

Current Affairs Questions & Answers



1. Ross Island of Andaman and Nicobar was renamed as _____, on 30th December 2018?

- 1) Shaheed Dweep
- 2) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep
- 3) Swaraj Dweep
- 4) Mahatma Gandhi Dweep
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep

Explanation:

On December 30, 2018, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi embarked on a day long visit to the

Andaman and Nicobar Islands. On December 30, 2018, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, visited Port

Blair in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. On this occasion, he announced renaming of three islands of

Andaman and Nicobar.

The 3 islands are:

- The Ross Island was renamed as Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep,
- The Neil Island would now be known as Shaheed Dweep and
- The Havelock Island as Swaraj Dweep.

2. Where did Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launch the Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin

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initiative on 30th December 2018?

- 1) Pune, Maharashtra
- 2) Agra, Uttar Pradesh
- 3) Bhubaneswar, Odisha
- 4) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
- 5) None of these

Answer – 3) Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Explanation:

On December 30, 2018, Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Ujjwala Sanitary

Napkin initiative in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Its objective is to provide access to hygiene products and

employment to opportunities in every district of the state. Around 100 local manufacturing units will be

set up by oil marketing companies at Common Service Centres (CSCs) across 93 blocks in all 30 districts

of Odisha in the first phase. The units are expected to be ready by March 2019. The cost of setting up

each manufacturing unit is expected to be Rs 2.94 crores. The sanitary napkins will be priced at Rs 42 per

pack of eight pads. Each manufacturing unit will employ five or six Ujjwala beneficiaries and will thus

employ nearly 600 women across all districts.

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3. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has extended the Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for

Middle Income Group (MIG) Scheme by another 12 months till _____?

- 1) March 31, 2020
- 2) April 30, 2020
- 3) June 30, 2020
- 4) January 1, 2020
- 5) None of these

Answer -1) March 31, 2020

Explanation:

On 31st December 2018, the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs headed by Minister of State Hardeep S.

Puri, extended the Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) for Middle Income Group (MIG) Scheme by

another 12 months till March 31, 2020. Around 93, 007 beneficiaries have been covered till date and

have already received Rs 1,960.45 crore of subsidy in the scheme under which the government provides

a subsidy of up to Rs 2.67 lakh on home loans. The scheme covers two income segments in the MIG viz.

Rs 6,00,001 to Rs 12,00,000 per annum for MIG-I and Rs 12,00,001 to Rs 18,00,000 per annum for MIG-II.

The dwelling unit carpet area to avail the benefit of the scheme include 'upto 160 sq.m' and 'upto 200

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sq.m' for MIG I and MIG II respectively. In the MIG-I, an interest subsidy of 4 per cent has been provided

for loan amounts up to Rs 9 lakh, while in MIG-II, an interest subsidy of 3 per cent has been provided for

loan amount of Rs 12 lakh.

4. A 'bancassurance' pact was signed between which bank and SBI Life Insurance to sell the

policies of the insurer in over 3,200 branches of the bank, on 31st December 2018?

- 1) Allahabad Bank
- 2) State Bank of India
- 3) Canara Bank
- 4) Federal Bank
- 5) None of these

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On 31st December 2018, a 'bancassurance' pact was signed between State-owned Allahabad Bank and

SBI Life Insurance to sell the policies of the insurer in over 3,200 branches of the Allahabad Bank. The

agreement is considered as one of the largest Bancassurance partnerships in the country. The agreement

was signed in the presence of Allahabad Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Mallikarjuna Rao and SBI Life MD & CEO Sanjeev Nautiyal.

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5. India will remain the fastest growing major economy with GDP growth estimated to be _____% in

FY19, as per Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)'s report titled 'Growth Outlook for 2019'?

- 1) 7.2 %
- 2) 7.5 %
- 3) 7.7 %
- 4) 7.9 %
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) 7.5 %

Explanation:

On December 31, 2018, in its report titled 'Growth Outlook for 2019', Confederation of Indian Industry

(CII) stated that India will remain the fastest growing major economy with GDP growth estimated to be

7.5% in FY19. The reasons cited for the growth are: Better demand conditions, settled GST

implementation, capacity expansion resulting from growing investments in infrastructure and better

credit inflow especially in the service sector (that is of 24%).

