

1-5 Nov 2017



1) What is India's rank in the latest ease of doing business ranking by the World Bank, in its *Doing Business 2018* report, that was released on 31 October 2017? – **100 among 190 countries**

Explanation: India climbed 30 positions in the latest ease of doing business ranking by the World Bank, in its *Doing Business 2018* report. The report ranks India at 100 among 190 countries. Last year, India was ranked 130.

– India's upward jump in ranking is based on the underlying improvement in the distance to frontier (DTF) score – an absolute measure of progress towards the best practice – in the report. India recorded the fifth highest change in DTF score and found a place for the first time in the top ten economies improving the most in a given year, in the report which is into its 15th edition.

– New Zealand, Singapore and Denmark retained their first, second and third spots. Russia, at 35 is the best among BRICS countries; while Brazil is now the last. India used to be the last among the BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa – countries in the ranking, but now it has overtaken Brazil in the list. China maintained the same ranking it had last year, at 78.

– The ease of doing business ranking compares economies with one another; the DTF score benchmarks economies with respect to regulatory best practice.

2) In a bid to push consolidation among state run banks, the Union Government on 1 November 2017 announced constitution of an Alternative Mechanism that may also direct banks to examine proposals for amalgamation. Who is heading this mechanism? – **Arun Jaitley**

Explanation: Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is heading the newly constituted Alternative Mechanism that was constituted by the Union Government on 1 November 2017 to push the process of consolidation of public sector banks. The other members of the

panel include Railway and Coal Minister Piyush Goyal and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

– The proposals received from banks for in-principle approval to formulate schemes of amalgamation will be placed before the alternative mechanism. A Report on the proposals cleared by alternative mechanism will be sent to the cabinet every three months.

– The alternative mechanism will also receive inputs from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) before according in-principle approval. In August, the cabinet had given its approval for an alternative mechanism, comprising a panel of ministers, for in-principle approvals to merger proposals.



3) Who was chosen for the Jnanpith Award for 2017, as announced on 3 November 2017? – **Krishna Sobti**

Explanation: Renowned Hindi litterateur Krishna Sobti has been chosen for country's most prestigious literary award – the Jnanpith Award (for 2017). This was announced by the Jnanpith Selection Board on 3 November 2017. The board is chaired by noted scholar, writer and critic Namwar Singh. It will be the 53rd edition of this prestigious prize.

– 92 year old Sobti is known for experimenting with new writing styles and creating "bold" and "daring" characters in her stories who were ready to accept all challenges. Her language is highly influenced by the intermingling of Hindi, Urdu and Punjabi cultures.

– Some of her celebrated works include 'Daar Se Bichhudi', 'Mitro Marjani', 'Zindaginama', 'Dil-o-Danish', 'Badalom ke Ghare', 'Ai Ladki' and 'Gujarat Pakistan Se Gujarat Hindustan'.

– The Jnanpith Award is presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature". Instituted in 1961, the award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English, with no posthumous conferral. It carries a cash prize of Rs. 11 lakh and a statue of Saraswati.

4) According to the findings of the first-ever gender vulnerability index (GVI) commissioned by the Women

and Child Development Ministry, which state is the safest state to be a woman in India?– **Goa**

Explanation: The safest state to be a woman in India is Goa, followed by Kerala, Mizoram, Sikkim and Manipur. This was disclosed in the first-ever Gender Vulnerability Index (GVI) that was prepared by Plan India and released by the women and child development ministry on 1 November 2017.

– States where women and girls are the most vulnerable are Bihar, Jharkhand, UP and Delhi.

– The index puts Goa on top with a GVI of 0.656, more than the national average of 0.5314. The index scores are on a scale of zero to one. The closer the score is to one, the better the performance. Goa also ranks first in protection, fifth in education, sixth in health and survival, and eighth in poverty.



5) Who was nominated to chair the US Federal Reserve by President Donald Trump on 2 November 2017 to replace Janet L. Yellen? – **Jerome H. Powell**

Explanation: President Donald Trump on 2 November 2017 nominated Jerome H. Powell to chair the Federal Reserve, thus bypassing Janet L. Yellen for a second term. In replacing Yellen, the President is breaking with precedent. The previous three Fed chairs were reappointed, in each case by a president of the opposite political party.

– Powell is a Republican with strong roots in the party's establishment and in the financial industry, a lawyer by training and investment banker by trade. As Fed chair, he would be the voice of an institution that is charged with keeping the economy on track by adjusting interest rates that influence the decisions of millions of Americans.

– According to a section of US media, Powell lacks the deep background in economics of some of his predecessors, and he has expressed skepticism in the past about the unconventional measures that the Fed took after the recession.



6) The Union Government on 3 November 2017 made it mandatory for all new four-wheelers to have FASTag devices fixed on front windscreens by which date? – **1 December 2017**

Explanation: In line with the promise of promoting digital India and enabling hassle-free transportation, the Centre has made it mandatory for all new four-wheelers to have FASTag devices fixed on front windscreens by automobile manufacturers or authorised dealers. This comes into force from 1 December 2017.

– FASTag is a device that uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly from the prepaid account linked to it. It is affixed on the windscreen of a vehicle and enables to drive through toll plazas without stopping for payment. NHAI has also rolled out dedicated FASTag lanes at toll booths.

