

CURRENT AFFIARS

72nd Independence Day celebrated

On 15th August 2018, addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi after hoisting the national flag, prime minister of India Narendra Modi narrated the progress of India made under his government, and asserted that the country was poised for “record growth”.

He said the government’s motto is “reform, perform and transform” and added that the country had become the sixth largest economy in the world.

PM listed structural reforms like GST, bankruptcy and insolvency law and benami property law and he commented “Prior to 2014, global institutions used to say the Indian economy is risky. Today the same institutions and people are saying that reform momentum is giving strength to fundamentals” .

Modi announced the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Abhiyaan (Ayushman Bharat) would be launched on September 25 on the birth anniversary of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay.

He also said that there is necessity of giving punitive punishment for rapists and his government was committed to bringing in a law banning the practice of instant triple talaq.

He reiterated that his government was on track to achieve the target of doubling farmers’ income by 2022 and said a new agriculture export policy would be unveiled soon to boost farm income.

Michelle Bachelet officially appointed new UN human rights chief

On 10th August 2018, the UNO General Assembly approved the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as next UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights is the principal human rights official of the United Nations.

Michelle Bachelet takes oath on 1st September 2018 as new UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She replaces present chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein.

Michelle Bachelet was the former president of Chile also. A trained pediatrician and socialist politician, She was the first Executive Director of UN–Women between 2010 and 2013 also. UN women promote gender equality worldwide.

The present head Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein decided not to seek a second term after losing support from powerful countries including the United States, Russia and China. Bachelet reformed the pension system and improved health and social services, focusing on Chile's working poor.

NITI Aayog hosted Investors Conference for the Holistic Development of Islands

NITI Aayog hosted Investors’ Conference on 10th August 2018 at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, New Delhi for the holistic development of islands. The Conference was inaugurated by Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.

The conference stressed to ensure sustainable & eco-friendly development of projects in Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep islands. In his inaugural address, Amitabh Kant said that the Island Development Agency (IDA) had directed NITI Aayog to steer the holistic development of islands.

Island Development Agency (IDA) an apex body, under the chairmanship of Home Minister was constituted in June 2017, while NITI Aayog has been mandated to steer the Holistic Development of Islands program, along with the respective UT administration/ State Governments. Under the said program in the first phase, 10 Islands in Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep have been taken up for holistic development.

The 11 anchor tourism projects proposed to be implemented with private sector participation under suitable risk-sharing model and through open-competitive bidding. For enhanced connectivity, airport at Diglipur shall be made operational for civilian aircrafts by December 2018, while Agatti airport is being expanded and in-principle clearance has been accorded for greenfield airport at Minicoy.

In the conference, it was mentioned that sustainable development of Islands and overall maritime development has been accorded high priority by the Government.

India's humanoid robot 'Rashmi' launched

Ranjit Srivastava developed Indian version of 'Sophia,' a social humanoid robot and he named it as "Rashmi". He belongs to Jharkhand. He claimed it as world's first Hindi speaking realistic humanoid robot and India's first lip-synching robot. Rashmi, uses linguistic interpretation (LI), artificial intelligence (AI), visual data and facial recognition systems.

He said that the Linguistic Interpretation (LI) programme analyses the feeling of the conversation while Artificial Intelligence (AI) program analyses the conversation to extract the response from the device. Proprietor of Lotus Communication, a Ranchi based software company, Srivastava, said the robot has many features besides the lip-synching. It gives facial, eye, lips, and eyebrow expressions and it can move its neck.

Ranjit claims to have developed e-Nibandhan portal for registration department, which received Scotch award, e-library for information and public relation department, tourism portal for tourism department which won national tourism award.

Former PM Vajpayee passes away

Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former prime minister of India died on 16th August 2018. The veteran BJP leader served as the prime minister of India thrice. He was the first non-Indian National Congress PM to serve a full five-year term.

Vajpayee's demise was mourned not only across the political spectrum but also by followers, celebrities and many others who loved and respected the leader around the world. He was elected to Lok Sabha ten times and twice to Rajya Sabha.

He was the Minister of External Affairs in the cabinet of Prime Minister Morarji Desai, 1977. As foreign minister, Vajpayee became the first person to deliver a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in Hindi.