6. Which Indian cricketer was adjudged 'Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the Women's Cricketer

of the Year' and 'Women's ODI Player of the Year' by International Cricket Council (ICC), on 31st

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December 2018?

- 1) Mithali Raj
- 2) Smriti Mandhana
- 3) Harmanpreet Singh
- 4) Jhulan Goswani
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) Smriti Mandhana

Explanation:

On 31st December 2018, India Women Cricket team Vice-captain and Left-handed opener, Smriti

Mandhana was adjudged 'Rachael Heyhoe Flint Award for the Women's Cricketer of the Year' as well as

the 'Women's ODI Player of the Year' by the International Cricket Council (ICC).

7. Who won the third term as Prime Minister of Bangladesh, on 31st December 2018?

- 1) Mohammed Abdul Hamid
- 2) Sheikh Hasina
- 3) Abu Thahir Bhutto
- 4) Abdul Salam Khan
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) Sheikh Hasina

Explanation:

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On 31st December, 2018, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's alliance won Bangladesh's election with a

thumping majority giving her a third straight term. The alliance dominated by her Awami League, won

287 of the 298 seats for which results have been declared, the commission said. There are 300

constituencies in the country. The main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), which boycotted

the last poll in 2014, won just 6 seats.

8. _____ has been appointed the new Information Chief Commissioner by the Government of India?

- 1) Raghav Sanghvi
- 2) Sudhir Bhargava
- 3) Ajay Mishra
- 4) Ram Mathur
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) Sudhir Bhargava

Explanation:

The Government of India has appointed Sudhir Bhargava, an information commissioner in the Central

Information Commission the new chief information commissioner. The government has also appointed

four new information commissioners. President Ram Nath Kovind has approved the appointment of

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former bureaucrats Yashwardhan Kumar Sinha, Vanaja N Sarna, Neeraj Kumar Gupta and Suresh

Chandra as the new information commissioners. The appointments came weeks after the Supreme Court

had asked the Centre to disclose the process of appointment of the members of the Central Information

Commission, including details on applicants and search committees. The court had asked the government

to maintain transparency in the process.

9. Which state got a separate high court on 1st January 2019, which is the 25th high court of

India?

- 1) Telangana
- 2) Mizoram
- 3) Sikkim
- 4) Andhra Pradesh
- 5) None of these

Answer – 4) Andhra Pradesh

Explanation:

On 1st January 2019, Andhra Pradesh got a separate high court which will temporarily function from

the Chief Minister's camp office in Amravati, the new capital of the state till a permanent building for the

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High Court is being set up at the 'Justice City' in Amaravati. Since the bifurcation of the state on June 2,

2014, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have had a common high court at Hyderabad. With the creation of

the new high court, the country now has 25 high courts. The present high court building in Hyderabad

would be housing the High Court of Telangana and the ten judges, who were part of the common high

court, will now be the judges of the Telangana High Court. The bifurcation of the courts into the High

Court of Telangana and High Court of Andhra Pradesh came after the Supreme Court on 29th October

passed an order for the bifurcation and said that it expects a notification by January 01, 2019. Justice C

Praveen Kumar, the senior-most judge among the judges allotted to Andhra Pradesh, was appointed as

acting Chief Justice of AP High Court, that will have 15 other judges with effect from January 1, 2019.

Justice Thottathil B Radhakrishnan took over as the first Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court with

effect from January 1, 2019.

10. Reserve Bank of India has granted permission to which payments bank to add new customers,

after it had initially barred the bank from opening bank accounts in June 2018?

1) Jana Small Finance Bank

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- 2) ESAF Small Finance Bank
- 3) AU Small Finance Bank
- 4) Paytm Payments Bank
- 5) None of these

Answer – 4) Paytm Payments Bank

Explanation:

On January 1, 2019, Reserve Bank of India granted permission to Paytm Payments Bank to add new

customers after it initially barred Paytm from opening bank accounts in June 2018. This was due to non-

compliance of the KYC norms and because Paytm Payments Bank had failed to maintain Rs 100 crore net

worth limit. Post the audit, Paytm Payments Bank had removed Renu Satti from the chief executive's role

and replaced her with veteran banker and ex-NPCI senior executive Satish Gupta.

