

1-5 July 2018

1) What is the name of the new project comprising of a five-prong strategy to deal with non-performing assets (NPAs) of PSU banks that was unveiled by the acting Finance Minister Piyush Goyal on 2 July 2018? - **'Project Sashakt'**

Explanation: 'Project Sashakt' is the name given to an ambitious new project of the Union Finance Ministry that primarily aims to strengthen the credit capacity, credit culture and credit portfolio of public sector banks. This project comprises of a five-prong strategy to deal with non-performing assets (NPAs).

- The setup of 'Project Sashakt' was recommended by the high-level committee on restructuring stressed assets and creating more value for public sector banks (PSBs). This committee is headed by Sunil Mehta, Non-Executive Chairman of Punjab National Bank (PNB) and had submitted its report to the Finance Ministry on 1 July 2018.

- The idea behind 'Project Sashakt' is to ensure the operational turnaround of the banks and stressed companies so that the asset value is retained.



2) India's Tata Steel Ltd signed a final joint-venture (JV) agreement with which German steelmaker on 30 June 2018 that is the largest deal in Europe's steel industry since ArcelorMittal? - **Thyssenkrupp AG**

Explanation: India's Tata Steel Ltd and Germany's Thyssenkrupp AG signed a final agreement on 30 June 2018 to establish a long-expected 50:50 steel joint venture.

- This JV has been named Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel and will have about 48,000 workers and about €17 billion (\$19.9 billion) in sales. It is thus the largest deal in Europe's steel industry since the takeover of Arcelor by Laxmi Niwas Mittal in 2006.

- Based in the Netherlands, Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel will be Europe's second-largest steelmaker after ArcelorMittal. It forms the core of Thyssenkrupp CEO

Heinrich Hiesinger's plan to turn his steel-to-submarines conglomerate into a technology company.



中國銀行
BANK OF CHINA

3) The Reserve Bank of India issued the banking licence to which Chinese bank to launch operations in India, as was reported in media on 4 July 2018? - **Bank of China**

Explanation: The Reserve Bank of India has issued licence to Bank of China to launch operations in India. This was reported in a section of media on 4 July 2018. Bank of China is one of the very few state-owned commercial banks in China.

- It is worth mentioning that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made a commitment to Chinese President Xi Jinping to allow Bank of China to set up branches in India when they met on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Chinese city of Qingdao during June 2018.



4) On 2 July 2018 who was appointed the Chairman of the Payments Council of India (PCI)? - **Vishwas Patel**

Explanation: Vishwas Patel, Director at Infibeam Avenues, on 2 July 2018 took over as the new Chairman of the Payments Council of India (PCI). PCI is the apex body that represents companies in payments and settlement system in India.

- Patel has been associated with PCI since its inception in 2013 and was serving as the co-Chairman of PCI. He takes over from Naveen Surya, who has been elevated to the post of Chairman Emeritus.

5) What is the name of the former Chairman of Canara Bank, who on 2 July 2018 voluntarily stepped down from the RBI-appointed committee that was looking into bank frauds and bad loan divergences? - **S. Raman**

Explanation: S Raman, former chairman of Canara Bank, on 2 July 2018 voluntarily stepped down from the RBI-appointed committee that was looking into bank frauds and bad loan divergences after his name figured in a CBI charge-sheet.

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had on 28 June 2018 named Raman and another former Canara Bank chairman, AC Mahajan, in connection with a Rs. 146-crore loan default by Winsome Diamonds. The diamond firm has defaulted on more than Rs. 7,000 crore of loans.

- Raman was part of the PJ Nayak committee, which reviewed governance of bank boards in 2014. He also assisted the Uday Kotak committee on corporate governance, which submitted its report last year.

6-11 July 2018

1) The HRD Ministry on 10 July 2018 granted “Institutions of Eminence” status to three public and three private institutes, enabling them to get full autonomy and special incentives to project them as “world class universities”. Which are these 6 institutions? - **IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay, IISc- Bengaluru** (from public sector), **Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), BITS Pilani and Jio Institute** by Reliance Foundation (from private sector)

Explanation: The HRD Ministry on 10 July 2018 granted “Institutions of Eminence” (IoEs) status to IIT-Delhi, IIT-Bombay and the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in the public sector, and Manipal Academy of Higher Education, BITS Pilani and Jio Institute by Reliance Foundation in the private sector.