6-8 November 2017



1) Who was appointed the new Finance Secretary by the Union Government on 6 November 2017? – **Hasmukh Adhia**

Explanation: Hasmukh Adhia, a 1981-batch officer of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) from the Gujarat cadre, was on 6 November 2017 appointed as the next Finance Secretary. He is an old hand in the Finance Ministry, who drove two of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi's biggest initiatives, Demonetization and the rollout of the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

– Adhia has been a key Finance Ministry official, serving as Secretary, Department of Financial Services, where he spearheaded the Indradhanush scheme for recapitalization of public sector banks and banking reforms. As Revenue Secretary, he was one of the key officials who worked on the final design, structure and rollout of GST.

– The post of Finance Secretary became vacant after former Finance and Expenditure Secretary Ashok Lavasa retired on 31 October 2017.

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2) Indian Railway on 6 November 2017 unveiled the first of its overhauled premium trains under its 'Swarn' project. Which is the first train to be accorded the 'Swarn' status under this overhauling initiative? – **New Delhi-Kathgodam Shatabdi Express**

Explanation: The New Delhi-Kathgodam Shatabdi Express is the first of the 30 premium trains of Indian Railways to be overhauled under its 'Swarn' project on 6 November 2017.

– Under the 'Swarn' initiative the interiors of 30 premium trains (including 15 Rajdhani and 15 Shatabdi Expresses) have received a complete makeover with facilities like on-board entertainment systems, trolley service for catering, clean toilets with automatic doors. Security of passengers has also been a focus with installation of CCTV surveillance cameras, extra railway police personnel etc.

– Passengers are given disposable headrest covers in executive class, all coaches are equipped for braille-signage for the visually impaired. Also entertainment systems include wi-fi hotspots, HD streaming and more. The cost of upgrade for each train is Rs. 50 lakh while total cost under the project is Rs. 25 crore.

– Rajdhani Express trains that ply to destinations like Mumbai, Howrah, Patna, Ranchi and Bhubaneswar were among those selected for upgrade and among the Shatabdi Express trains were Howrah-Puri, New Delhi-Chandigarh, New Delhi-Kanpur, Howrah-Ranchi, Anand Vihar-Kathgodam.

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3) Which entity on 6 November 2017 became the first mutual fund to be listed on Indian stock exchanges? – **Reliance Nippon AMC**

Explanation: Reliance Nippon Asset Management Company (Reliance Nippon AMC) became the first mutual fund to be listed on Indian stock exchanges. Earlier the Rs. 1,540 crore IPO brought by Reliance Nippon was oversubscribed over 80 times.

– The company is the country's third largest AMC or asset management company in terms of assets. At the end of August 2017, Reliance Nippon AMC managed assets worth Rs. 3.84 lakh crore across mutual funds (Rs. 2.3 lakh crore), managed accounts (Rs. 1.53 lakh crore) and offshore funds and advisory mandates (Rs. 2,223 crore).

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4) India defeated which country in the final of women's Asia Cup Hockey tournament on 5 November 2017 to secure qualification in next year's hockey World Cup? – **China**

Explanation: Goalkeeper Savita produced a stunning save in a tense shootout as India won the Asia Cup to secure qualification in next year's hockey World Cup following a nerve-wracking win over China in the final played on 5 November 2017.

– With this title win, India also broke of 13-year-old jinx of losing in finals by ensuring a 5-4 win. It was in 2004 when the Indian women's team had clinched the Asia Cup trophy by beating Japan 1-0.

– The Asia Cup Women's hockey tournament 2017 was held in Kakamighara (Japan). Indian goalkeeper Savita was adjudged Goalkeeper of the Tournament.

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5) Which Australian bowler created history by taking a second hat-trick in the same match on 7 November 2017 to become the eight bowler overall to achieve this feat in a first-class match? – **Mitchell Starc**

Explanation: Australian Test bowler Mitchell Starc creating Australian cricket history by taking a second hat-trick in the same match on 7 November 2017. He achieved this feat in a Sheffield Shield match for his team New South Wales (NSW) against Western Australia.

– In remarkable scenes at Hurstville Oval, the visitors Western Australia-who were cruising at 0-179 in their second innings – lost all 10 wickets for 44 runs.

– With this Starc became the first player to claim two hat-tricks in a single first-class match in Australia and only the third Australian to achieve this feat. He is overall eighth bowler to take a second hat-trick in the same first-class match.

It also claims to service a third of all B2C export transactions happening in the country today.

– At present India's digital payment space seems crowded with Paytm, PhonePe, the government's BHIM and even Google.

9 November 2017



1) During November 2017 which city became the third city from India to be included in Creative Cities Network of UNESCO for its contributions to music?

– **Chennai**

Explanation: Chennai joined the elite club of world cities on 7 November 2017 when it was included in Creative Cities Network (CNN) of UNESCO for its contributions to music. The city joined two other cities in India – Jaipur and Varanasi – to have figured in the prestigious list for their contributions to music and folk arts.

– Other cities included in this prestigious list this year are Cairo (Egypt), Cape Town (South Africa), Manchester (UK) and Milan (Italy). The dossier to nominate Chennai for the CCN was submitted a few months back to the UNESCO by the Union culture Ministry.

