Geeta Kumari

Explanation: United Left candidate Geeta Kumari won the president’s post of Jawaharlal Nehru University Student’s Union on 10 September 2017. She defeated Nidhi Tripathi of ABVP by 464 votes in a close fight.

– The United-Left alliance retained all four seats in these elections defeating the RSS-backed ABVP with considerable margins. Vice-President’s post was won by AISA’s Simone Zoya Khan. Duggirala Srikrisha (Left) won the General Secretary’s post. The post of Joint Secretary went to Shubhanshu Singh (Left).

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13 September 2017



1) Technology behemoth Apple Inc. on 12 September 2017 unveil three new phones, including iPhone X, a premium model that cast a halo over the rest of the line. What was an

important fact associated with this unveiling? –
It was the first time that the unveiling was held at Steve Jobs Theater

Explanation: For the first time, the Apple Inc. held its unveiling event at the brand new Steve Jobs Theater on 12 September 2017, which is located on a hill, overlooking the main Apple campus in Cupertino (California). Company's CEO Tim Cook took the stage for the first time at this new venue.

– Apple's newly constructed "spaceship" campus houses the state-of-the-art Steve Jobs Theater, a 1000-seat auditorium which has been named after the company's co-founder Steve Jobs.

– The company unveiled three new iPhones, including two that are upgrades to the iPhone 7 and iPhone 7 Plus called the iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus and a premium model called the iPhone X with features like bezel-less design and the Face ID facial recognition system. Price of iPhone X starts from Rs. 89,000 (for 64 GB model) to Rs. 1,02,000 (for 256 GB model) and pre-orders will start from 27 October 2017. iPhone 8 and iPhone 8 Plus will be available from 22 September 2017.

2) During September 2017, SEBI's mutual fund (MF) advisory panel came up with which important recommendation that is expected to reduce the number of MF scheme by almost half? – **It recommended strict definitions on how mutual funds are categorized**

Explanation: The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (SEBI's) mutual fund advisory panel during September 2017 recommended strict definitions on how mutual funds (MF) are categorized. This move is expected to halve the number of schemes offered by asset managers currently.

– The panel recommended that funds be broadly segregated into equity, debt, hybrid and thematic. In categories such as equity and debt, there would be further sub-categories

such as large cap and small cap. SEBI aims to ensure that an asset management company has only one product offering in each category.

– Currently, SEBI nomenclature rules for mutual funds loosely define just two aspects – whether a fund is open-ended or close-ended and whether it invests in equity or debt. The move will help investors cut through the clutter of 2,000 investment schemes and aid decision making.

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3) What is the name of the web-based nationwide online platform launched

by Indian food regulator FSSAI on 12 September 2017 to help verify compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses? –

'FoSCoRIS'

Explanation: To bring in transparency in food safety inspection and sampling, India's food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) launched a web-based nationwide online platform named 'FoSCoRIS' on 12 September 2017.

– This new platform will help verify compliance of food safety and hygiene standards by food businesses as per the government norms.

– 'FoSCoRIS' will also bring together all key stakeholders – food businesses, food safety officers (FSOs), designated officers, state food safety commissioners – on a nation-wide IT platform. On the other hand data related to inspection, sampling and test result data will be shared seamlessly by all the officials.

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4) Which banking entity overtook TCS in terms of market capitalization for the first time on 12 September 2017? –

HDFC Bank

Explanation: Private lender HDFC Bank Limited overtook India's largest software services exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) in terms of market capitalization for the first time ever on 12 September 2017, albeit for a short period of time. It became the second most valuable company in the country for some time during the day. However, at the end of the day TCS pulled back to once again become the second most valuable company.

– Data from BSE showed that HDFC Bank had a market capitalization of Rs. 4.73 trillion, after its shares rose 0.6% to Rs. 1,833.75. On the other TCS was lagging with a market cap of Rs. 4.72 trillion. Later in the end of trading session TCS' market cap stood at Rs. 4.76 trillion.

– While it was not the first time that HDFC Bank became the second-most valued company, it was the first time that it overtook TCS in valuation. On 11 November 2016, HDFC had beaten Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) to emerge as the second-most valuable company after TCS. RIL now again occupies the first place with a market cap of 5.35 trillion.

5) International cricket returned to Pakistan with three Twenty20 International (T20I) matches starting from 12 September 2017. What is the name of this T20 tournament that features matches between a World XI team and Pakistan XI? – **Independence Cup**

Explanation: The 2017 Independence Cup is a 3-match T20 international cricket tournament that started in Pakistan from 12 September 2017. It is being staged at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium and features contest between Pakistani team (Pakistan XI) and a World XI team. Sarfaraz Ahmed is leading the Pakistan XI team while South African Faf du Plessis is captaining the World XI side. This tournament is important as the international cricket is making its return to Pakistan with it.

– Independence Cup is the first high-profile series in Pakistan since a terrorist attack on the Sri Lanka team bus in Lahore in 2009 led to their isolation from international cricket. Zimbabwe was the only country which toured Pakistan (in 2015) for a bilateral series after these attacks.