- This move enables these 6 institutions to get full autonomy and special incentives to project them as “world class universities”. While the HRD Ministry will grant Rs 10 billion funds to the three public institutions in the next five years, the private institutes will not be eligible for government funding.

- Unlike other institutions, IoEs will get greater autonomy to start new courses, admit foreign students, hire foreign faculty, and collaborate with foreign educational institutions without the need for government approval.

2) UNESCO will establish a gaming university in which Indian city, for which an agreement was signed during July 2018? – **Visakhapatnam**

Explanation: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) will be setting up a 'Design University for Gaming' in Visakhapatnam. A delegation of UNESCO entered into an agreement with Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board (APEDB) for the establishment of 'Gaming Digital Learning Hub' on 4 July 2018.

- The UNESCO delegation asked the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for an allocation of 100 acres of land in Visakhapatnam for developing the city as 'International Gaming and Digital Learning Hub'.

- UNESCO is of the view that gaming technology will be the best source of income in future and IT giants like UBSoft, Samsung, Microsoft etc are ready to establish their centres in Visakhapatnam.

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3) World’s largest mobile phone factory was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on 9 July 2018. This factory belonging to Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. is situated in which place? – **Noida (Uttar Pradesh)**

Explanation: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on 9 July 2018 inaugurated Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd’s mobile phone factory in Noida - the largest in the world. The facility is spread over 35 acres in Noida’s Sector 81.

- The expected cost of this factory is around Rs.5 thousand crore and it can produce 12 crore mobile phones every year, ranging from low-end smartphones to its flagship Samsung Galaxy S9, and will create 15,000 local jobs.

- Under intense competition from Apple Inc. and Chinese rivals like Oppo, Vivo, Xiaomi, Gionee and Lenovo, Samsung plans to make India its export hub for countries in Europe, Middle East and Africa.

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4) Which book was chosen for the prestigious Golden Man Booker Prize as was announced at the Man Booker 50 Festival in London's Royal Festival Hall on 8 July 2018? – **"The English Patient"**

Explanation: "The English Patient", the book by Canadian literary icon Michael Ondaatje, won the Golden Man Booker Prize for being the best Man Booker awardee in 50 years. The winner was revealed at the Man Booker 50 Festival in London's Royal Festival Hall on 8 July 2018.

- This book was after it topped in a public poll of best Man Booker in 50 years. The Golden Booker was held this year to mark a half-century of the prize. A panel of judges read all 52 former winners of the award, with each assigned a decade from the Booker's history.



5) Seven members of Japan's Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult including its leader who carried out a deadly chemical attack on the Tokyo underground in 1995 were executed on 6 July 2018. What was the name of cult's notorious leader? - **Shoko Asahara**

Explanation: Shoko Asahara was the name of Aum Shinrikyo doomsday cult. The members of this cult had carried out the Sarin attack, Japan's worst terror incident on 20 March 1995, in which 13 people were killed and thousands more were injured.

- The cult members had released the liquid nerve agent Sarin on Tokyo's subway. They left punctured bags filled with Sarin on train lines going through Tokyo's political district. 63-year old Asahara and his followers were also accused of several other murders and an earlier Sarin gas attack in 1994 which killed eight and left 600 injured.

- Asahara and seven members of his cult were executed by hanging at a Tokyo detention house on 6 July 2018. Japan does not give prior notice of executions.

12-13 July 2018

1) India overtook which country to emerge as the sixth largest economy in the world as was revealed by the updated World Bank figures for 2017 released on 10 July 2018? – **France**

Explanation: India has become the world's sixth-biggest economy, pushing France into seventh place, according to updated World Bank figures for 2017, which were released on 10 July 2018. India's gross domestic product (GDP) amounted to \$2.597 trillion at the end of last year, against \$2.582 trillion for France.

- India's economy rebounded strongly from July 2017, after several quarters of slowdown blamed on economic policies pursued by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

- At the end of 2017, Britain was still the world's fifth-biggest economy with a GDP of \$2.622 trillion. However, India is expected to overtake Britain soon to emerge as fifth largest economy. The US is the world's top economy, followed by China, Japan and Germany.



2) Which state on 10 July 2018 became the third Indian state to grant minority status to Jews? – **Gujarat**

Explanation: The Gujarat government granted minority status to its Jewish community on 10 July 2018 and thus became the third Indian state to do so. Maharashtra and West Bengal are the other states that have granted minority status to their Jewish communities.