– Once a city is included on the list, it holds cultural events for four years to highlight its uniqueness and it is monitored by the UNESCO. CCN currently has 116 member cities from 54 countries, covering various fields.

3) In an attempt to tackle the issue of sexual harassment at workplaces in the country, the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) on 8 November 2017 launched an online complaint portal named SHe-Box. The term SHe-Box stands for – **Sexual Harassment electronic box**

Explanation: The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development Maneka Gandhi on 8 November 2017 launched an online complaint portal, SHe-Box (Sexual Harassment electronic box). The portal can be accessed by women working in the government, as well as the private sector.

– She-Box will attempt to tackle the issue of sexual harassment at workplaces in India. It is worth mentioning that the prevalence of sexual harassment at workplaces in India can mostly be attributed to the lack of proper grievance redressal system, which gives perpetrators the confidence to carry forth their atrocious acts without the fear of being reprimanded.

– Once a complaint is filed, it will be sent to the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the concerned organisation, and the complainant, as well as WCD, can monitor the progress of the inquiry. As per the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, it is mandatory for every organisation, with 10 or more employees, to ordain an ICC to address workplace harassment complaints.

2) Which Global online payments giant on 8 November 2017 announced the launch of its domestic operations in India as payment aggregator? – **PayPal**

Explanation: PayPal, the global online payments giant founded by Elon Musk and Peter Thiel, on 8 November 2017 announced the launch of its domestic operations. The company is expected to battle with Alibaba-backed firm Paytm.

– PayPal is known to disrupt the payments industry nearly two decades ago in the US. However, it isn't starting afresh in India too. It is a leading service provider for millions of technology and management freelancers to receive payments from overseas clients.



4) Fossils of the oldest-known ancestors of most living mammals, in the form of teeth and dating back to 145 million years, were discovered recently in which country? – **England**

Explanation: Teeth belonging to the extinct shrew-like creatures, which have been claimed to be the oldest-known ancestors of most living mammals, were discovered in cliffs on the Dorset coast in Portsmouth, England.

– Scientists of Portsmouth University claimed that they are 145 million years old and are the earliest undisputed fossils of mammals belonging to the line that led to humans. The fossils were discovered by Grant Smith, then an undergraduate student.

– The mammals associated with this fossil discovery were tiny, furry creatures that probably emerged under the cover of night.

– Recent fossil discoveries from China pushed back the date of the earliest mammals to 160 million years ago. However, this has been disputed, based on data from molecular studies.

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5) Who emerged the National men's and women's singles champions at the 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship that concluded in Nagpur on 8 November 2017? – H.S Prannoy (men's) and Saina Nehwal (women's)

Explanation: H.S Prannoy outwitted World No. 2 and title favourite Kidambi Srikanth in a thrilling finale to claim the men's singles title at the 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship on 8 November 2017.

– On the other hand 27-year-old Saina Nehwal, a former world number one and presently world no. 11, dug deep into her reservoir of experience and upstaged the much fancied and World No. 2 PV Sindhu by 21-17, 27-25 in a pulsating summit clash. This was the third Senior National Badminton title for Nehwal.

– The 82nd Senior National Badminton Championship was held at the Divisional Sports Complex in Nagpur.

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10-11 Nov 2017



1) The Goods and Services Tax Council (GST Council) sharply reduced GST rates levied on number of items on 10 November 2017 at its meeting held in Guwahati. After this announcement how many items

remain in the highest GST slab rate of 28%? – **Fifty (50)**

Explanation: The Goods and Services Tax Council on 10 November 2017 sharply reduced to just 50 the number of items in the highest tax rate of 28%. At its 23rd meeting in Guwahati, chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, the Council also staggered the return filing process, reduced the tax rates on restaurants and expanded the Composition Scheme for small firms.

– The Council decided to reduce the tax rate on 178 of current 228 items from 28% to 18%, with effect from 15 November 2017. After this now just 50 items remain in the 28% GST slab.

– The items in the 28% slab that have got cheaper include wires, cables, insulated plugs, furniture, bedding, mattresses, suitcases, detergents, shampoo, perfumes, lamps, wrist watches, and slabs of marble and granite.

– Now all restaurants will be taxed at 5%, except those in hotels with a tariff of Rs. 7,500 or more that will be taxed at 18% with input tax credit (ITC).



2) What is the name of the express train that was inaugurated between Kolkata and Khulna in Bangladesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina on 9 November 2017? – "Bandhan Express"

Explanation: A train named "Bandhan Express" between India and Bangladesh that connects Kolkata with Khulna (in Bangladesh) was inaugurated on 9 November 2017. This train will cover a distance of about 172 km in 4 and half hours.

– It is air-conditioned weekly passenger train and will run every Thursday from both Kolkata and Khulna.

– It is worth mentioning that railway passenger and freight services between India and the erstwhile East Pakistan (later Bangladesh), which had continued after Independence, were stopped during the 1965 war.

– The new service was flagged off by the Prime Minister of India, Prime Minister of Bangladesh and Chief Minister of West Bengal through video conferencing.

