

## GK Digest - Third Week of Dec '17 (18-24th)

### International Affairs

#### **Iraq Overtakes Saudi Arabia as Top Oil Supplier to India**

- Iraq overtook Saudi Arabia for the first time to become India's top crude oil supplier in the current fiscal, according to the Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Saudi Arabia traditionally has been India's top oil source but in the April-October period of 2017-18, Iraq dethroned it, supplying 25.8 million tonnes (MT) of oil.

#### **Global Innovation Index- India Ranked 60th Most Innovative Country, Switzerland Tops**

- India currently ranks 60th out of 127 countries on the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2017 as compared to 66th rank on GI 2016.
- The list was topped by Switzerland. NITI Aayog, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) together launched a mega initiative "India Innovation Index".



## France Passes Law to Ban all Oil and Gas Production by 2040

- France's parliament has approved a law banning all exploration and production of oil and natural gas by 2040 within the country and its overseas territories.
- Under that law that passed a final vote, existing drilling permits will not be renewed and no new exploration licenses will be granted.

## National Affairs

### West Bengal Government decides to renovate rural roads as panchayat election approaching the state

- West Bengal government is also gearing up efforts to win the hearts of rural people.
- The state government has decided to provide Rs 2,700 crore to widen and renovate 3,000km of rural roads.
- Rural connectivity is not at all impressive in various parts of West Bengal. Zilla Parishad maintained roads which are in not so good condition have been taken over by the state public works department recently at the instruction of the chief minister Mamata Banerjee.



## **Made-In-India Surface-to-Air Missile QRSAM successfully test fired from Odisha coast**

- Made-In-India' Surface-to-Air Missile QRSAM was successfully test fired by the Defence Research and Development Organisation from a defense base off Odisha coast.
- The homegrown canister-based high-speed weapon system can deceive enemy radars making it difficult to be detected, is capable of destroying aerial targets, tanks, bunkers and short-range missiles.

## **Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurates Eastern India's First CNG Stations**

- Oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurated eastern India's first compressed natural gas (CNG) stations for scooters in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- Pradhan inaugurated two CNG stations for scooters and three-wheelers at Chandrasekharpur and Patia area in Bhubaneswar.
- The minister also launched CNG-run scooters.

## **Union Cabinet approves continuation of National AYUSH Mission**

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for continuation of centrally sponsored scheme of National AYUSH Mission (NAM) from April 2017 to March 2020.



- The NAM was launched in September 2014. It is being implemented by Ministry of AYUSH with the objective of providing cost-effective universal access to AYUSH Services.
- The main aims to address gaps in health services through supporting efforts of State/UTs for providing AYUSH health services and education in country.

## Agreements and Mou

### Skill Development Ministry and Maruti Suzuki Sign MoU to Impart Skill Training

- The Skill Development Ministry and Maruti Suzuki have signed an agreement to impart training to youth and enhance their employment potential.
- As part of the agreement with the Directorate General of Training, DGT, Maruti Suzuki will ensure that not less than 80 percent of trainees are placed with Maruti Suzuki or its business partners.

### Andhra Pradesh Government Signs Agreements With Alphabet X

- The government of Andhra Pradesh entered into an agreement with the moonshot factory of Alphabet (earlier Google) X to bring the breakthrough Free Space Optical Communication (FSOC) technology in order to provide internet through the government Fibergrid project.



- This association with X labs to implement FSOC in AP is first of its kind in the world to provide wireless internet connection at a higher speed of up to 20 Gbps and to a distance of up to 20 kms.

## **India and Myanmar Ink MoU for Development of Rakhine State**

- India and Myanmar signed MoU on Rakhine State Development Programme and on Government to Government agreement on long-term socio-economic development of the state.
- This MoU is the first G to G agreement signed by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar.
- Under this MoU, Government of India proposes to take up, among others, a project to build prefabricated housing in Rakhine State so as to meet the immediate needs of returning people

## **Assam Signs MoU with Isha Foundation to Save Rivers**

- The Assam government signed an MoU with Isha Foundation to conserve and rejuvenate the rivers of Assam.
- Assam became the sixth state in the country to sign MoU with non-profit making and spiritual organization, the Isha foundation.