- The minority recognition means that Jews of Gujarat shall get benefits of welfare schemes formulated for religious minority communities within the jurisdiction of Gujarat. The state is home to about 170 Jews, mostly centered in the state's most prominent city of Ahmedabad.

- India has six official minority communities: Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, Sikhs, Parsis, and Jains.

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3) What is India's rank in the Global Innovation Index Rankings 2018 that was released on 10 July 2018? - **57th**

Explanation: India was ranked 57th out of total 126 countries in the latest Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings for 2018 that was released in New York on 10 July 2018. India was ranked 60th in the year 2017.

- India has maintained its top place in the central and South Asia region and has consistently moved up the global ranking from 81st in 2015 to 57th in the year 2018. The country has climbed for the third year in a row, as it was ranked 66th in the year 2016.

- On the global front, Switzerland maintained its number one position in the GI rankings. Other prominent countries that fell in the top 10 list are Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, the US, Finland, Denmark, and Germany.

- China, which scored the rank 17th rank this year, is a huge upgrade from the previous 44th rank in 2017.

- GI is a leading benchmarking tool for business executives, policymakers and others seeking insight into the state of innovation around the world. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and INSEAD, the leading business school, are the main publishers of this index that was first published in 2007.

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4) Which South African player ousted top-seed Roger Federer from 2018 Wimbledon on 11 July 2018 to create the biggest upset in tournament's recent history? - **Kevin Anderson**

Explanation: Top-seeded Roger Federer (Switzerland) suffered a shock defeat in a match he seemed to have firmly sewn up before South Africa's Kevin Anderson made an incredible comeback to oust the 8-time

defending champion in a singles quarter-final match on 11 July 2018.

- 32-year old Anderson stunned Federer by 2-6, 6-7(7), 7-5, 6-4, 13-11 as he saved a match-point in the third set to completely change the rhythm of the match. Anderson is currently ranked no. 8 in the world.

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5) Which country will meet France in the final of 2018 FIFA football World Cup as it entered the finals for the first time on 11 July 2018? - **Croatia**

Explanation: Mario Mandzukic scored the winning goal deep in extra time as Croatia beat England 2-1 in an utterly gripping World Cup semi-final in Moscow on 11 July 2018 to set up a final date with France.

- Mandzukic netted in the 109th minute to complete a remarkable comeback from a shattered Croatian team and take the small nation of little more than four million people into the World Cup final for the first time in their short history. Croatia is the smallest nation to make it to the final since Uruguay back in 1950.

- England had been the ones hoping to make history, in what was their first appearance in the semi-finals in 28 years.

- Croatia will now meet France in the final of this prestigious tournament on 15 July 2018. France had earlier on 10 July 2018 defeated Belgium in the first semi-final by 1-0.

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14 July 2018



1) Who scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships on 12 July 2018? – Hima Das

Explanation: 18-year old Hima Das created athletics history for India on 12 July 2018 as she clinched the gold medal in the women's 400m final race on the third day of the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships 2018 in Tampere (Finland). She thus became the first ever Indian to win a gold medal at the IAAF World Under-20 Athletics Championships. She also became the first-ever Indian to win a track event gold at this level. She clocked 51.46 seconds to win the gold.

- Hima was a favourite to win gold as she is the U-20 season leader in this quarter-mile event. Das clocked an Indian U-20 record of 51.32 seconds to finish sixth in the Commonwealth Games 400m final in Gold Coast in April 2018.

- She now joins the illustrious company of star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra, who won a gold in Poland in the last edition in 2016 in a world record effort.

- The previous medal winners at the World Junior Championships were Seema Punia (bronze in discus in 2002) and Navjeet Kaur Dhillon (bronze in discus in 2014).

2) Which insurance company on 12 July 2018 claimed to become the first insurance company to initiate delivery of policies via WhatsApp? – Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd (FGII)

Explanation: Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd (FGII), a private general insurer, on 12 July 2018 said it has become the first insurance company to initiate delivery of policies via WhatsApp. This is an instant and an additional delivery option adopted by FGII to enhance convenience and ease for its customers.

- FGII has already delivered more than 5,200 policies via WhatsApp Messenger, as part of the pilot run which started from 15 June 2018.