Vajpayee was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India in 1996 first time, but the BJP failed to muster enough support from other parties to obtain a majority. He resigned after 13 days, when it became clear that he could not garner a majority.

He again became PM in 1998 who led the National Democratic Alliance. His government lost the ensuing vote of confidence motion in the Lok Sabha by a single vote in 1999.

He became Prime minister of India third time in 1999. His government last for 5 years. But his party unable to form the government after 2004 elections.

During his term, India conducted five underground nuclear tests in Pokhran. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, Golden Quadrilateral (Swarna Chathurbhji) etc introduced by his government.

Delhi-Lahore bus, Agra summit are his trails to made peace with Pakistan. kargil war with Pakistan, 2001 attack on parliament, 2002 Gujarat violence, Indian airlines hijack were the notable incidents during his term.

MODEL QUESTIONS

1. How many people availed MUDRA LOAN as per the Independence speech of Modi?
1) 10 crore 2) 3 crore 3) 13 crore 4) 1.3 crore
5) 13 Lakh
2. PM hoped India send manned spacecraft to the space by?
1) 2022 2) 2025 3) 2024 4) 2030
5) 2050

3. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Abhiyan (Ayushman Bharat), the health care program cover how many people as per Modi speech?
- 1) 50 crore people
2) 20 crore people
3) 1 crore people
4) 5 crore people
5) 100 crore people
4. The highest award received by Atal Bihari Vajpayee is?
- 1) Padma Ratna
2) Padma Vibhushan
3) Padma Bhushan
4) Padma Sree
5) Bhart Ratna
5. Vajpayee birth place is?
- 1) Gandhi Nagar
2) Gwalior
3) Thane
4) Pune
5) Delhi
6. Where is Pokhran?
- 1) Gujrat
2) Assom
3) Rajasthan
4) Uttar Pradesh
5) Maharashtra
7. Which scheme introduced by Vajpayee government to bring Universal Elementary Education?
- 1) Madhyamika Siksha Abhiyan
2) Uccharitha Siksha Abhiyan
3) Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan
4) Operation Flood
5) MGNREGA
8. Michelle Bachelet was the former president of Chile. What is the capital of Chile?
- 1) Buenos Aires
2) Havana
3) Santiago
4) Lima
5) Bogota
9. The currency of Chile?
- 1) Dollar
2) Rupee
3) Pound
4) Euro
5) Peso
10. Where is the head quarters of Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)?
- 1) Paris
2) Rome
3) Geneva
4) New York
5) Washington
11. Which Indian origin woman worked as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) between 2008-2014?
- 1) Vijay Laxmi Pandit
2) Neeru Chadha
3) Navanethem "Navi" Pillay
4) Akila Somasegar
5) Anjula Acharia-Bath
12. Island Development Agency (IDA) chaired by ...?
- 1) Prime minister
2) President of India
3) Union minister of Tourism
4) Home minister
5) Union minister of Tribal Welfare

13. Present Home minister Rajnath Singh elected to Loksabha from?
1) Lucknow 2) Philbith 3) Varanasi 4) Vidisha
5) Poorvi Champaran
14. Island Development Agency (IDA) was established on?
1) 1st January 2012 2) 1st April 2016
3) 15th August 2011 4) 1st June 2017
5) 12th April 1992
15. India's humanoid robot 'Rashmi' developed by?
1) Agnihothri Baldeven 2) Ram Mohan Rao Jamili
3) Kesava Thone 4) Ranjit Srivastava
5) Santhosh Pardhu
16. World's first humanoid citizen "Sophia" was granted citizen ship by.....?
1) India 2) Australia 3) Saudi Arabia 4) UK
5) Romania
17. Sophia is a social humanoid robot developed by which Hong Kong based company?
1) DiFACTO Robotics 2) Bostaon Dynamics
3) Adept Technology 4) Hanson Robotics
5) Axim Robotics

KEY

1-3; 2-1; 3-1; 4-5; 5-2; 6-3; 7-3; 8-3; 9-5; 10-3; 11-3; 12-4; 13-1; 14-4; 15-4; 16-3; 17-4.

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