11. Which country introduced a new “GAFA tax” named after Google, Apple, Facebook and

Amazon to ensure that the companies pay a fair share of taxes in Europe, on 1st January 2019?

- 1) Italy

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- 2) Germany
- 3) France
- 4) Switzerland
- 5) None of these

Answer – 3) France

Explanation:

From 1st January 2019, France introduced a new “GAFA tax” named after the large internet and

technology companies Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon to ensure the global giants pay a fair share

of taxes on their massive businesses in Europe. According to France’s finance Minister Bruno Le Maire,

the new tax would raise 500 million euros (570 million dollars) in 2019. The unilateral move from

France came after the deal for EU wide tax which required the support of all 28 EU states, crumbled

earlier this month, with opposition from countries including Ireland, home to the European headquarters

of Google and Apple. While other EU member states such as Britain, Spain and Italy are working on

national versions of a digital tax, Asian countries such as Singapore and India are also planning their own

schemes.

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12. Who took charge as the MD and CEO of Axis bank on 1st January 2019, following the

retirement of Shikha Sharma?

- 1) Sandeep Vaishnav
- 2) Murali Krishnan S
- 3) Amitabh Chaudhry
- 4) Randeep Vijay
- 5) None of these

Answer – 3) Amitabh Chaudhry

Explanation:

On 31st December 2018, private sector lender Axis Bank Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive

Officer (CEO) Shikha Sharma retired from the services of the bank and Amitabh Chaudhry will be the

new MD and CEO of the Axis bank from 1st January 2019. In April 2018, Shikha Sharma requested the

bank board to reduce her new term which was started from June 2018 to 7 months from a three-year

tenure without citing any reasons. 54 years old, an Indian Institute of Management -Ahmedabad

alumnus, Amitabh Chaudhry who is the former MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company

was appointed the MD & CEO of Axis Bank for the period of 3 years.

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13. Which state government launched 'The Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income

Augmentation (KALIA)' scheme worth Rs 10,180-crore, for overall development of small,

marginal and landless farmers, on 31st December 2018?

- 1) Telangana
- 2) Kerala
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Bihar
- 5) None of these

Answer – 3) Odisha

Explanation:

On December 31, 2018, Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik, launched a Rs 10,180-crore scheme, for

overall development of small, marginal and landless farmers, dubbed as 'The Krushak Assistance for

Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA)' scheme in Odisha. This scheme consists of a life

insurance of Rs.2 lakh for 57 lakh farmers and would grant them crop loans at zero per cent interest.

Also, financial assistance of Rs 10,000 per farmer family per annum to around 30 lakh small and marginal

farmers' families. Furthermore, Rs. 5000 would be given to farmers for Rabi cultivation and equal

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amount will be given for Kharif Cultivation. For landless farmers, a unit cost of Rs 12,500 would be

provided for goat rearing, poultry farming, duck rearing, bee keeping and mushroom cultivation. The

scheme will be implemented in three phases. In the first phase of the initiative, Rs. 5000 would be

disbursed to farmers between January 22 and January 25, 2019. The second phase will be completed by

February 15, 2019.

14. The number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices has increased to what

percent, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India?

1) 25 %

2) 35 %

3) 45 %

4) 50 %

5) None of these

Answer – 1) 25 %

Explanation:

On December 31, 2018, according to the RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India, number

of complaints registered at banking ombudsman offices has increased to 25% owing to increased

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awareness and poor internal redressal mechanisms of banks. More than 57% of the total complaints

came from the banking ombudsman offices in tier-1 cities like New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata,

Bengaluru and Hyderabad. Of all the complaints received at the ombudsman's offices, 97% of them were

resolved in 2017-18, up from 92% in 2017. The topic of complaints were related to non-observance of

the fair practices code followed by those related to ATM, credit and debit cards, and for failure to meet

commitments and mobile banking. Bank-wise distribution shows that most complaints received against

public sector banks were pension-related while most complaints received against private banks were for

credit cards discrepancies.

15. _____ was appointed the Acting Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India on 1st January

2019?