- Customers who purchase or renew policies with FGII would now receive an instant message on WhatsApp with the confirmation text, along with an email, apart from the physical policy document.



3) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in New Delhi on 12 July 2018. What is the name of this new state-of-the-art building? – “Dharohar Bhawan”

Explanation: “Dharohar Bhawan” is the name of the new headquarters building of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) being established at 24, Tilak Marg in New Delhi. It was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 July 2018.

- This new building boasts of state-of-the-art facilities, including energy efficient lighting and rainwater harvesting. It hosts rare portfolios related to Ajanta, Ellora and many sites of archaeological importance.

- “Dharohar Bhawan” includes Central Archaeological Library with collection of about 1.5 lakh books and journals. It hosts valuable archaeological treasure trove in India and World. It has large collection of books on Archaeology, Indology, Epigraphy, Indian culture and its past, etc.

4) During July 2018 the Union Government established a high-level task force to identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on import. Who is heading this task-force? – P.K. Sinha (Cabinet Secretary)

Explanation: The government during July 2018 set up a high-level task force under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha to identify various items and policy interventions to reduce dependence on import. The task force includes secretaries from departments of commerce, industrial policy and promotion, skill development, revenue, defence production, steel, petroleum, electronics and telecommunications.

- The task force would suggest ways to cut import of those items which can be manufactured or explored in the country. The move assumes significance as India is heavily dependent on imports of several items such as oil, electronic hardware, machinery, ingredients for pharmaceuticals, gold and chemicals.

- In 2017-18, the inbound shipments grew about 20% to USD 460 billion. Oil imports during the last fiscal rose 25.47% to USD 109.11 billion.

15-17 July 2018

1) France won the FIFA World Cup for the second time by ending battling Croatia’s dream of a first title with a 4-2 victory in the final of the 2018 FIFA World Cup that was played in Moscow on 15 July 2018. This final turned out to be one of the most entertaining and action-packed finals for decades. Who was awarded the Golden Ball award as the best player at the World Cup? - **Luka Modric (Croatia)**

Explanation: Croatian midfielder Luka Modric won the prestigious Golden Ball award as the best player at the 2018 FIFA World Cup after his side lost to France 2-4 in the finals on 15 July 2018. Real Madrid star Modric scored two goals in the group stage and converted both of his attempts in penalty shootouts to help Croatia reach the final.

- It was a heartbreak for the first time finalists Croatia as France defeated them convincingly in the finals. France led 2-1 at half time after a Mario Mandzukic own goal and an Antoine Griezmann VAR penalty, with Ivan Perisic briefly bringing first-time finalists Croatia level in the World Cup 2018 final.

- Quickfire strikes by Paul Pogba and Kylian Mbappe midway through the second half put France on course for the title but Mandzukic was gifted a goal by French keeper Hugo Lloris to set up a nervous last 20 minutes. It was the highest-scoring world cup final since England beat West Germany 4-2 after extra-time in 1966.

- The victory means that Didier Deschamps, captain of the 1998 side, becomes the third man to win the World Cup as player and coach after Brazil’s Mario Zagallo and Germany’s Franz Beckenbauer.

- England captain Harry Kane won the Golden Boot as the top scorer of the 2018 World Cup with six goals in his kitty. France's Antoine Griezmann, who scored in the final, finished second with his four goals.

2) Which team finished third at the 2018 FIFA World Cup by winning the classification match for third place on 14 July 2018? – **Belgium**

Explanation: Belgium gave its best-ever performance in FIFA World Cup by finishing third at the 2018 FIFA World Cup as it comprehensively defeated England by 2-0 in the classification match for third place on 14 July 2018. England thus finished fourth by which they equaled their performance of 1990 FIFA World Cup.



3) President Ramnath Kovind on 14 July 2018 nominated which four personalities to the Rajya Sabha, the Upper House of Parliament? - **Sonal Mansingh, Rakesh Sinha, Raghunath Mohapatra and Ram Shakal**

Explanation: Classical dancer Sonal Mansingh, columnist and RSS ideologue Rakesh Sinha, renowned sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra and farmer leader Ram Shakal were nominated to the Rajya Sabha by President Ramnath Kovind on 14 July 2018.

- These new nominations were made to fill the vacancies caused due to the retirement of nominated members Sachin Tendulkar, Rekha, Anu Aga and K Parasaran.