3) The Union Government on 9 November 2017 raised the amount of loans a central government employee can take under the house building advance (HBA) scheme by more than three times. What is the new loan limit?– **Rs. 25 lakh**

Explanation: The Union Government notified the changes in rules pertaining to loan taken under the house building advance (HBA) scheme by central government employees on 9 November 2017 in its bid to give a fillip to the housing sector and push construction activities. There are at least 50 lakh central government employees across the country.

– Now, central government employees can get loans up to Rs. 25 lakh from the government under the HBA scheme, which is more than three times of the earlier norm. Both spouses, if they are central government employees, are now eligible to take HBA, either jointly or separately. Earlier only one spouse was eligible for such an advance.

– The government also increased the amount that a central government employee can borrow for expansion of their homes to 34 months of basic pay to a maximum of Rs 10 lakh from the earlier Rs. 1.8 lakh.

– The cost ceiling limit of the house, which an employee can construct or purchase, has been increased to Rs. 1 crore with a provision of upward revision of 25 per cent in deserving cases, from Rs. 30 lakh earlier.

4) What is India's place in business optimism ranking in Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR) survey for the quarter ended September 2017? – **Seventh**

Explanation: India has slipped to the 7th position this quarter in business optimism ranking in Grant Thornton's International Business Report (IBR) survey for the quarter ended September 2017. In the prior quarter, India was ranked second in the survey.

– Businesses have expressed low confidence over expected revenue in the next twelve months with 75% respondents hoping for an increase in the revenue. There were clearly signs of lag in the economy which caused the drop in ratings.

– However, the survey was conducted in September 2017 before the government had announced its major reforms like bank recapitalisation and infrastructure investments among others. The sample size of the survey is 2,500 businesses spread across 37 economies.

12-14 Nov 2017



1) The 31st Summit of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) formally started on 13 November 2017. This summit is being hosted by which country? – **The Philippines**

Explanation: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte formally opened the 31st Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN Summit) in capital Manila on 13 November 2017. The theme for the ASEAN Summit this year is "*Partnering for Change, Engaging the World*". Security and regional integrity will be among the key issues during the summit for the world leaders.

– ASEAN, the regional intergovernmental organization established in 1967, is celebrating 50 years of its existence this year. World's seventh largest market and third-largest labour force, the organisation has matured into a community that focuses on economic integration and growth.

– ASEAN comprises of Indonesia, Singapore, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam. Later China, Japan and South Korea were accorded plus three status in the organisation. Australia, India, New Zealand, Russia and the United States are the 5 partner states of the association while Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste are the two observer states. Bangladesh, Canada, Mongolia, North Korea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and European Union are also associated with ASEAN as member countries of East Asia Summit.

– Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is representing Indian in the ASEAN Summit.



2) The 2017 Summit meeting of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) was held on 10 and 11 November 2017 in which country? – **Vietnam**

Explanation: Da Nang city of Vietnam hosted the 2017 Summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum. The theme of this edition of summit was “*Creating new Dynamism, Fostering a shared future*”.

– The summit was marked by different views to free trade expressed by US President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping. Trump reiterated “America First” policy while Jinping called on for strengthening multilateral trade. But in the resolution passed on 11 November 2017, the APEC Leaders reiterated their commitment to the full implementation of the Free-Trade Agreement of the Asia-Pacific (FTAAP).

– Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) is a forum for 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 1989 in response to the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific economies and the advent of regional trade blocs in other parts of the world.

– The United States, China, Australia, Japan, Russia, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, Vietnam, Mexico, Thailand, Indonesia, Taiwan, Peru, Chile, Brunei and Papua New Guinea are the 21 member countries of APEC at present.

3) Which project became the first one to be commissioned under the Prime Minister’s Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative on 10 November 2017? –

Biaras Drass Hydropower plant

Explanation: The 1.5-mw small hydropower plant in Biaras Drass of Kargil, commissioned on 4 November 2017, became the first project to be commissioned under the Prime Minister’s Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative.

– The plant will power the Drass town in Kargil, which is one of the coldest places in India. Power from the Biaras SHP would be sufficient to meet normal power requirement of about 1,000 families, which would make them comfortable in the extreme winter season.

– The total cost of the project, fully funded by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, is Rs. 17 crore and this is the first project to be commissioned under the Prime Minister’s Ladakh Renewable Energy Initiative (LREI).

4) During November 2017 which state became the first state in the country to treat Hepatitis C patients of all categories through oral medicines? – **Haryana**

Explanation: Haryana has become the first state in the country to treat Hepatitis C patients of all categories through oral medicines. This was announced by state’s Health Minister Anil Vij on 9 November 2017.

– This is the first time that any state government of India has included oral medicine for the cure of Hepatitis C in government hospitals. The medicine would be provided free of cost to permanent residents of all categories at district level.

– Hepatitis C is a liver disease which is caused by the hepatitis C virus: the virus can cause both acute and chronic hepatitis, ranging in severity from a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a serious, lifelong illness.

5) Telangana state government declared which language as state’s second official language on 10 November 2017? – **Urdu**

Explanation: Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao declared Urdu as state’s second official language on 10 November 2017. He also asked all government offices starting from the Chief Minister’s Office to District Collectorate, to receive all petitions in Urdu as well.