14 September 2017



1) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 12 September 2017 gave its approval for establishment of a new fund to boost the dairy sector for 2017-18 to 2028-29. What is the name given to this fund? – **Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DPIDF)**

Explanation: Dairy Processing and Infrastructure Development Fund (DPIDF) is the name of a new fund that will be established with an outlay of Rs. 10,881 crore for 2017-18 to 2028-29 to boost the dairy sector. The establishment of the fund was approved by the CCEA on 12 September 2017.

– This fund will be managed by the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the National Dairy Development Cooperation (NCDC) will be used to provide loan for building an efficient milk procurement system and other processing infrastructure.

– Under the DPIDF, loan will be provided at an interest rate of 6.5% per annum with a repayment period of 10 years with initial two years of moratorium. The state government will be a guarantor of loan repayment. If the end user is not able to contribute its share for

the project sanctioned, the state will contribute the same.

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2) The Union Government during September 2017 formed a 5-member ministerial committee to oversee and help GSTN, the company that processes goods and service tax (GST) returns. Who is heading this committee? – Sushil Kumar Modi

Explanation: A five-member ministerial committee, led by Bihar deputy chief minister Sushil Kumar Modi, was constituted by Union Government during September 2017 to oversee and help GSTN and to resolve the IT challenges affecting tax payer compliance under the goods and service tax (GST).

– The committee has been set up as decided by the GST Council at its meeting on 9 September 2017. It was constituted after several state members in the Council reported that businesses were facing difficulties in filing returns due to glitches in the IT system.

– Other members on the panel are Chhattisgarh minister for commercial taxes Amar Agarwal, Karnataka agriculture minister Krishna Byregowda, Kerala finance minister Thomas Isaac and Telangana finance minister Etela Rajendar.

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3) India's first-ever virology laboratory of Homoeopathy was inaugurated at which place on 12 September 2017? – Kolkata

Explanation: The Union Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated India's first state-of-the-art virology laboratory

of Homoeopathy in Kolkata on 12 September 2017. The lab has been established at Kolkata's Dr. Anjali Chatterjee Regional Research Institute for Homoeopathy (RRIH).

– Established at a cost of Rs. 8 crore, it is the only one in India for conducting basic and fundamental research in homoeopathy for viral diseases such as influenza, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chikunguniya and swine flu. It is recognized by the Calcutta University to undertake research work of the PhD students in the field of homoeopathy.

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4) Who was named the new President of Singapore on 13 September 2017 and

thus became the first-ever woman to be nominated to this largely ceremonial post? – **Halimah Yacob**

Explanation: 63-year old Halimah Yacob, a former speaker of parliament from the Muslim Malay minority, was nominated as the next President of Singapore on 13 September 2017. Her election to the post was a 'walkover' that saw no vote as no other contenders ran for the position. She will replace the incumbent Tony Han, whose 6-year tenure ended on 31 August 2017 and acting President J.Y. Pillay took over from him.

– While her nomination to the post is a milestone in the history of the island nation as she will be the first woman to occupy the post, the election has also drawn public criticism due to what was seen as a lack of democratic process.

– The other two contenders, Salleh Marican and Farid Khan, were both denied eligibility, having fallen short of a rigid constitutional rule.

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5) What is the name of the priest from Kerala who was freed during September 2017 after

being in captivity of his kidnappers in Yemen for more than a year? – **Father Tom Uzhunnalil**

Explanation: Father Tom Uzhunnalil, a catholic priest from Kottayam in Kerala, was abducted in March 2016 when four gunmen posing as relatives of one of the residents of a Missionaries of Charity home in Yemeni capital Aden attacked it. The gunmen killed four Indian nuns, two Yemeni female staff members, eight elderly residents and a guard.

– Uzhunnalil remained in captivity for more than a year. His kidnappers released two videos of him showing him pleading for his life, leading to speculation they were mercenaries looking for a ransom.

– The news of his release was announced by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on 12 September 2017.

15 September 2017



1) Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Japanese PM Shinzo_Abe launched work on India's first bullet train at Gujarat's Ahmedabad on 14 September 2017. The 508 km high-speed rail link between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will have its first terminal at which place in Ahmedabad where this foundation-laying function was held? – **Sabarmati**

Explanation: The first terminal of the ambitious Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed train (bullet train) is planned to come up at the existing Sabarmati railway station in Ahmedabad, while in Mumbai, the plan is to build it under the Bandra Kurla Complex. The high-profile foundation-laying function featuring Narendra

Modi and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe was also held at this place.

– The Rs. 1.1 lakh crore bullet train project is a joint venture between the Indian Railways and Japanese firm Shinkansen Technology. The Japanese team estimated that the first train would roll out by 2023, but Railways Minister Piyush Goyal said PM Modi wants the train to start on 15 August 2022, when India completes 75 years of Independence.