- Under Article 80 of the Constitution, the President can nominate 12 members to the Rajya Sabha "from amongst persons who have special knowledge or practical experience in respect of such matters as literature, science, art and social service." The nominated members have six-year term.

- The other sitting nominated members include boxer Mary Kom, columnist Swapan Dasgupta, advocate K.T.S. Tulsi, economist Narendra Jadhav and BJP members Subramanian Swamy, Roopa Ganguly, Suresh Gopi and Sambhaji Chhatrapati.



4) During July 2018 UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the launch of a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation. Who are co-heading this new panel? - **Jack Ma and Melinda Gates**

Explanation: Jack Ma of Alibaba Group and Melinda Gates of Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will co-chair the High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation that was constituted by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on 12 July 2018.

- The panel has been asked to contribute to the public debate on the importance of cooperative and interdisciplinary approaches to ensure a safe and inclusive digital future for all, taking into account relevant human rights norms.

- It will undertake a wide range of public consultations, including at least two public events and an open process inviting global inputs. It will hold its first in-person meeting in late September 2018 and is expected to submit its final report to the secretary-general within 9 months.

- The panel has a total of 20 members, representing a cross-section of expertise from government, private industry, civil society, academia and the technical community.

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5) Novak Djokovic earned his first Grand Slam title in more than two years by beating Kevin Anderson in Wimbledon's men's singles final on 15 July 2018. This was Wimbledon's men's singles for Djokovic - **Fourth**

Explanation: Serbia's Novak Djokovic won his illustrious career's Wimbledon's men's singles title on 15 July 2018 as he defeated South African Kevin Anderson 6-2 6-2 7-6 (7-3).

- This was the 13th Grand Slam title for Djokovic and first Grand Slam title in more than two years since French Open title in 2016.

- He is now in outright fourth place on the all-time list of Grand Slam men's singles titles, moving clear of Roy Emerson and closing the gap on Roger Federer (20), Rafael Nadal (17) and Pete Sampras (14).

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6) Who won the women's singles title of 2018 Wimbledon championship on 14 July 2018? - **Angelique Kerber**

Explanation: Angelique Kerber of Germany blew away Serena Williams (US) 6-3, 6-3 in the women's singles final of 2018 Wimbledon championship on 14 July 2018 to win her third singles Grand Slam title.

- Kerber had earlier won the Australian Open and US Open in 2016.

18-20 July 2018

1) The official history of Earth has a new chapter as geologists have classified the last 4,200 years as being a distinct age in the story of our planet. This age has been named after which Indian state, as was announced during July 2018? - **"Meghalaya"**

Explanation: "Meghalayan Age" is the name given to the last 4,200 years of our planet, a distinct period the onset of which was marked by a mega-drought that crushed a number of civilisations worldwide. This announcement was made by the International Commission on Stratigraphy (ICS) during July 2018.

- The term "Meghalayan Age" is derived from the isotopes of oxygen atoms present in the layers of a stalagmite growing from the floor of Mawmluh Cave in the northeastern state of Meghalaya in India. The International Chronostratigraphic Chart, the famous diagram depicting the timeline for Earth's history will be updated accordingly.

- Geologists divide up the 4.6-billion-year existence of Earth into slices of time. Each slice corresponds to significant happenings - such as the break-up of continents, dramatic shifts in climate, and even the emergence of particular types of animals and plant life.

- The Meghalayan, the youngest stage, runs from 4,200 years ago to the present. It began with a destructive drought, whose effects lasted two centuries, and severely disrupted civilisations in Egypt, Greece, Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, the Indus Valley, and the Yangtze River Valley.

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2) Which 5 public sector banks were chosen for Rs 11,336 crore capital infusion, as was announced by the Finance Ministry on 17 July 2018? - **Punjab National Bank, Corporation Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank and Allahabad Bank**

Explanation: The Finance Ministry on 17 July 2018 approved an infusion of Rs. 11,336 crore in five public sector banks - Punjab National Bank, Corporation

Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Andhra Bank and Allahabad Bank, to help them meet the regulatory capital requirement.

- As per the plan, the sources said, Punjab National Bank (PNB), hit by Nirav Modi scam, will get the highest amount of Rs. 2,816 crore. Besides, Corporation Bank will get Rs. 2,555 crore, Indian Overseas Bank – Rs. 2,157 crore, Andhra Bank Rs. 2,019 crore and Allahabad Bank Rs. 1,790 crore.