- 1) V K Singh
- 2) Mahindra Rathore
- 3) Hemant Bhargava
- 4) A K Bakshi
- 5) None of these

Answer – 3) Hemant Bhargava

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Explanation:

On January 1, 2019, the Department of Financial Services announced appointment of Hemant Bhargava,

Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India, as the Acting Chairman. This was done after VK

Sharma retired from the position at LIC on December 31. While, he is a contender for the post of Full-

Time Chairman at the state-owned life insurer, his retirement is due in July 2019. Therefore, the Banks

Board Bureau has called eight candidates for interviews for the posts of Chairman and MD on January 4.

16. Who was sworn in as Brazil's 42nd president on 2nd January 2019?

- 1) Fernando Haddard
- 2) Jair Bolsonaro
- 3) Richard Hadley
- 4) Rufus Maynard
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) Jair Bolsonaro

Explanation:

On January 2, 2019, Jair Bolsonaro was sworn in as Brazil's 42nd president. Mr Bolsonaro, 63, won the

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presidential election by a wide margin against Fernando Haddad of the left-wing Workers' Party.

17. Where was the 5-day long 'Indian Science Congress (ISC)-2019' inaugurated by Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on 3rd January 2019?

- 1) Jalandhar, Punjab
- 2) Hisar, Haryana
- 3) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
- 4) Panaji, Goa
- 5) None of these

Answer – 1) Jalandhar, Punjab

Explanation:

On January 3, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 5-day long 'Indian Science Congress

(ISC)-2019' that will conclude on January 7, 2018, in Jalandhar, Punjab. It is organized by Lovely

Professional University, Punjab. The theme of 106th edition of ISC-2019, is: 'Future India: Science and

Technology'.

18. Veer Savarkar International Airport located in _____ has been declared as an authorized

Immigration Check post?

- 1) Guwahati, Assam

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- 2) Cuttack, Odisha
- 3) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
- 4) Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh
- 5) None of these

Answer – 3) Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Explanation:

On January 3, 2019, Information, Public Relations and Tourism Division of Andaman and Nicobar

Administration announced that the Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair will be an

authorized Immigration Check post. Superintendent of Police (CID), Andaman and Nicobar Police has

been appointed as the 'Civil Authority' for the purpose of the immigration check post. This would work as

an entry into/exit point from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers. This opened

up the Port Blair Airport for direct international flight and immigration facilities.

19. Name the state government that announced that if a farmer aged between 18 to 60 years dies,

his family will be paid Rs 2 lakh, as part of 'Krishi Krishak Bondhu' scheme, on 31st December

2018?

- 1) Rajasthan

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- 2) West Bengal
- 3) Punjab
- 4) Himachal Pradesh
- 5) None of these

Answer – 2) West Bengal

Explanation:

On 31st December 2018, the Mamata Banerjee led West Bengal government announced two welfare

initiatives for farmers as a part of the 'Krishi Krishak Bondhu' scheme which will come into effect from

New Year's Day i.e. January 1, 2019. Under the first of the two schemes, If a farmer aged between 18 to

60 years dies a natural or unnatural death, the state government will pay his family Rs 2 lakh. The

farmers will be able to start applying for the scheme from February 1, 2019. Under the second initiative,

farmers would get Rs 2,500 twice a year for growing a single crop on one acre of land. The farmers will

be able to apply for this scheme from February 1, while the amount will be calculated from January 1,

2019. The West Bengal government has already waived tax and cess on agricultural land to help farmers

in distress.

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20. Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the scheme for merger of state-run

Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and _____ on 2nd January 2019, marking the first three-way merger in

India's banking sector?

- 1) Bank of Baroda
- 2) Bank of India
- 3) Union Bank of India
- 4) Indian Overseas Bank
- 5) None of these

Answer – 1) Bank of Baroda

Explanation:

On 2nd January 2019, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi approved the scheme for the merger of state-run Vijaya Bank, Bank of Baroda(BoB)

and Dena Bank, marking the first-ever three-way merger in the country's banking sector. The merger

which will come into force on April 1, 2019 will form the third largest bank in the country, after

government-owned State Bank of India and private sector lender ICICI. In the merger process, Vijaya

Bank and Dena Bank are transferor banks and BoB is the transferee bank. This means that all businesses,

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assets, rights, titles, claims, licences, approvals and other privileges and all property, all borrowings,

liabilities and obligations of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank will be transferred to Bank of Baroda. The

merged bank will have a combined business of Rs 14.82 lakh crore. There will be no impact on the

service conditions of the employees and there will be no retrenchment following the merger.