– The high speed train will pass through the country's longest tunnel of 21 km, of which seven km will be under sea near Thane in Maharashtra. Travel time between Ahmedabad and Mumbai will be reduced from eight hours to a little over three hours if it stops at all the 12 proposed stations and around two hours if it stops at only four.

– Japan will fund 81% of the project, nearly Rs. 88,000 crore, in soft loans at an interest rate of 0.1%. The loan will have to be repaid over 50 years.

2) Which cities will host the Summer Olympics for year 2024 and 2028 respectively, as was announced by the International Olympic Committee on 13 September 2017? – **Paris and Los Angeles**

Explanation: French capital Paris will host the Summer Olympics of 2024 while US city Los Angeles will host Games' next edition in 2028. This announcement was made on 13 September 2017 by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) at its Annual Session held at Lima (Peru). It was the first time that host cities for two Games were announced simultaneously.

– It is worth mention that both cities (Paris and Los Angeles) had wanted to host the 2024 event, before Los Angeles agreed to wait an extra four years after the IOC made guarantees on funding. These two cities had been the only two candidates for the 2024 Games after Hamburg, Rome and Budapest withdrew from the race.

– The Paris Games, which had fallen short with bids for 2008 and 2012, will mark 100

years since it was last held in the French capital in 1924. Los Angeles has also hosted the Games in 1932 and 1984.



3) India on 14 September 2017 sent a consignment of humanitarian assistance to Bangladesh for Rohingya Muslims from Myanmar. What is the name given to this humanitarian relief operation? – **Operation Insaniyat**

Explanation: “Operation Insaniyat” is the name given to Indian Government’s operation of providing humanitarian assistance for Rohingya Muslim refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh. Large influx of these refugees into Bangladesh has resulted in a huge refugee crisis. The first consignment of relief material was sent on 14 September 2017.

– The relief material consists of items required urgently by the affected people, namely rice, pulses, sugar, salt, cooking oil, tea, ready to eat noodles, biscuits, mosquito nets etc.

– According to the UN estimates, over 379,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled Myanmar’s Rakhine state into Bangladesh since 25 August 2017 when fresh wave of violence erupted there.

4) Which state released its policy for electric vehicles on 14 September 2017 and thus became the first Indian state to formulate an electric vehicle policy? – **Karnataka**

Explanation: In a significant development in India’s electric vehicles’ scenario, the Karnataka government on 14 September 2017 passed the ‘Electric Vehicle and Energy

Storage Policy 2017’. The policy is the first-ever such policy by an Indian state and aims to attract close to Rs. 31,000 crore of investment into the state in the electric mobility sector.

– The policy seeks to make Karnataka a hub for production of alternative fuel vehicles, reduce dependency on fossil fuels, bring down pollution levels and push the ‘Make in Karnataka’ initiative.

– It is worth mentioning that a clear central policy on promotion of electric vehicles is yet to emerge. The fifth largest automobile market currently, India is inching towards become the third largest market by 2020.

5) “*What Happened*”, the 469-page fiction novel that was released on 12 September 2017, is the name of memoirs of which political personality?

– **Hillary Clinton**

Explanation: “*What Happened*” is the name of a fiction novel by Hillary Rodham Clinton about her experiences as the Democratic Party’s nominee for President of the United States in the 2016 election.

– The book is a memoir of her defeat to Donald Trump in the 2016 election and has made headlines across the globe for its candid reflections on one of the most memorable campaigns in US history. It is the seventh book by Hillary Clinton.

16 September 2017



1) NASA's Cassini spacecraft disintegrated in the skies above Saturn early on 15 September 2017 to end the iconic mission that covered a journey of 4.9 billion miles and sent incredible information on the ringed-planet. In which year it was launched from the Earth? – **1997**

Explanation: Cassini was the name of an unmanned spacecraft sent to the planet Saturn by American space agency NASA. It was part of the Cassini-Huygens joint mission that was launched from Earth on 15 October 1997 through Titan IVB/Centaur. It entered Saturn's orbit on 1 July 2004.

– While Huygens separated from the orbiter and landed on Saturn's moon

Titan on 14 January 2005, Cassini continued its probe of Saturn. However, since 30 November 2016, due to the spacecraft's dwindling fuel resources for further orbital corrections, Cassini entered the final phase of the project.

– Cassini's journey finally ended on 15 September 2017 as it disintegrated in the skies above Saturn, its radio waves went flat, and the spacecraft fell silent. It had snapped its last photos of the Saturn system on 14 September 2017.

– It is the only spacecraft to ever orbit Saturn, the second largest planet of our solar system. It collected more than 453,000 images and traveled 4.9 billion miles. It was an international endeavour, with 27 nations taking part. The final price tag of this mission was \$3.9 billion.

(Photo Courtesy : NASA)

2) What is the name given to the nationwide sanitation campaign launched by President Ramnath Kovind from Kanpur on 15 September 2017 that will highlight Union Government's flagship cleanliness initiative 'Swachh Bharat Mission'? – **Swachhta Hi Seva**

Explanation: "Swachhta Hi Seva" (Cleanliness is Service) is the name of the pan-India fortnight-long sanitation campaign launched from Ishwariganj village of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh by President Ramnath

Kovind on 15 September 2017. This new campaign aims to mobilise people for a nationwide sanitation movement to contribute to Mahatma Gandhi's dream of a Clean India and highlight the achievements and goals of the 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.