– After this announcement all competitive examinations in Telangana will also be conducted in Urdu.

– The Telangana government had earlier also passed a Bill to secure 12% reservation for the Muslims, which will ultimately increase their reservation in jobs and educational institutions. The Bill is yet to be approved by the Centre.

15-16 Nov 2017



1) The Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry on 14 November 2017 recognised 'Banglar Rossogolla', the iconic sweet, as deserving of protection under geographical indication (GI) and recognized that it was invented in West Bengal. Which state in 2015 had claimed that the rossogolla was its invention? – **Odisha**

Explanation: Rosogolla, the syrup-soaked spongy ball that has served as a gastronomic identity marker for the Bengali community for almost 150 years, just got recognition for its uniqueness. The Union ministry of commerce and industry on 14 November 2017 granted the "Geographical Indications of Goods Registration" (GI) tag for rossogolla to West Bengal.

– The so-called "rossogolla war" between West Bengal and Odisha began in September 2015, after the Odisha government began celebrating "Rossogolla Diwas", or 'Rossogolla Day', on the day that a festival called 'Ulto Ratha' falls. The state government had claimed that rossogollas were invented when Lord Jagannatha had offered a bowl of rossogollas to her wife Goddess Lakshmi to appease her.

– This claim was refuted by West Bengal. It claimed that rossogolla is made of curdled milk which has always been considered 'impure' and was never an offering to the gods. Nobin Chandra Das a renowned confectioner from Kolkata is known to be the inventor of rossogolla.

2) What is the name given to India's largest time-bound "upskilling" exercise to be implemented by Indian Railways from January 2018 to upgrade the skillsets of its 13 lakh-strong workforce? – **Project Saksham**

Explanation: "Project Saksham" is the name of country's largest time-bound "upskilling" exercise for government employees that will be implemented by Indian Railways.

– The exercise will start in January 2018 and go on till September 2018, putting through training courses and specially designed skill-upgrade modules. Employees from the rank of a peon to the Railway Board Members and everyone in between will undergo the training.

– This was disclosed in the circular sent to all General Managers of zones and production units by Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani during November 2017. General Managers (GMs) would identify training modules, divide their workforce into small groups and communicate the entire plan to the ministry by 31 December 2017.

3) Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore on 13 November 2017 released the India Youth Development Index and

Report 2017. This first-of-its-kind index has been prepared by which institution? – **Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur**

Explanation: India Youth Development Index and Report for year 2017 was released on 13 November 2017 by Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore. The objective of constructing the India Youth Development Index (YDI) 2017 is to track the trends in Youth Development across the States. The Index enables recognizing the high and low performing states, identifies the weak domains and informs the policy makers the priority areas of intervention for youth development in the states.

– The Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, an Institute of National Importance has come out with Youth Development Index and Report 2017.

– Constructing Youth Development Index for the year 2017 was done using the latest definition of youth as used in National Youth Policy – 2014 (India) and World Youth Development Report of Commonwealth (15 – 29 years) as well as using the Commonwealth Indicators in order to facilitate Global comparison.

4) Which 4-time FIFA World Cup title holder failed to qualify for the 2018 edition of FIFA World Cup to be staged in Russia on 13 November 2017? – **Italy**

Explanation: Italy, the four-time champions, failed to qualify for the 2018 edition of this prestigious tournament after held for a goal-less draw by Sweden in a World-Cup qualifier match played at Milan on 13 November 2017. This is the first time since 1958 that the team will miss the tournament. On the other hand Sweden made it to World Cup with this stunning performance where the team controlled the Italian team despite them creating a majority of the chances.

– Italy is a powerhouse in footballing history having won the tournament in 1934, 1938, 1982 and 2006. Only Brazil (20) and Germany (16) have appeared in more World Cups than Italy (14).

– Sweden, which qualified for the first time since 2006, became the 29th team to punch a ticket to Russia.

5) India's first-ever Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit was hosted at which place during November 2017? – **Dantewada (Chhattisgarh)**

Explanation: The NITI Aayog in partnership with the US government organized India's first Tribal Entrepreneurship Summit on 14 November 2017 at Dantewada in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.

– It was the first-of-its-kind event in India and tries to address the issues faced by the tribal community in pragmatic and progressive ways. Tribal entrepreneurs from various sectors across the country and abroad took part in the event.

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17-19 Nov 2017



1) India's sovereign rating has been upgraded by global rating agency Moody's Investors Services (from Baa3 to Baa2) for the first time in how many years on 17 November 2017? – **13 years**

Explanation: After 13 years, global rating agency Moody's upgraded India's sovereign ratings to Baa2 from Baa3 on 17 November 2017 and gave credit to Narendra Modi government for its wide-ranging economic and institutional reforms.

– It was in 2004 when Moody's had last upgraded India's sovereign rating. The upgrade from Baa3 to Baa2 is a one-level shift from the lowest investment-grade ranking and puts India in line with countries like the Philippines and Italy.

– Moody's has also raised India's long-term foreign-currency bond ceiling to Baa1 from Baa2, and the long-term foreign-currency bank deposit ceiling to Baa2 from Baa3. The short-term foreign-currency bond ceiling remains unchanged at P-2, and the short-term foreign-currency bank deposit ceiling has been raised to P-2 from P-3. The long-term local currency deposit and bond ceilings remain unchanged at A1.

