

GENERAL AWARENESS

Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan Yojana

Union Labour ministry notified the Pradhan Mantri Laghu Vyapari Maandhan Yojana (PMLVMY) for helping lakhs of retailers and small traders.

The scheme assures a monthly pension of Rs.3,000 to small traders, retail traders, shopkeepers and self-employed people after they attain the age of 60.

Such businesses are generally characterized by family-owned establishments, small scale operations, labour intensive, inadequate financial aid, seasonal in nature and extensive unpaid family labour.

Interested persons can enroll themselves through over 3.25 lakh common service centres spread across the country.

Government will establish a pension fund to run the scheme. The Life Insurance Corporation of India has been chosen as pension fund manager responsible for managing the pension fund.

Global Innovation Index

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal released the Global Innovation Index (GII) rankings on 24 July 2019. In this ranking, India improved its ranking, by five places to 52nd from 57th position last year. The GII rankings are published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.

GII ranks 129 economies based on 80 indicators, ranging from intellectual property filing rates to mobile-application creation, education spending and scientific and technical publications.

Referring to GII theme of this year which is Creating Healthy Lives - The Future of Medical Innovation, Piyush Goyal said that Government of India is focusing on not just curative but preventive healthcare where wellness becomes a part of society.

Switzerland retained its number-one spot on the index.

BRICS Foreign Ministers Meet

BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting was held at Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The meet stressed to prevent the financing of terrorist networks and terrorist actions from their territories. The five nations Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The member nations expressed their conviction that a comprehensive approach is necessary to ensure effective results against terrorism.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

The 20th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas is being celebrated across the country on 26 July 2019. 'Remember, Rejoice and Renew' is the central theme of this year's celebrations. The day marks the victory of Indian armed forces in Operation Vijay in 1999, when they evicted the infiltrators backed by Pakistani army from high outposts in Kargil sector. The Kargil war was fought for more than 60 days and ended with India regaining control of all the previously held territory. The victory of Tiger Hill was one of the crucial achievements. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, three service chiefs along with three Service Vice-Chiefs paid homage to the Kargil Soldiers by laying wreath at the National war memorial in New Delhi.

Boris Johnson

Boris Johnson became the new Prime Minister of United Kingdom on 25 July 2019 and promised to leave the European Union on October 31 "no ifs, no buts" under a "new deal" with the 28-member economic bloc.

He was the former foreign secretary and London Mayor who was formally invited by Queen Elizabeth II to form a government after accepting Theresa May's resignation.

Boris Johnson appointed three Indian-origin leaders as ministers. They are Priti Patel, Alok Sharma and Rishi Sunak.

Three years after the referendum vote to leave the EU, Britain remains a member amid continued wrangling in a divided Parliament on how to proceed.

40000 MW by 2020

The Government of India set a target for the installation of Rooftop Solar projects of 40,000 MW by 2022 in the country. The above projects include installation of solar panels on the rooftop of houses also.

Union Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy minister Raj Kumar Singh said in the Rajyasabha that more than 1700 Mega Watt of grid-connected rooftop systems has been installed in the country.

He said on an average, it is estimated that 1.5 million units per MW per year are generated from solar rooftop plants.

Hima Das 5 Gold Medals

Hima Das clinched the gold medal in the 400-meter race with a season-best time of 52.09 seconds at Nove Mesto in the Czech Republic, which is her fifth Gold Medal in the month of July 2019. Known as 'Dhing Express', Hima Das already won gold in 200 meters race at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix and Kunto Athletics Meet in Poland. She also won her third 200 meters gold at the Kladno Athletics Meet and fourth gold at the Tabor Athletics Meet in the Czech Republic.

Global Healthcare Summit

13th Global Healthcare Summit organized by the American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) and Global Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (GAPIO) at Hyderabad on 21 July 2019.

On this occasion, the vice-president of India Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu urged doctors to adopt their native villages and strengthening Primary Health Centres (PHCs) there.

Expressing his concern over the rising incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which accounted for 61.08 per cent of all deaths in the country in 2016, he asked the medical fraternity to adopt the concept of 'Medical Social Responsibility' on the lines of Corporate Social Responsibility and appealed to doctors to visit schools once every week and counsel the children on the dangers posed by lifestyle diseases and unhealthy dietary habits.

Dr. Suresh Reddy, President of AAPI, Dr. Pratap C Reddy, Chairman of Apollo Hospitals and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Indonesia Open

Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in the final of Indonesia Open defeated Olympic silver medalist P.V.Sindhu on 21 July 2019.