– "Swachhta Hi Seva" is being coordinated by Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, convening Ministry for the Swachh Bharat Mission.



3) What is the name of the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) whose development flight trials were successfully completed on 15 September 2017 and is now ready for its induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF)? – **Astra**

Explanation: Astra is the of the indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) that has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in cooperation with the IAF. Its final development trials were conducted over the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of Chandipur in Odisha during 11-14 September 2017.

– A total of seven trials were conducted against pilotless target aircraft and all of these were successful. Its success has paved the way for its induction into the Indian Air Force (IAF).

4) Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017, the joint military training exercise between armies of India and the United States commenced on 14 September 2017 at which place? – **Washington (US)**

Explanation: As part of the ongoing Indo-US defence cooperation, a joint military training,

“Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017” started from 14 September 2017 at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, USA. This exercise will conclude on 27 September 2017.

– “Exercise Yudh Abhyas” is one of the largest joint running military training and defence corporation endeavors between India and USA. The present exercise is the 13th edition of the joint exercise hosted alternately between the two countries.

– This exercise is expected to provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both countries to train in an integrated manner at battalion level with joint planning at Brigade level.

5) What is India’s rank in the World Economic Forum’s (WEF’s) Global Human Capital Index (GHCI) for 2017 that was released on 14 September 2017? – **103 out of 130 countries**

Explanation: India was ranked at a lowly 103rd rank in the latest edition of WEF’s Global Human Capital Index (GHCI). The index was topped by Norway. India’s rank was the lowest among five BRICS economies. India was ranked 105th on this list last year, while Finland was on the top.

– Among the South Asian countries also, India was ranked lower than Sri Lanka and Nepal, although higher than neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan.

– The list compiled by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) takes into account “the knowledge and skills people possess that enable them to create value in the global economic system” to measure the ‘human capital’ rank of a country.

The overall list was topped by Norway, followed by Finland and Switzerland in the second and third place respectively. Other countries in the top 10 include the United States (4th), Denmark (5th), Germany (6th), New Zealand (7th),

Sweden (8th), Slovenia (9th) and Austria (10th).

17-18 September 2017



1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sardar Sarovar Dam – the world’s second biggest dam in Gujarat on 17 September 2017. The foundation stone of this massive dam was laid in which year? – **1961**

Explanation: The foundation stone of the Sardar Sarovar Dam on Narmada River was laid by the then Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru nearly six decades ago, on 5 April 1961. But, the construction began only in 1987. Still it took three decades to be completed. It is the second biggest dam in the world after the Grand Coulee Dam in the United States. This dam project is also the biggest in terms of volume of concrete used in it.

– Sardar Sarovar Dam is built on the Narmada River and is situated near Navagam in Gujarat. It is the largest of the 30 dams planned on Narmada and is part of the Narmada Valley Project. The total installed capacity of the power facilities of the dam is 1,450 MW. The height of the dam is 138.68 m. The initial height was just 88 m but was raised numerous times. It is 1.2 km in length and has a depth of 163 m. Its final storage capacity was raised to 4.73 million cubic metres (MCM) from the existing 1.27 million cubic metres.

– The dam was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 17 September 2017 on the occasion of his 67th birthday. The power

generated from the dam would be shared among three states – Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat while in addition to these 3 states Rajasthan will also get water from it. About 57% of the electricity produced from the dam goes to Maharashtra, while Madhya Pradesh gets 27% and Gujarat gets 16%.

– The project has been mired in several controversies ever since its foundation stone was laid. The Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) led by social activist Medha Patkar has been protesting against the project raising several environmental concerns. In 1996, the construction work was suspended following a stay by the Supreme Court.



2) Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh, who was the only officer of the Indian Air Force (IAF) to be promoted to five-star rank, passed away on 16 September 2017 at the age of 98. Apart from being the only five-star ranked officer of the IAF he also had which unique distinction? – **He was the first IAF Chief to be designated the rank of Air Chief Marshal**

Explanation: Arjan Singh was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's second highest civilian award, for his leadership during the 1965. Air Chief's rank was upgraded to that of Air Chief Marshal from Air Marshal during his tenure and thus became first Indian to hold the rank.

– Arjan Singh was commissioned into the then Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF) in 1939. He took part in the Second World War. He led the first fly-past of RIAF aircraft over the Red Fort in Delhi on India's Independence on 15 August

1947. He was Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), from 1 August 1964 to 15 July 1969. He led the IAF

in giving a commendable contribution in the 1965 Indo-Pak war. He has been the only Chief of the Air Staff to have headed the IAF for five years as opposed to the regular tenure of two and a half to three years. He retired at the age of 50.