## Business

### **OBOPAY Gets Pre-Paid Instrument Licence from Reserve Bank of India**

- OBOPAY announced that the company has secured a licence for Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI) from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate a semi-closed loop wallet in the country.
- The company would also be using the licence to increase business in its B2B (business-to-business) operations by co-branding the prepaid instrument with a partner brand.

### **Bharti Airtel to buy Millicoms Operations in Rwanda**

- Bharti Airtel Limited entered into a definitive agreement with Millicom International Cellular S.A. under which Airtel Rwanda Ltd will acquire 100% equity in Tigo Rwanda Ltd.
- This comes after Airtel's announcement to merge with Millicom, which operates the brand Tigo, in another African nation Ghana.



## HDFC Bank to raise Rs 24,000 crore through sale of shares to fund growth

- HDFC Bank its board had given nod to raise Rs 24,000 crore through a preferential issue of shares to its promoter HDFC Ltd and by issuing shares and depository receipts to fund the bank's growth plans.
- The general meeting on February 19 to seek approval of its shareholders. "For this purpose, the board has authorized a special committee to decide terms and conditions," said the statement. According to the bank's fundraising plan, around Rs 8,500 crore worth of shares of the face value of Rs 2 each will be issued to mortgage lender and promoter HDFC Bank.

## SBI Card and Bharat Petroleum Launch BPCL SBI Card

- SBI Card, the credit card issuer and Bharat Petroleum, the leading petroleum company in India announced the launch of the BPCL SBI Card – the most rewarding fuel co-branded credit card in the country.
- The BPCL SBI Card will offer up to 70 litres of free fuel per year to cardholders.



## Books

### **Bengali Poet Joy Goswami to Get 31st Moortidevi Award**

Eminent Bengali poet Joy Goswami will be given the 31st Moortidevi Award for the year 2017.

The committee, headed by poet and scholar Satya Vrat Shastri, unanimously decided to confer the award upon Goswami for his poetry collection titled Du Dondo Phowara Matro.

## Sports

### **French Man Sails Around the World in 42 Days, Breaks World Record**

- Frenchman Francois Gabart smashed the world record for the fastest non-stop solo navigation of the globe, completing the mammoth feat in 42 days, 16 hours, 40 minutes and 35 seconds.
- The 34-year-old sailor crossed a virtual finish line drawn between the island of Ushant off France's northwest tip and Lizard Point in southwest England at 0145 GMT, comfortably beating the previous record set by compatriot Thomas Coville last year by six days and 10 hours.





## Badminton Junior Nationals: Aakarshi Kashyap Won U-17 & U-19 Singles Titles

- India's top-ranked junior shuttler Aakarshi Kashyap won U-17 and U-19 singles titles at Badminton junior Nationals in Guwahati, Assam.
- In Under-17 category, 16-year-old from Bhilai defeated Malvika Bansod in the final. In under 19 categories final, Kashyap has beaten Vaidehi Choudhari.

## India Finishes 1st at Junior Boxing Championship in Germany

- Indian junior boxers clinched total 11 Medals (six gold, four silver and a bronze medal) at the fifth International Sven Lange Memorial Tournament to finish as overall champions in the German city of Schwerin.
- Bhavesh Kattamani (52kg) picked up the best boxer trophy along with his gold medal. In the three-day tournament, the other gold-medallists for India were Vijeydeep (63kg), Akshay (60kg), Ish Pannu (70kg), Lakshay Chahar (80kg) and Vinit (75kg). India was named the tournament's best team.

## Lionel Messi Beats Ronaldo To La Liga Best Player Award

- Lionel Messi, the star forward of Barcelona, has received La Liga's top scorer and best player awards for the 2016-2017 football season.



- The Argentine beat rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who guided Real Madrid to their first title since 2012 in the recent campaign.