- This is the first ever capital infusion in the current fiscal and the remaining amount of Rs. 53,664 crore would be disbursed during the course of the year. The infusion would be part of the remaining Rs. 65,000 crore out of Rs 2.11 lakh crore capital infusion over two financial years as was announced by the Union Govt. during October 2017.

- These banks have come under pressure because of interest payment to their bondholders of Additional Tier 1 (AT-1) bonds. As a result, they were facing the risk of breaching the regulatory capital requirement.

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3) Which state launched the 'Paudhagiri' campaign during July 2018 that aims increasing the green cover in the state? – Haryana

Explanation: Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the ambitious 'Paudhagiri' campaign by planting a tree sapling in the Tau Devi Lal Sports Complex premises of Gurgaon on 15 July 2018.

- Under this campaign, 22 lakh students from class 6 to 12 of all government and private schools in Haryana will plant a sapling each during three months of monsoon -- July, August and September.

- Under this campaign every student will get a sapling from the Forest department and they can plant it either in the courtyard of their house, field or park or school or at any open space available in their proximity. Every student planting a sapling will have to take care of it for the next three years.

- The student is required to upload his selfie with his or her plant on the App and he or she will be given an incentive of Rs.50 in every six months from the government.

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4) Which IIT

launched a state-of-the-art remotely operable microscope, which has been claimed to be the world's first of its kind that would enable precise view of atoms of a material? – **IIT Madras**

Explanation: The Indian Institute of Technology-Madras on 16 July 2018 launched a Rs. 40 crore remotely operable microscope named Local Electrode Atom Probe (LEAP). It has been claimed to be the world's first of its kind. It would enable precise view of atoms of a material.

- LEAP had been developed in a collaborative exercise involving eight top research institutions in the country, spearheaded by IIT Madras. Though there were several such devices available across world, the LEAP inaugurated at IIT-Madras was the first one that can be operated through a special terminal by researchers divided geographically.

- IITs of Bombay, Delhi, Kanpur, Kharagpur and Ropar along with International Advanced Research Centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI) are the partner institutions who contributed Rs. 2 crore each for the project.

- Besides, the Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences (BRNS) had contributed Rs. 3 crore. The remaining funds came from the Department of Science and Technology's 'Nano-mission'.

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21-26 July 2018

1) Which state topped the Public Affairs Index (PAI) for 2018 as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016, as was disclosed in the Public Affairs Index 2018 released by the think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC) during July 2018? – Kerala

Explanation: Kerala has topped the Public Affairs Index (PAI) for 2018 as the best-governed state for the third consecutive year since 2016 among large states. This was disclosed by Bengaluru-based think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC) while releasing the Public Affairs Index (PAI) for 2018 on 21 July 2018.

- Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Karnataka and Gujarat followed Kerala among the top five states delivering

good governance, while Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand and Bihar ranked the lowest on the PAI.

- Among smaller states (with a population less than two crores), Himachal Pradesh topped the list, followed by Goa, Mizoram, Sikkim and Tripura. Nagaland, Manipur and Meghalaya were ranked at the bottom of the index among small states.

- Released annually since 2016, the index examines governance performance in the states through a data-based framework, ranking them on social and economic development they are able to provide. PAC was founded in 1994 by renowned Indian economist and scholar late Samuel Paul.

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2) A new Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) was inaugurated at which place in Uttar Pradesh by Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha on 22 July 2018? – **Ghazipur**

Explanation: In a bid to strengthen the expertise and capabilities of the employees of North-Eastern Railways, Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha on 22 July 2018 inaugurated Regional Rail Training Institute (RRTI) at Uttar Pradesh's Ghazipur.

- The institute, built with the cost of Rs. 21 crore, is equipped with modern training facilities, an advanced model hostel, computer room, cafeteria and other necessary facilities. The foundation stone of the institute was kept in 2015 by Sinha.

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3) The Union Government on 23 July 2018 slashed the minimum deposit for Sukanya Samridhi Account plans from Rs. 1000 to**Rs. 250**

Explanation: The minimum deposit for government-backed small savings scheme for the girl child, Sukanya Samridhi, was slashed to Rs. 250 from Rs. 1,000 by the Union Govt. on 23 July 2018.