– In recognition of his extraordinary contribution, the government conferred the rank of the Marshal of the Air Force onto Arjan Singh in January 2002. He was the only 5 star-ranked officer to survive since the death of the hero of 1971 Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in 2008. Field Marshal Cariappa was the only other 5 star-ranked officer of Indian defence forces.

– Active for years after he retired in July 1969, Arjan Singh served as Ambassador to Switzerland and High Commissioner to Kenya. Many years later, between 1989 and 1990, he was Delhi's Lt Governor.

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3) India's foreign exchange reserves crossed which milestone figure for the first time during September 2017, as was disclosed by the RBI on 15 September 2017? – **\$400 billion**

Explanation: During September 2017, India's foreign exchange reserves crossed the \$400 billion mark for the first time ever. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI's) press release on 15 September 2017, India's forex reserves surged by \$2.604 billion to reach an all-time high of \$400.726 billion in the week ended 8 September 2017.

– The surge in India's forex reserves is mainly on account of foreign portfolio flows. Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have pumped in more than Rs. 1 lakh crore in to Indian debt and equity market in last 12 months.

– The surge in India's forex reserves is likely to help rupee withstand any volatility that may be seen on exodus of foreign funds from India's debt and equity markets.

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4) Which state became the third BJP-run state to waive farm loans on 14 September 2017? – **Rajasthan**

Explanation: Rajasthan announced Rs. 20,000 crore farm-loan waiver on 14 September 2017, making it the fourth Indian state and the third with a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government, to waive agricultural loans in 2017.

– Uttar Pradesh had waived Rs. 36,359 crore in April 2017, Maharashtra had waived Rs. 30,000 crore in June 2017, while Congress-ruled Punjab announced a waiver amounting to Rs. 20,500 crore in June 2017.

5) P.V. Sindhu defeated world champion Nozomi Okuhara to win the women's singles title of which Super Series badminton tournament on 17 September 2017? – **Korea Open Super Series**

Explanation: Indian badminton ace P.V. Sindhu bagged her super series title on 17 September 2017 as she defeated world champion Nozomi Okuhara in a thrilling summit clash at the Korea Open Super Series in Seoul. She defeated Okuhara 22-20, 11-21, 20-18 in a contest that lasted an hour and 23 minutes.

– With this win Sindhu exacted sweet revenge of her heart-wrenching World Championship final loss to Okuhara at Glasgow during August 2017. This was her second Super Series title of 2017 after the India Open Super Series.

19-20 Sep 2017



1) What is the name of the UPI-based payments app launched by Internet giant Google on 18 September 2017 with which the

company joined the digital payments ecosystem in India? – **'Tez'**

Explanation: 'Tez' is the name of Google's customized-for-India payments app based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform operated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). It was launched by Google on 18 September 2017.

– The Tez app was made live on the Google Play Store for Android phones and the Apple App Store for iPhones. Users will be able to use the Tez app in seven languages – Hindi, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Marathi, Tamil and Telugu.

– For making payments, users can either pay someone using their UPI capable bank account through the Tez app, or use a UPI ID, scan a QR code or pay using a friend's phone number. However, both parties need to have a bank account linked to the Tez app. The government has been pushing the UPI platform to boost digital payments in India, to reduce use of cash.

2) Which entity became the first non-life insurer to bring its initial public offering (IPO) and will thus become the first such entity to be listed on Indian stock exchanges? – **ICICI Lombard**

Explanation: ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company's 3-day initial public offering of Rs. 5,700 crore closed on 19 September 2017, which was the last day of its IPO. The IPO was oversubscribed almost 3 times.

– The IPO comprised of offer for sale of up to 8.62 crore equity shares (representing a 19% post paid-up equity) by its two main shareholders – ICICI Bank and Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings. ICICI Lombard General Insurance is a joint venture between ICICI Bank and Canadian NRI Prem Watsa-promoted Fairfax Financial Holdings.

– It will be the first non-life insurer to be listed on Indian stock exchanges.



3) Who was appointed the new Chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) by the Union Government on 18 September 2017? – **Y.C Modi**

Explanation: Senior IPS officer Y.C Modi, who was part of the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team that probed the 2002 Gujarat riot cases, was named new Chief of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on 18 September 2017. NIA is tasked with probing terrorism and terror-financing related cases.

– Modi, a 1984 batch IPS officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is at present special director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He will hold the post till his superannuation, i.e. 31 May 2021.

4) Which state government on 19 September 2017 launched the 'Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana' for upliftment of tribal areas in the state? – **Jharkhand**

Explanation: The 'Shaheed Gram Vikas Yojana' was launched by Jharkhand Government on 19 September 2017. BJP National President Amit Shah along with Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das launched the initiative from Ulihatu Village, the birth place of freedom fighter and Jharkhand's tribal icon, Birsa Munda.

– The scheme primarily aims at developing villages of freedom fighters. In addition to developing the villages, inhabitants of the villages will be provided with basic amenities. Most of the tribal villages of the state have long remained inaccessible.

5) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 19 September 2017 reduced the interconnect usage charges (IUC) by 57% thus giving a major blow to the incumbent

mobile operators. What will be the new IUC applicable from 1 October 2017? – **6 paise per minute**

Explanation: The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 19 September 2017 cut the interconnect usage charges (IUC), also known as terminating charges) by 57% from 14 paise currently to 6 paise per minute. This reduction will be effective from 1 October 2017.

– The cut in IUC is being seen as a blow to incumbent mobile operators, including Bharti Airtel and Vodafone, while it will benefit the latest entrant, Reliance Jio.

21-22 September
2017



1) Which Central American country was hit by 7.1 magnitude earthquake on 19 September 2017 resulting in extensive damage and death of over 250 people? – **Mexico**

Explanation: Mexico's central region was hit by a powerful earthquake on 19 September 2017 that measured 7.1 on Richter scale. Dozens of buildings tumbled into mounds of rubble or were severely damaged in densely populated parts of capital Mexico City and nearby states. States of Puebla and Morelos were worst hit. At least 269 people died and more than 1800 were injured.

– This earthquake was the deadliest in Mexico since the 1985 quake on the same date that killed over 10,000 people. It came less than two weeks after a quake caused 90 deaths in the country's south. Mexico is one of the world's most seismically active regions, sitting atop several intersecting tectonic plates.

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2) The Union Cabinet on 20 September 2017 gave its approval to a revamped 'Khelo India' scheme that will focus on nurturing sports talent in the country and connecting rural India to global games. What is the main provision under this scheme? – **1,000 selected athletes will receive an annual scholarship of Rs. 500,000 each for 8 years**

Explanation: The Union cabinet on 20 September 2017 approved a revamped 'Khelo India' (Play India) scheme under which 1,000 selected athletes will receive an annual scholarship of Rs. 500,000 each for eight years. The scheme, which would cost the government Rs. 1,756 crore between 2017-18 and 2019-20, will also promote 20 universities across India as hubs of sporting excellence.

– It is worth mentioning that until now, sports schemes were focused on building infrastructure such as stadiums. However, the revamped 'Khelo India' scheme will focus on nurturing talent and connecting rural India to global games. Corporate entities will also be allowed to fund the 'Khelo India' scheme under corporate social responsibility (CSR).

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3) All peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms will be regulated by which entity as was notified by the Union Government on 20 September 2017? – **Reserve Bank of India**

Explanation: According to a gazette notification issued on 20 September 2017, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will now regulate all peer-to-peer lending (P2P) platforms in the country. Such platforms will now be treated as non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). The notification is a precursor to the norms that RBI

is likely to release for regulation of P2P lending in India.

– P2P lending is primarily a form of crowd-funding used to raise loans which are paid back with interest. It can be defined as the use of an online platform that matches lenders with borrowers in order to provide unsecured loans.

– According to the RBI, P2P lending promotes alternative forms of finance, where formal finance is unable to reach and also has the potential to soften the lending rates as a result of lower operational costs and enhanced competition with the traditional lending channels. If properly regulated, P2P lending platforms can do this more effectively.

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4) Tata Steel on 19 September 2017 signed an MoU with which German steel major that will create Europe's second-largest steel enterprise? – **Thyssenkrupp AG**

Explanation: Tata Steel Ltd and German steel major Thyssenkrupp AG signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to create Europe's second-largest steel enterprise by combining the flat steel businesses of the two companies.

– The two entities will create a 50:50 joint-venture that will combine Tata's plants in the Netherlands and the UK with Thyssenkrupp's German assets.

– The new entity will be managed through a lean holding company based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands and will be Europe's second largest steel producer after ArcelorMittal. The joint venture would have a pro forma turnover of about €15 billion per annum (Rs. 1,15,000 crore).

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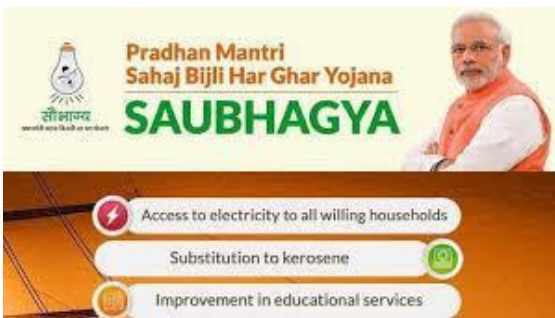
5) Liliane Bettencourt, listed by Forbes as the richest woman in the world with a fortune of almost \$50 billion, died on 20 September 2017. She was associated with which cosmetics entity? – **L’Oreal**

Explanation: Liliane Bettencourt was the heiress of the French cosmetics giant L’Oreal. She was the daughter of L’Oreal founder Eugene Schueller who passed away in 1957 and thus inherited the L’Oreal empire.

– L’Oreal is a \$126 billion global cosmetics brand today and is France’s fourth-largest listed firm.

23-26 Sep 2017

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1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 September 2017 launched a scheme to provide ‘last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households’. What is the name of this scheme? – **‘Saubhagya – Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’**

Explanation: ‘Saubhagya’ is the name given to an ambitious new flagship scheme of the Union Government that aims at providing last mile electricity connectivity to all rural and urban households. The full name of this Rs. 16,320 crore scheme is ‘Saubhagya – Pradhan Mantri

Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana’ and was launched on 25 September 2017.

