

CURRENT AFFAIRS

New Agricultural Export Policy

Union government approved the 'Agriculture Export Policy, 2018' seeks to double farm exports to \$60 billion by 2022 from \$30 billion last year. The government also invest Rs.1,400 crore to set up specialised clusters in different states for different produce to push exports.

This new export policy 2018, declared on 6th December 2018, brings efforts to double farmers income by 2022.

Union Commerce and Industry minister Suresh Prabhu said that the policy promote the production of organic, ethnic and indigenous products also.

He also said the government will set up 'Brand India' to promote exports and establish as strong quality regime for exports, and states will be extensively involved.

PRASAD Scheme extended

Union Government included Gangotri and Yamunotri in Uttararakhand, Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh and Parasnath in Jharkhand under PRASAD scheme.

PRASAD stands for Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.

By this, the number of sites under PRASAD reached to 41 in 25 states. The scheme has an aim for integrated development of pilgrimage destinations in planned, prioritized and sustainable manner to provide a complete religious tourism experience.

Ballon d'Or to Luka Modric

The Ballon d'Or is annual football award presented by France Football to the best football players of the world. Luka Modric of Croatia conferred with Ballon d'Or 2018. He was rewarded for his key role in Croatia's historic run to FIFA World Cup final and his club Real Madrid's third straight Champions League trophy.

First time, The Ballon d'Or Féminin, also known as the Women's Ballon d'Or introduced this year. It honours the best female association football player. The award conferred on Ada Hegerberg of Norway.

GSAT-11 launched successfully

Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) most-advanced communication satellite GSAT-11 was successfully launched on 5th December 2018.

GSAT 11, carried by the launch vehicle Ariane 5 VA-246 lifted off from Kourou Launch Base, French Guiana.

The 5,854 kg GSAT-11 will provide high data rate connectivity to users of Indian mainland and islands through 32 user beams in Ku-band and 8 hub beams in Ka-band.

It will boost the broadband connectivity to rural and inaccessible Gram Panchayats in the country coming under the Bharat Net Project, which is part of Digital India Programme.

Year of Millets 2023

160th session of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council held in Rome, approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in 2023.

Such declaration will enhance global awareness to bring back these nutritious cereals to the plate, for food and nutrition security.

This international endorsement comes against the backdrop of India celebrating 2018 as the National Year of Millets for promoting cultivation and consumption of these nutritious cereals.

Navy Day Celebrated

India celebrates Navy Day every year on 4th December.

It was on this day in 1971 that Indian Navy left its shores for the very first time to successfully attack Pakistan. Operation Trident, the codename for the naval attack on Karachi, is considered one of the most successful operations in the post-World War II era.

This year the Indian Navy personnel display their skills during the Navy Day celebrations at the historical Gateway of India in Mumbai and various parts of the Indian sea shores.

Ajay Narayan Jha is the new Finance Secretary

Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, appointed A N Jha as the new Finance Secretary, as per the order released on 3rd December 2018. Ajay Narayan Jha IAS succeeded Hasmukh Adhia. Recently ACC appointed Ajay Bhushan Pandey as the new Revenue Secretary.

‘The Republican Ethic’ & ‘Loktantra Ke Swar’

Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu released two Volumes - ‘The Republican Ethic’ & ‘Loktantra Ke Swar’ at New Delhi with Selected Speeches of President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.

The two books cover the vision and thoughts of President of India covered a wide range of issues of national and international importance with a special focus on the challenges which India faces in the contemporary world.

‘The Republican Ethic’ has a collection of 95 select speeches in English out of the total 243 speeches made by the President of India in the first year in the Office.

The second book ‘Loktantra Ke Swar’ – is a collection of 109 speeches in Hindi which talks about different layers and levels of multifaceted largest democracy in the world and India.

SHINYUU Maitri-18

First-ever bilateral air exercise “EX SHINYUU Maitri-2018 concluded on 7th December 2018 between Japanese Air Force and Indian Air Force at Agra. Theme of the exercise is joint Mobility/ Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) on Transport aircraft. IAF is participating with An-32 and C-17 aircraft with aircrew & observers.