- This means that customers need to make a minimum annual deposit of only Rs. 250 in this account. The maximum yearly deposit, however, stands unchanged at Rs. 1,50,000.

- Under the Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA) Yojana, a parent or legal guardian can open the account in the name of the girl child until she attains the age of 10 years.



4) Sergio Marchionne, who passed away on 25 July 2018, was a legend of which industry? – **Automobile industry**

Explanation: Auto legend Sergio Marchionne, the charismatic executive who turned Fiat and Chrysler around before combining the companies as a profitable business, died in Zurich (Switzerland) on 25 July 2018. He was 66.

- He was CEO of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, the chairman and CEO of FCA US LLC, the chairman and CEO of Ferrari, and the chairman of Maserati. He was widely recognized for turning around Fiat Group to become one of the fastest growing companies in the auto industry, in less than two years.

- In 2009, he was instrumental in Fiat Group forming a strategic alliance with the ailing US automaker Chrysler, with the support of the U.S. and Canadian governments and trade unions. The two companies officially merged in 2004.



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5) Which general insurance company entered 100th year of its operation during July 2018 and the event was celebrated in its branches across the country? - **The New India Assurance Company**

Explanation: The New India Assurance Company, India's largest non-life insurer, entered 100th year of its operations on 23 July 2018.

- Founded in July 1919 by Sir Dorabji Tata of Tata Group, the company is today India's leading public-sector-based multinational insurer operating in 28 countries around the world. It was nationalized in 1973.

- The New India Assurance Company is the largest general insurance company of India on the basis of

gross premium collection inclusive of foreign operations.
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6) Which IIT has developed “TreadWill”, a first-of-its-kind online tool to help people cope with issues related to their mental health? – **IIT Kanpur**

Explanation: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur, has developed a website-based online tool named ‘TreadWill’, to help people cope with issues related to their mental health.

- ‘TreadWill’ is a website designed to help people deal with stress, low mood, lethargy and other depressive symptoms through different online exercises, questionnaires and games. People suffering from depressive symptoms such as feeling low and lack of pleasure in usual activities may find the contents of the site helpful.

- It is based on cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) that helps people with depressive symptoms.
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27-30 July 2018

1) The 2-day BRICS Summit 2018 was held at which place? – **Johannesburg (South Africa)**

Explanation: The tenth edition of BRICS Summit was held from 25 to 27 July 2018 in Johannesburg (South Africa). The heads of state from the five member states Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa attended this summit. India was represented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was the second time that a BRICS Summit was held in South Africa since the 2013 Summit in Durban.

- The theme of this summit was “BRICS in Africa”. Several African countries like Angola, Namibia, Gabon, Uganda, Togo, Senegal and Rwanda were invited to take part in the Summit. As President of G20, Argentinian President Mauricio Macri was also invited to participate in the BRICS Summit.

- BRICS is a grouping of emerging nations formed in 2009 and comprises five countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). Representing over 40% of the world's population, the block's growth rates surpass those of the developed countries of the G7.
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2) The market capitalization of which company went past that of Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) to become India's fourth most valued firm on 27 July 2018? – **ITC Limited**

Explanation: ITC on 27 July 2018 went past Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) to become the country's fourth most valued firm in terms of market valuation helped by a smart surge in its share price.

- Led by the sharp rally in the stock, the company's market valuation rose to Rs 3.69 trillion, which was Rs 104.60 billion more than that of HUL's Rs 3.58 trillion m-cap on BSE. With this, ITC also became the most valued FMCG company.

- On 26 July ITC Limited reported 10% rise in its standalone net profit at Rs 28.18 billion for the first quarter ended 30 July 2018.
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3) Marking the first change in the pecking order of India's IT outsourcing industry, which company on 27 July 2018 surpassed Wipro Ltd to become India's third biggest software services firm? - **HCL Technologies Ltd**

Explanation: HCL Technologies Ltd surpassed Wipro Ltd to become India's third biggest software services firm in the three months ended 30 June 2018, marking the first change in the pecking order of the country's \$167 billion information technology (IT) outsourcing industry in six years.

- HCL's dollar revenue increased 0.8% to \$2.05 billion in the quarter ended 30 June from the preceding three months while Bengaluru-based Wipro's dollar revenue declined 1.7% sequentially to \$2.03 billion in the first quarter.