– The scheme targets to complete electrification by March 2019. States that reach the target by December 2018 would get additional funds.

– Under the scheme, the Union government would provide 60% funds for the programme amounting to Rs. 12,320 crore. For special category states, the Centre’s contribution would be 85%. State governments and their utilities would provide 10% funds. In the case of special category states, it would be 5%. The remaining 30% expenditure would be met through loans.



2) With the economy hitting a rough patch in recent months, the erstwhile Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister was revived by the Union Government on 25 September 2017. Who is

the heading this newly constituted council? – **Bibek Debroy**

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 September 2017 decided to reconstitute the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the Prime Minister in view of clear emerging signs that the Indian economy is losing growth momentum.

– Niti Aayog member Bibek Debroy has been picked as the Chairman of the 5-member Council, which will also include Aayog’s principal advisor and former finance secretary Ratan Watal as its member-secretary. Economist Surjit Bhalla, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) director Rathin Roy and Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research professor Ashima Goyal are other members of the council.

– The formation of the Council at this time suggests it could play a critical role in reviving the economy’s growth momentum that has slumped over the past few quarters, with the

first quarter of this financial year clocking just 5.7% growth, down from 7.9% a year ago.

– The EAC to the PM had been rendered defunct after the previous UPA government demitted office in May 2014.

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3) What is the new minimum average monthly balance (MAB) requirement for SBI's savings account holders as was revised by the bank on 25 September 2017? – Rs. 3,000

Explanation: The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on 25 September 2017 lowered the minimum average monthly balance (MAB) requirement in a savings account to Rs. 3,000 from Rs. 5,000. The bank also revised downwards penalties for not maintaining such a balance.

– The revised MAB requirement and charges will become applicable from October 2017. Now, the penalties at semi-urban and rural branches range from Rs. 20 to Rs 40 and at urban and metro branches from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50, the bank said. Earlier, in the metros, the bank was charging Rs. 100 plus GST if the balance fell below 75% of the MAB of Rs 5,000. If the shortfall was 50% or less, the penalty charge was Rs. 50 plus GST.

– In April 2017, SBI had re-introduced MAB and charges for non-maintenance of balance after a gap of five years. In metropolitan areas the minimum balance requirement was Rs. 5,000. For urban and semi-urban branches, it was fixed at Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 2,000, respectively, and for rural branches it was Rs. 1,000.

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4) What is the name of the first indigenous Scorpene-class submarine that was handed over to the Indian Navy for its commissioning on 21 September 2017? – INS Kalavari

Explanation: INS Kalavari is the first of the six Scorpene-class submarines that was on 21 September 2017 handed over to the Indian Navy for its commissioning. This submarine has been built indigenously under a venture called 'Project 75', at Mumbai's

Mazagon Docks. Under this project, the Indian Navy was authorised to build six submarines in collaboration with French firm DCNS at a cost of around Rs. 350 crore.

– Kalvari can carry 18 torpedoes and travel 1,020km underwater. The 66-metre submarine can dive up to a depth of 300 metres to elude enemy detection. It is designed to operate in all theatres of war, including the tropics.

– Construction of this first submarine had started on 23 May 2009 and the project ended way behind schedule.

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5) Which banking entity on 22 September 2017 launched India's first bond index series for overseas investors at the London Stock Exchange (LSE)? – State Bank of India (SBI)

Explanation: State Bank of India (SBI) on 22 September 2017 launched 'FTSE SBI Bond Index Series' – India's first bond index series for overseas investors at the London Stock Exchange (LSE).

– This bond series is positioned as a first-of-its-kind transparent benchmark for investors in international markets to analyse India's government bond market.

– The launch follows the November 2015 visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the UK when a letter of intent was signed between SBI and FTSE to jointly develop the new index tracking Indian fixed income securities.

27-30 September 2017



1) Which port trust was renamed as Deendayal Port Trust by the Union Government on 25 September 2017? – **Kandla (Gujarat)**

Explanation: The Kandla Port, one of the top 12 major ports in the country, has been rechristened as Deendayal Port after Hindutva icon Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya from 25 September 2017. Located on the Gulf of Kutch, Kandla is one of major ports on west coast. It is the largest port of India by volume of cargo handled.

– The Union Government in exercise of powers conferred on it under Indian Ports Act, 1908 made the amendment to replace “Kandla” with “Deendayal”, as per a notification issued by the Ministry of Shipping.

2) Which state is poised to become the first in the country where entire assembly poll will be conducted using the EVMs equipped with VVPAT? – **Gujarat**

Explanation: The Election Commission of India (EC) will use Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) gadgets with Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) in all 50,128 voting booths in Gujarat, which goes to the Assembly Elections at the end of this year (2017). This was announced by Gujarat Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) B.B. Swain on 28 September 2017. Gujarat will thus become the first state in the country where entire assembly poll will be conducted using the EVMs equipped with VVPAT.