Miss World 2018

Miss World 2018 finals took place at Sanya City Arena in China on 8th December 2018 and 118 contestants from all over the world competed for the crown.

Miss Mexico Vanessa Ponce De Leon got the title as Miss World 2018. She was crowned by Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar of India.

First runner up is Thailand's Nicolene Pichapa Limsnukan and Miss Belarus Maria Vasilevich stood third in the row. Indian contestant Anukreethy Vas stood in 17th position.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. Union Minister for Trade and Commerce Suresh Prabhu elected to Rajyasabha from.....
 - 1) Andhra Pradesh
 - 2) Maharashtra
 - 3) Goa
 - 4) UP
 - 5) Jharkhand

2. Soil health cards are provided to all farmers so as to enable the farmers to apply appropriate recommended dosages of nutrients for crop production. Which day celebrated as World Soil Health Day?
- 1) 1st December 2) 2nd December 3) 4th December 4) 5th December
5) 3rd December
3. Theme of World Soil day 2018 is....
- 1) "Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground,"
2) "Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life"
3) 'Soils, a solid ground for life'
4) "Management of soil"
5) "Be the Solution to Soil Pollution!"
4. India's first Miss World is.....?
- 1) Yukta Mookhey 2) Aishwarya Rai
3) Diana Hayden 4) Reita Faria
5) Priyanka Chopra
5. Union Minister of State for Tourism is.....
- 1) Alphons Kannanthanam 2) Hardeep Singh Puri
3) Raj Kumar Singh 4) Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore
5) Manoj Sinha
6. Who is the present Director of ISRO?
- 1) Dr. Jitendra Singh 2) Dr.C.N.R.Rao
3) K.Sivan 4) K. VijayRaghavan
5) S.Somnath
7. Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, released which book – The Indian Navy's History from 2001-10? (The book written by Anup Singh)
- 1) 'Blue Waters Ahoy!' 2) 'India in Blue'
3) 'Saga of Indian Navy Ahoy!' 4) 'Blue and Blue Ahoy!'
5) 'India and Blue Ahoy!'
8. Who is the chairman of CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) and ACC (Appointments Committee of the Cabinet)?
- 1) President 2) Home Minister
3) Prime Minister 4) Finance Minister
5) R B I Governor
9. On 4th December 2018, 13th edition of CII Agro Tech India-2018 inaugurated by President of India at.....
- 1) Delhi 2) Vijayawada 3) Lucknow 4) Mumbai
5) Chandigarh
10. Central Soil Salinity Research Institute head office located at Karnal in
- 1) Rajasthan 2) Bihar 3) Haryana 4) MP
5) UP

11. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters located at.....
1) Rome 2) Washington DC 3) Geneva 4) Nairobi
5) New York
12. Who is the present Director General of FAO?
1) Christine Madeleine Odette Lagarde 2) Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo
3) Jose Graziano da Silva 4) Fang Liu
5) Miroslav Lajcak
13. The famous football players and their nation given. The wrong combination is.....
1) Cristiano Ronaldo- Portugal 2) Lionel Messi – Argentina
3) Neymar- Brazil 4) Harry Kane – UK
5) All of above correct
14. FIFA cup 2022 to be hosted by.....?
1) Qatar 2) Canada, Mexico and USA
3) England 4) Brazil
5) Russia
15. Which nation and India completed tactical exercise called 'Vajra Kayaa' which is part of their joint military drill 'Vajra Prahar 2018' in Jaipur, on 1st December 2018?
1) Indonesia 2) Russia 3) USA 4) Ujbekistan
5) France
16. Indian Navy to conduct..... as a part of two month long Exercise TROPEX from January 2019
1) Exercise sea troop 2) Exercise sea Titanic
3) Exercise sea Glide 4) Exercise sea Vigil
5) Exercise sea Coast

KEY

1-1; 2-4; 3-5; 4-4; 5-1; 6-3; 7-1; 8-3; 9-5; 10-3; 11-1; 12-3; 13-5; 14-1; 15-3; 16-4.

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