

GENERAL AWARENESS

Waste to Wonder

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated "Waste to Wonder" Park in South Delhi on 21st February 2019.

The South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) made this park by creating replicas of the Seven Wonders of the World and the replicas have been fabricated from scrap material.

The park sets an example of creation of 'Wealth from waste' and he said that a Smart City cannot be imagined without a proper waste disposal and recycling system.

PM - KISAN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme (PM-Kisan) on 24th February 2019, transferring the first installment of Rs.2,000 each.

Under the scheme, Rs.6,000 will be given per year to small and marginal farmers in 3 installments having combined land holding or ownership of up to 2 hectares.

The scheme was announced in the interim Budget 2019 - 20 on 1st February 2019. The scheme will benefit more than 12 crore farmers.

Seoul Prize

Narendra Modi was conferred with the Seoul Prize for his efforts in promoting global peace and harmony through inclusive economic growth and for improving quality of life.

The Prime Minister was awarded the prize money of \$200,000 that he contributed to the Namami Gange fund.

During his visit to South Korea, both nations made MoUs in key areas including infrastructure development, media, start-ups and combating trans-border and international crime.

Super Computer Param Shivay

On 21st February 2019, Prime Minister Modi inaugurated 'Param Shivay' Super computer of 833 teraflop capacity built at the cost of Rs.32.5 crore under the National Super Computing Mission at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

This super computer centre will help deal with social issues faced by common people. A postal stamp and postal stamp album were also released on the centenary year of the institute.

India's first super computer called PARAM 8000 was launched in 1991.

Tagore Award

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind, presented the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh, Chhayanaut (a cultural organisation of Bangladesh) and Shri Ram Vanji Sutar respectively, at a function held at New Delhi on 18th February 2019.

Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony was instituted by the Government from 2012 during the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

Agricultural Science Congress

14th Agricultural Science Congress - 2019 held between 20th February - 23rd February 2019 at New Delhi.

Agricultural Science Congress marks the confluence of researchers, intellectuals, creativity and the custodians of global food security.

The speakers concern about the changing climate and the vulnerabilities of agriculture and human to the changes. They had given a call for a co-operative effort to mitigate the challenges in a holistic way by addressing not only the effects, but causes also.

Theme of the congress is "Innovations for Agricultural Transformation".

Pan India number 112

On 19th February 2019, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister for Women and Child Development, Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi jointly launched the Women Safety initiative of Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) in 16 States/ UTs and Mumbai city.

People in these states and UTs can now call a single pan India number 112 for any emergency.

On the same day, the Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal were also launched.

Aero India show 2019

The Aero India show 2019, showcases India's air defence prowess and also the largest aero show in Asia began on 20th February 2019 at the Air Force Station Yelahanka , Bangalore.

Launched by Defence minister, Nirmala Sitharaman said the show was the biggest so far, with 403 exhibitors and 61 aircraft in static or flying displays.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. PM-KISAN was launched in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh on 24th February 2019, is entirely funded by the central government, will incur an annual expenditure of as per the interim Budget 2019 - 20.
1) Rs.75,000 crore 2) Rs.65,000 crore 3) Rs.55,000 crore 4) Rs.45,000 crore
5) Rs.85,000 crore
2. Who is the Director-General of ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research)?
1) Smt. Devola Devi Das 2) B. Suman
3) Trilochan Mohapatra 4) Varada Raja Guptha .A
5) Sanjeev Hans
3. Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare Radha Mohan Singh elected to Loksabha from ...?
1) Purvi Champaran (Bihar) 2) Nagpur (Maharashtra)
3) Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) 4) Jaipur Rural (Rajasthan)
5) Vidisha (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Gitanjali, 'Chokher Bali', the Postmaster, Gora and Kabuliwallah are some of the works written by ...?
1) R.K. Narayan 2) Rabindra Nath Tagore
3) Chetan Bhagath 4) Maithilli Saran Guptha
5) Bankim Chandra Chattarjee
5. P.V. Bharathi is the MD and CEO of?
1) Corporation Bank 2) Canara Bank 3) SBI 4) Andhra Bank
5) ICICI bank

Answers: 1-1; 2-3; 3-1; 4-2; 5-1.

Writer: Amara Veeraswamy