– VVPAT machines are being put to use in Gujarat following a petition filed by Ms. Reshma Patel, one of the conveners of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti.

– VVPAT machines, which will be attached to the EVMs, will allow voters to verify if their vote has gone to the intended candidate. This would ensure transparency in the voting process.

3) President Ram Nath Kovind on 30 September 2017 appointed which 5 persons as the new Governors/Lt. Governors of states/UTs? – **Banwarilal Purohit, Satya Pal Malik, Ganga Prasad, Brig BD Mishra (Retd.) and Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.)**

Explanation: Five new Governors/Lt. Governors were appointed by President Ram Nath Kovind on 30 September 2017. **Banwarilal Purohit** was appointed new Governor of **Tamil Nadu**. As of now, Maharashtra Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao held the post as additional charge.

– Senior BJP leader **Satya Pal Malik** was appointed the new **Bihar** Governor. He will take charge from West Bengal Governor Kesri Nath Tripathi, who has been holding additional charge since Kovind’s elevation to Rashtrapati Bhawan.

– Former member of the Bihar Legislative Council **Ganga Prasad** was appointed **Meghalaya** Governor. He will take over from Banwarilal Purohit, who till now was the Governor of Assam and was holding additional charge.

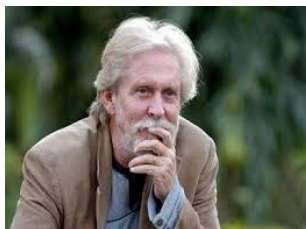
– **Brig BD Mishra (retd.)** will be the new Governor of **Arunachal Pradesh**. He will take over from Nagaland Governor Padmanabha B Acharya, who was holding dual charge.

– **Admiral DK Joshi (Retd.)** was appointed the new Lt. Governor of **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**. His incumbent BJP leader Jagdish Mukhi has been shifted to Assam.

4) What is India's rank in World Economic Forum's (WEF) global competitiveness index that was released on 26 September 2017? – **40 out of 137 countries**

Explanation: India is placed at the 40th rank in the global competitiveness ranking of 137 countries that was released by the World Economic Forum (WEF) on 26 September 2017. India thus remains the most competitive country in South Asia.

– The ranking is one lower than last year's, but the two rankings are not comparable because of a change in the methodology by WEF. According to WEF India's score is its highest ever according to the current methodology. Switzerland was ranked as the world's most competitive economy in the index.



5) Veteran film, television and theatre actor Tom Alter passed away on 29 September 2017 at the age of 67. He was ofdescent – **American**

Explanation: Tom Alter was the son of American Christian missionaries of Swiss-German ancestry and his grandparents migrated to India from Ohio, United States in November 1916. He was born in the hill station of Mussoorie in 1950.

– He acted in over 300 movies apart from numerous TV shows. Among his notable roles during the first decade of his acting career were Satyajit Ray's 'Shatranj Ke Khiladi' (1977), Shyam Benegal's 'Junoon' (1979), Manoj Kumar's magnum opus 'Kranti' (1981) and Raj Kapoor's 'Ram Teri Ganga Maili' (1985). In the 90s, Alter was seen in many films, prominent among them Mahesh Bhatt's 'Aashiqui', 'Junoon' and 'Gumrah', Ketan Mehta's 'Sardar' and Priyadarshan's 'Kala Pani'.

– He was also famous for his role as the gangster Keshav Kalsi in the hit soap opera

'Junoon' which ran for a record five years during the 1990s. He also ventured into direction and was a sports journalist in the 80s and 90s. He was the first person to interview Sachin Tendulkar for TV when the cricketer was yet to debut for India.

6) During September 2017 which automobile company was awarded the order for 10,000 electric vehicles by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), the world's largest single electric vehicle procurement order? – **Tata Motors**

Explanation: Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), under the administration of Ministry of Power, will procure 10,000 electric vehicles from Tata Motors Limited. This was announced by Power Ministry during September 2017.

– The tender floated by EESL is the world's largest single electric vehicle procurement. Three leading manufacturers; Tata Motors Limited, Mahindra & Mahindra and Nissan participated in the tender.

– Tata Motors won the tender and will now supply the Electric Vehicles (EVs) in two phases; in the first phase 500 e-cars will be supplied to EESL by November 2017 and the rest 9,500 EVs will be delivered in the second phase.

7) What was India's infant mortality rate (IMR) in 2016 according to data released by the Office of the Registrar General on 29 September 2017? – **34 per 1,000 live births**

Explanation: India's infant mortality rate (IMR) declined to 34 per 1,000 live births in 2016 from 37 per 1,000 live births in 2015. It thus registered 8% decline in IMR as compared to 2015.

– In numbers, India has registered 90,000 fewer infant deaths in 2016 as compared to 2015. A major reason for this achievement is the increase in number of institutional deliveries. In 2005, only 38% deliveries were

taking place in hospitals; but now, more than
79.8% are institutional deliveries.

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EDGE ACADEMY