By this, Sindhu missed out on her first title of the year and the first Super 1000 title of her career.

This is the 15th meeting between the two players and Sindhu still holds a 10-5 head-to-head lead over Yamaguchi.

Chandrayaan-2 success

On 22 July 2019, Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV MkIII-M1, successfully launched the 3840 kg Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into an earth orbit from Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh

About 16 minutes 14 seconds after lift-off, the vehicle injected Chandrayaan-2 spacecraft into an elliptical earth orbit. Immediately after spacecraft separation from the vehicle, the solar array of the spacecraft automatically got deployed and ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC), Bengaluru successfully took control of the spacecraft.

Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon. It comprises a fully indigenous Orbiter, Lander (Vikram) and Rover (Pragyan). The Rover Pragyan is housed inside Vikram lander.

The objective of Chandrayaan-2 mission is to develop and demonstrate the key technologies for end-to-end lunar mission capability, including soft-landing and roving on the lunar surface. It aims to further expand our knowledge about the Moon through a detailed study of its topography, mineralogy, surface chemical composition, thermo-physical characteristics and atmosphere leading to a better understanding of the origin and evolution of the Moon.

INAS 313

Indian Navy commissioned its fifth Dornier Aircraft Squadron - Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313 in Chennai on 22 July 2019.

The Indian Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh said "Commissioning of INAS 313 marks another milestone in our efforts towards enhancing maritime security and safeguarding our nation's maritime interests"

The strategic position of the squadron will give the nation, dominance over the North Eastern part of the Indian Ocean which also consists of trade routes.

LIC to fund Highway Projects

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said that Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) agreed to offer Rs.1.25 trillion line of credit by 2024, to fund highway projects.

For the timely execution of the Rs.8.41 trillion ambitious Bharatmala project that aims to lay a grid of highways pan-India, the government has been looking to harness various sources of finances including pension and insurance funds.

The minister said that the Bharatmala programme will be funded through cess, toll revenue, market borrowings, private sector participation, insurance fund, pension funds, masala bonds and other initiatives and the LIC credit line was one such initiative

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. On 27 July 2019, GST Council decided to reduce GST rate on electric vehicles to 5 per cent from the existing
1) 28 percent 2) 24 percent 3) 32 percent 4) 40 percent
5) 12 per cent
2. Asian Development Bank sanctioned Rs.1,925 crore project for up-gradation of power generation and distribution in ...?
1) Tripura 2) Andhra Pradesh 3) Goa 4) West Bengal
5) Gujarat
3. Aaykar Diwas celebrated on...?
1) 24 July 2) 14 July 3) 17 June 4) 4 Sep
5) 1 July
4. B S Yediyurappa sworn in as Chief Minister of ...?
1) Maharashtra 2) Karnataka 3) Puducherry 4) Tamil nadu
5) UP

5. In the recent FIFA rankings released recently, India got which rank?
1) 94 2) 112 3) 1 4) 103
5) 51
6. International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended which nation Cricket with immediate effect over violation of its norms which doesn't allow any government intervention?
1) Pakistan 2) Kenya 3) Namibia 4) Zimbabwe
5) South Africa
7. National Broadcasting day observed on...?
1) 18 July 2) 27 July 3) 31 July 4) 23 July
5) 1 Aug
8. Who won People's Choice Prize at Boston International Sand Art championship in the USA?
1) Anton Aditya 2) Ramulu Pandey
3) Sudarsan Pattnaik 4) Kailash Chandry
5) Raghu Parthy
9. India and which nation carry out military exercise 'Hand in Hand' this year?
1) USA 2) UK 3) Myanmar 4) China
5) Russia
10. Which state got first rank in the implementation of Pradhanamntri Suraksha Beema Yojna as per the recent reports released?
1) Goa 2) Odisha 3) Uttar Pradesh 4) Haryana
5) Tamil nadu
11. Which nation won the Africa Cup of Nations for the second time?
1) South Africa 2) Namibia 3) Algeria 4) Mali
5) Niger
12. India to give Ten thousand scholarships to heirs of liberation war fighters in?
1) Pakistan 2) Afghanistan 3) Myanmar 4) Bangladesh
5) Nepal

KEY: 1-5; 2-1; 3-1; 4-2; 5-4; 6-4; 7-4; 8-3; 9-4; 10-3; 11-3; 12-4.

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