– The rating agency, however, warned that India's rating could be downgraded if its fiscal metrics and the outlook for general government fiscal consolidation deteriorates materially.

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2) What is the name of the Indian beauty who won the coveted Miss World 2017 pageant held in Sanya (China) on 18 November 2017, sixteen years after Priyanka Chopra won the title? – **Manushi Chhillar**

Explanation: Haryana's Manushi Chhillar won the 2017 Miss World title on 18 November 2017 competing against 117 contestants from various countries at a glittering event held at Sanya City Arena in China. Miss World 2016 winner Puerto Rico's Stephanie Del Valle gave away the coveted crown to the winner.

– Manushi, born to doctor parents, studied in St. Thomas School in New Delhi and Bhagat Phool Singh Government Medical College for Women in Sonapat.

– She thus became the first Miss World from India, 16 years after Priyanka Chopra won the title in 2000. Mexican beauty Andrea Meza was adjudged First Runner Up while Stephanie Hill of England was adjudged Second Runner Up. Miss Kenya and Miss France also made it to the top 5. It is also worth mentioning that with this title India has tied-up with Venezuela in most number of Miss World titles (six).

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3) What is the name of the second exchange traded fund (ETF) established by the Government of India after CPSE ETF comprising of 22 blue-chip public sector entities that was offered for investment during November 2017? – **Bharat 22 ETF**

Explanation: Bharat-22 is the name of the new exchange-traded fund (ETF) established by the Union Government that comprises of 22 blue-chip public sector units, state-owned banks and some holdings in SUUTI. It has a diversified portfolio of six sectors, including energy, FMCG, finance, basic material and industrial and utilities.

– This ETF was offered for investment from 15 November to 17 November 2017. The government of India has appointed ICICI Prudential AMC to create, launch and manage Bharat 22 ETF. The fund has been set up as one of the vehicles to achieve Govt. of India's disinvestment target.

– Shares of nine PSUs, including Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (5.3% stake), Coal India Ltd (3.3%), and Indian Oil (4.4%), and four state-owned banks including State Bank of India (8.6%), will comprise the ETF. Besides, SUUTI holdings in Axis Bank (7.7%),

ITC (15.2%) and Larsen and Toubro (17.1%) will also be part of the fund.

– Other entities in Bharat-22 are BPCL, Nalco, Bharat Electronics Limited, Engineers India, NBCC, NTPC, Indian Bank, Bank of Baroda, NHPC, SJVNL, GAIL, PGCIL, REC, PFC and NLC India.

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4) RBI Governor Urjit Patel was appointed to the advisory board of which international banking entity on 16 November 2017? – Financial Stability Institute (FSI)

Explanation: RBI Governor Urjit Patel was on 16 November 2017 appointed to the Financial Stability Institute Advisory Board or the Bank of International Settlement (BIS), a global financial organisation owned by major central banks from across the world.

– Jaime Caruana, General Manager of the BIS, will be Chair of the new FSI Advisory Board (until 30 November 2017 after which he will be replaced by Agustín Carstens, incoming General Manager of the BIS). Members would include Patel, as also William Dudley, President of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, central bank governors in Brazil, South Africa, Japan, among other top bankers from across the world.

– The FSI was jointly created in 1998 by the BIS and the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision. Among other mandates, the FSI seeks to promote cross-sectoral and cross-border supervisory contacts and cooperation.

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5) The Union Cabinet on 16 November 2017 approved the setting up of a National Anti-Profiteering Authority, a body with the mandate to ensure that the reduction in tax rates under the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime gets passed on to consumers by way of lower prices. What is the important power to be vested with this authority? – The power to cancel registration of any entity or business if it fails to pass on the benefit of lower taxes under the GST regime to consumers

Explanation: The National Anti-Profiteering Authority (NAPA), the establishment of which was approved by the Union Cabinet on 16 November 2017, will be a body with an overarching mandate to ensure that the reduction in tax rates under the new Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime gets passed on to consumers by way of lower prices.

– The authority will have the power to cancel registration of any entity or business if it fails to pass on the benefit of lower taxes under the GST regime to consumers, and empowers consumers to approach it in case of any complaint.

– The move comes in the backdrop of the GST Council's announcement earlier in November 2017 of a cut in the rates of over 200 items, as well as a cut in the GST rate for all restaurants, barring those in starred hotels, to 5%.

– It is worth mentioning that although establishments like big restaurants were claiming about 6-7% of the GST rate as input tax credit (ITC) on overheads such as rent, they were not transferring the benefits to consumers by way of lower prices.

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20-25 Nov 2017



1) Who took over as the new President of Zimbabwe on 24 November 2017 thus ending 37 years of authoritarian rule of Robert Mugabe? – Emmerson Mnangagwa

Explanation: Emmerson Mnangagwa, the former Vice-President who had fled the country earlier, on 24 November 2017 took oath as the third President of Zimbabwe. The event marked the dramatic departure of Robert Mugabe after 37 years of authoritarian rule.