### **Birmingham to Host Commonwealth Games in 2022**

- The Birmingham city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2022.
- The 2022 Commonwealth Games were originally given to Durban in 2015, but the South African city was stripped of the event this year because of financial difficulties.

## **Important Days**

### **Nation Celebrated Kisan Diwas is celebrated 23rd December**

Kisan Diwas (Farmer's Day) is observed every year on 23 December to celebrate the birth anniversary of the fifth prime minister.

He was the PM of India for a very short tenure starting from 28th of July 1979 until 14th January 1980.

### **International Migrants Day is observed on 18 December**

- The International Migrants Day is organized across the world on 18th December.
- The theme for IMD 2017 is 'Safe Migration in a World on the Move.'



- On 4 December 2000, the General Assembly proclaimed 18 December as International Migrants Day.

## National Mathematics Day is observed on 22nd December

- The famed Mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan's birth anniversary on December 22 is celebrated as National Mathematics Day.
- It was in 2012 that then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh declared December 22 as National Mathematics Day. In 1917, Ramanujan was elected to be a member of the London Mathematical Society.
- In 1918 he also became a Fellow of the Royal Society, becoming the youngest person to achieve the feat. He passed away on April 6, 1920.



## Important Quiz Questions - Week

**1) Which country is declared as as Polio Free by World Health Organisation ?**

- a) Gabon
- b) Angola
- c) South Sudan
- d) Rwanda

**2) Which union Minister Inaugurated Eastern India's First CNG Stations ?**

- a) Shri Arun jaitley
- b) Shri Suresh prabhu
- c) Shri Rajesh Sharma
- d) Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

**3) Which network to buy Millicoms Operations in Rwanda ?**

- a) Bharti Airtel
- b) Idea
- c) Vodafone
- d) Jio

### Answers

1) D 2) D 3) A



- 4) Which state Signed MoU with Isha Foundation to Save Rivers ?
- a) Gujarat
  - b) Assam
  - c) West bengal
  - d) Bihar
- 5) Which state Government Signed agreement With Alphabet X ?
- a) Andhra Pradesh
  - b) Kerala
  - c) West bengal
  - d) Bihar
- 6) Which country Passes Law to Ban all Oil and Gas Production by 2040 ?
- a) France
  - b) Australia
  - c) Paris
  - d) South Africa
- 7) Who won the La Liga Best Player Award recently ?
- a) Lionel Messi
  - b) Christana Ronaldo
  - c) Matt Andrews
  - d) Kim oden

### Answers

4) B 5) A 6) A 7) A



**8) Which city to host Commonwealth Games in 2022 ?**

- a) Sydney
- b) Birmingham
- c) New york
- d) Italy

**9) Which missile was successfully test fired from Odisha coast recently ?**

- a) Made-In-India' Surface-to-Air Missile QRSAM
- b) Agni II
- c) Agni VI
- d) Surya Missile

**10) Which bank combined with Bharat Petroleum to Launch credit card recently ?**

- a) SBI Card
- b) Kotak Mahindra Bank Card
- c) Dena Bank Card
- d) ICICI Bank Card

**11) Which ministry opens its arms to boost the exports of Ayurvedic products ?**

- a) Ministry of Telecommunication
- b) Ministry of Health and Affairs
- c) Ministry of Ayush
- d) Ministry of External Affairs

**Answers**

**8) B 9) B 10) A 11) C**



**12) Which city to Host 7th International Coffee Festival recently ?**

- a) Bengaluru
- b) Chennai
- c) Kolkata
- d) Patna

**13) Which state Celebrates 56th Liberation Day?**

- a) Goa
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Madhya Pradesh

**14) Which country Overtakes Saudi Arabia as Top Oil Supplier to India?**

- a) Iraq
- b) Pakistan
- c) India
- d) Saudi Arabia

**15) Which poet to Get 31st Moortidevi Award recently ?**

- a) Radhakrishnan
- b) Joy Goswami
- c) Kolakaluri Enoch
- d) P Veerendra Kumar

### Answers

12) A 13) A 14) A 15) B



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