- HCL Technologies' rise has come on the back of years of underperformance by Wipro and a more aggressive approach in acquiring companies.
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4) Which leading private sector bank reported a shocking first ever quarterly loss on 27 July 2018? – **ICICI Bank**

Explanation: ICICI Bank Ltd, India's third-largest lender by assets, reported a shock first-quarter (Q1) net loss on 27 July 2018. The bank made a net loss of Rs. 120 crore (\$17.47 million) in the three months to 30 June, compared with a profit of Rs. 2049 crore a

year earlier. The loss was primarily due to higher provisions for bad loans and treasury losses.

- The bank reported net interest income of Rs. 6,102 crore in Q1 FY19 as compared to Rs. 5,590 crore in the year-ago period.

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5) The benchmark Sensex of BSE on 25 July 2018 crossed which mark for the first time? – 37,000 points

Explanation: The benchmark Sensex crossed the 37,000-mark for the first time ever during the morning trading session on 25 July 2018. The 30-share index touched a high of 37,014.65 gaining 156 points over previous day's close during the first hour of the trading session.

- The Sensex hit dizzying heights due to widespread buying in capital goods, FMCG, realty and banking stocks by domestic institutional investors.

31 July 2018

1) The much-anticipated second and final draft of the National Register of Citizens (NRC) of Assam was published on 30 July 2018. The names of 4 million applicants did not find a place in the historic document, touted to be a proof of Assamese identity. What is the cut-off date for inclusion in this document? – 25 March 1971

Explanation: The National Register of Citizens (NRC) will include the names of all Indian citizens who have been residing in Assam before 25 March 1971. This date was chosen as Bangladesh came into existence just one day after this date, i.e., 26 March 1971.

- The preparation of NRC is unparalleled in size. It is a legal process done under the direct supervision of the Supreme Court and is touted to be a proof of Assamese identity.

- The second and final draft of NRC was released on 30 July 2018. According to the NRC - 2,8983,667 people have been found eligible for citizenship of Assam out of total 3,29,91,384 applicants in the state. This means that people were left out of the NRC, meaning that their citizenship of Assam might be withdrawn. For such people, the process for making claims and objections will begin on 30 August 2018 and continue till 28 September 2018.

- The first draft of the NRC was published during the intervening night of 31 December 2017 and 1 January

2018, containing 19 million names. The application process for the NRC started in May 2015.

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2) In first of its kind event held by any government organisation, the Indian Railways organised a programme on Ethics in Public Governance and launched an associated mission on 27 July 2018. What is the name given to this mission? – "Mission Satyanishtha"

Explanation: "Mission Satyanishtha" is the name given to a first-of-its-kind programme on Ethics in Public Governance to be launched by any government organisation, which was launched on 27 July 2018 by the Indian Railways.

- The mission aims at sensitizing all railway employees about the need to adhere to good ethics and to maintain high standards of integrity at work. It was launched by Piyush Goyal (Minister of Railways) at National Rail Museum, New Delhi.



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3) Who became the first-ever Welshman to win the 2018 edition of Tour-de-France cycling race on 29 July 2018? – Geraint Thomas

Explanation: Geraint Thomas of Wales became the first-ever Welshman to win the iconic cycling race - the Tour-de-France as he won the 105th edition of the race on 29 July 2018. He is overall the third Briton to win this prestigious race.

- Thomas, who is associated with Team Sky, beat Dutchman Tom Dumoulin by one minute 51 seconds, while four-time Tour champion Chris Froome of Britain finished third.

- The 3,351 km race started on 7 July 2018 from Noirmoutier-en-l'Île, an island situated in Northwestern France and ended on 29 July 2018 at the famous Champs-Élysées stage in Paris.



4) Who was appointed the new CEO for HSBC India on 30 July 2018? - **Surendra Rosha**

Explanation: Surendra Rosha, an alumnus of IIM-Ahmedabad, was on 30 July 2018 appointed by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for HSBC India.

- Rosha succeeds Jayant Rikhye, who is taking a leave of absence for medical reasons. Rosha, who is currently HSBC's Head of Financial Institutions Group (FIG) for Asia-Pacific, has 27 years of experience in financial services sector. He began his career in financial services when he joined HSBC's India operations in 1991.

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EDGE ACADEMY