– Mnangagwa's historic swearing-in ceremony was held in capital Harare's National Sports Stadium with huge crowd gathered to witness the event. A longtime ally of Robert Mugabe, Mnangagwa served as the first Vice-President of Zimbabwe from 2014 until his dismissal in November 2017. He had fled to South Africa and returned back on 22 November 2017 to a roaring welcome.

– 93-year-old Robert Mugabe, who became country's first Prime Minister in 1980, had announced his resignation on 21 November 2017 after a coup in which his own party ZANU – Patriotic Front (ZANU–PF) withdrew its support while the Army intervened to oust him. Mugabe ruled the country from 1980 to 2017, first as Prime Minister (1980-87) and then as President (1987-2017). His rule witnessed severe decline in food production leading to famine, drastic economic decline, hyper-inflation, international sanctions and country's isolation from some international forums.



2) What is the name of India's nominee to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Dalveer Bhandari was on 20 November 2017 re-elected to the fifth and the last seat of the court after Britain withdrew its candidate from the election? – **Dalveer Singh**

Explanation: India's nominee to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Dalveer Bhandari was re-elected to the fifth and the last seat of the prestigious world court after Britain withdrew its candidate Christopher Greenwood from the election. The ICJ comprises of 15 members.

– Bhandari and Britain's Greenwood were locked in a neck-and-neck fight for re-election to the ICJ. Bhandari's win became imminent after Britain, in a dramatic turn of events, withdrew out of the race for the Hague-based ICJ. Thus it is first time in 71 years that Britain has no representative in the ICJ.

– In the 11 rounds of voting, Dalveer Bhandari had got nearly two-thirds of the votes in the General Assembly and in Security Council Greenwood consistently received nine votes as against five for his opponent. This resulted in a stalemate.

3) What is the name of the new all-in-one application (app) launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 24 November 2017 that offers 100+ center and state government services under a one-single platform? – **'Umang'**

Explanation: 'Umang' is the name of the new all-in-one application that was launched at the fifth edition of the Global Conference on Cyberspace at an event in New Delhi on 24 November 2017 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Umang stands for 'Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance' and is envisaged to make e-governance easier.

– This app basically provides a unified approach where users can install one application to avail multiple government services – almost over 100 of them. The key goal of launching this application is to allow the citizens of India do everything online, at just a click

– be it making a passport, Aadhaar or Pan, book a gas cylinder, know about Provident fund account or resolving an Aadhaar related issue.

– The application is developed by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and National e-Governance Division (NeGD) in order to drive Mobile Governance in India and also promote Digital India program.

4) Which country is ranked the world's richest in terms of per capita GDP of countries as per latest data released by the IMF on 18 November 2017? – **Qatar**

Explanation: The small Middle Eastern country of Qatar topped the International Monetary Fund's October 2017 data on GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity that was released on 18 November 2017. According to the IMF, Qatar's per capita GDP stood at \$1,24,930 with a population of approximately 2.27 million.

– The country has grown despite facing lower prices for hydrocarbon, a major revenue source for Qatar, which is used for fuel.

– After Qatar the data listed following country chronologically in the top 10 – Luxembourg (\$109,190), Singapore (\$90,530), Brunei (\$76,740), Ireland (\$72,630), Norway (\$72,630), Kuwait (\$69,670), United Arab Emirates (\$68,250), Switzerland (\$61,360) and Hong Kong (\$61,020).

– India was placed at 126th place in the listing, with one place improvement. India's GDP rose to \$7,170 in 2017, from \$6,690 last year, helping improve its rank by a position to 126th.

5) The Indian Navy will soon get its first-ever woman pilot who will be flying a maritime reconnaissance aircraft. What is her name? – **Shubhangi Swaroop**

Explanation: Shubhangi Swaroop of Uttar Pradesh is set to be the first woman pilot of the Indian Navy. She completed her initial training at the Ezhimala Naval Academy (Kerala) on 22 November 2017 and will now head to INS Garuda in Kochi and then graduate to the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad, which trains pilots of the Army, Navy and the Air Force. On successful completion of training, she will become the first woman pilot in Indian Navy's maritime reconnaissance stream.

– Besides her, three other women cadets – Astha Segal from New Delhi, Roopa A from Puducherry and Sakthi Maya S from Kerala – have also been inducted in the Navy's armament division, which was earlier considered a men-only unit.

6) The first-ever North East Development Summit was held at which place during November 2017? – **Imphal (Manipur)**

Explanation: Manipur hosted the first edition of North East Development Summit on 21 and 22 November 2017. The Summit was inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind in Imphal on 21 November 2017.

– The Summit was organized by the Manipur government in association with India Foundation, a Delhi-based think tank, and was aimed at “building confidence” and altering the “perception” about India’s North Eastern region.

– While Chief Ministers of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland addressed the gathering, their counterparts from Mizoram, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim were absent.

7) What is the objective of the new scheme called “Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra” that was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 22 November 2017?

– **Empowering rural women through community participation**

Explanation: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 22 November 2017 approved a new scheme called “Pradhan Mantri Mahila Shakti Kendra” (“PMMSK”), which aims at empowering rural women through community participation to create an environment in which they realise their full potential.

– The scheme is part of the Umbrella Scheme “Mission for Protection and Empowerment for Women” of the Ministry of Women and Child Development.

– The scheme is envisaged to work at various levels. The national level (domain based knowledge support) and state level (State Resource Centre for Women) structures will provide technical support to the respective governments on issues related to women. The district and block level centres will provide support to PMMSK and also give a foothold to Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme in 640 districts to be covered in a phased manner.”

8) According to a latest report by UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP), which region is ranked as the World’s most violent region for women? – **Latin America and the Caribbean**

Explanation: Latin America and the Caribbean is the most violent region in the world for women. This was disclosed by the United Nations (UN) in Panama on 22 November 2017. The conclusion has been drawn

based on a report prepared by UN Women and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

– The report found assaults on women persisted in the region despite severe laws aimed at curbing the phenomenon. The rate of sexual violence against women outside of relationships is the highest in the world in the region. According to the report, 3 of the 10 countries with the highest rates of rape of women and girls were in the Caribbean.

26-30 Nov 2017



1) Who was appointed as Chairman of 15th Finance Commission by the Union Government on 27 November 2017? –

NK Singh

Explanation: The Union Government on 27 November 2017 appointed former Planning Commission Member NK Singh as chairman of 15th Finance Commission. The Commission will make recommendations, by October 2019, for five years commencing 1 April 2020.

– Other members of the commission are former Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das and former Chief Economic Advisor Ashok Lahiri, Niti Aayog Member Ramesh Chand and Georgetown University professor Anoop Singh.

– As per Article 280 of the Indian Constitution, the Finance Commission is required to make recommendations on the distribution of the net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and the states. It also reviews the current status of the finance, deficit, debt levels, cash balances and fiscal discipline efforts of the Union and the states.

– The 14th Finance Commission, headed by YV Reddy, was set up on 2 January 2013. Its recommendations cover the period from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2020.



2) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the services of Hyderabad Metro on 29 November 2017. Hyderabad thus becameIndian city to have metro train service – **Ninth**

Explanation: Hyderabad Metro became India's ninth operational metro service in India as the first phase of this metro service was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 29 November 2017. Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) is the company that is operating this metro service.

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

– Hyderabad Metro has been implemented entirely on public-private partnership (PPP) basis, with the Telangana state government holding a minority equity stake. The first phase of this metro comprises of 30 km stretch from Miyapur to Nagole, having 24 stations. No other rapid transit metro service in India opened for public operations on such a long stretch of 30 km. It is estimated to cost Rs. 15,000 crore.



3) Who was named as the first Chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA) by the Union Government on 28 November 2017? – **Badri Narain Sharma**

Explanation: Badri Narain Sharma, a Rajasthan cadre IAS officer of 1985 batch, has been appointed the first Chairman of the National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAA). NAA is the body set up under the goods and services tax (GST) to ensure that the benefits of lower taxes under the new regime are shared with consumers.

– 58-year old Sharma is at present an additional secretary in the Department of Revenue in the Finance

Ministry. He will have rank and pay of secretary at the Centre. He has been closely associated with the formulation of GST and its implementation.

– It is worth mentioning that the Union cabinet had earlier in November 2017 cleared the setting up of the NAA, which will have a two-year tenure that can be extended by the GST Council.



4) What important milestone was marked by the mundane One Rupee note on 30 November 2017? – **It celebrated its 100th anniversary of its release**

Explanation: The first note was introduced on 30 November 1917 with the photo of King George V. The paper note was launched due to inability of the then British Government to mint One Rupee coins during the hard times of the First World War. Hence it shifted to printing paper notes.

– When introduced, the Re. 1 replaced the silver coin, which was the prevalent way of storing value of the princely Re 1. Unlike other banknotes, this is not signed by the RBI governor, but by the finance secretary.

5) In its 2nd Meeting held on 29 November 2017, the Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) approved projects for Rs. 2,066.73 Cr for six higher education institutions. Which are these 6 institutions? – **IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur and NIT Suratkal**

Explanation: For providing additional funds for research and related infrastructure in the country, Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) officially started its operations. The HEFA Board approved projects for Rs. 2,066.73 crore for six institutions (IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IIT Kharagpur, IIT Kanpur and NIT Suratkal) in its 2nd Meeting held on 29 November 2017.

– These funds would be used to improve the research infrastructure in these institutions to further improve their standing at the global level. These institutions can avail of these funds as per the progress of the project and complete them. The funding under HEFA would be in addition to the grants being given to these institutions.

– HEFA was born out of the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for providing additional finance for promoting research in the higher educational

institutions. The Union Cabinet has approved setting up HEFA on 12 September 2016.

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6) Who was appointed India's G20 Sherpa for the G20's Development Track on 27 November 2017? – **Shaktikanta Das**

Explanation: Former Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das was on 27 November 2017 appointed India's Sherpa till 31 December 2018, for the G20's Development Track.

– There are two tracks in G20 – the Finance Track and the Development Track. Finance Track is managed by the Secretary (Economic Affairs), Ministry of Finance, as India's Deputy to G20 and the Development Track is coordinated by the Sherpa. The Department of Economic Affairs will provide necessary support to the Sherpa.

– Sherpas, who are representatives of leaders of G20 member countries, coordinate on the agenda of the summit.

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EDGE ACADEMY