

GK DIGEST – 4th Week of DECEMBER 2017

December 25-31, 2017

International Affairs

World's Longest Glass Bridge Opened in China

- The world's longest glass bridge opened in China to the public. It has a capacity to hold 2000 people, only 500 would be allowed at a time.
- It is located in Shijiazhuang, the magnificent bridge lies 218 meters above hanging between the two cliffs in Hongya Gu Scenic Area in Pingshan county.
- The bridge is 488 meters long and 2 meters wide, with two dragon statues on top that could produce smoke. Another 430 meters long and 6 meters wide bridge was opened last year in the Grand Canyon Scenic Area in Zhangjiajie, China.

Indo-Maldives Joint Exercise Ekuverin Concluded

- The two-week long eighth edition of the Indo-Maldives joint military exercise, 'Ekuverin', came to an end at Belagavi, Karnataka.
- 'Ekuverin' means 'friends' in the Maldivian language. The bilateral annual exercise was a 14-day joint military training between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).
- The exercise has been held alternatively in India and Maldives since 2009.

National Affairs

Incredible India Nation earns 1,60,865 Crores from its Foreign Atithis this year

- Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and an important source of foreign exchange earnings in many countries including India.
- However, as the tourism is flourishing, the country's economy is also getting a massive hike.

- Notably, Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) during the period January-November 2017 were 90.01 lakh with a growth of 15.6% while Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) during the period January-November 2017 were Rs.1,60,865 Crore with a growth of 16.9% over same period of previous year.
- India's rank in the Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Index (TTCI) 2017 has also shown 25 places jump from 2013. The Rank of India in TTCI Report of 2017 was 40th as compared to 52nd in 2015 and 65th in 2013.

Mumbai Gets India's First Ever AC Local Train

- Mumbai got India's first ever AC suburban local train as Christmas gift.
- The first service of the 12-coach EMU will commence between Borivali and Churchgate.
- The first and twelfth coaches from Churchgate end are earmarked as ladies coaches.
- This will be the first train with automatic doors in the suburban system.
- Out of 12 services of AC Local train, 8 will run fast and will only halt at major stations. The services of AC local train will replace existing 12 non-AC services.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launched e-HRMS on Good Governance Day

- The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the electronic-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) in New Delhi. He launched it during the observance of Good Governance Day by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions.
- The Minister launched the 25 applications of 5 modules of the system.
- The e-service book launched for DoPT during March 2017 will also be integrated into the e-HRMS.

Bengaluru Becomes First Indian City to have its Own Logo

- Karnataka's capital city Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to have its own logo after the state government launched it.
- The logo was designed by a start-up and uses both English and Kannada alphabets with red and black colors.
- With this, Bengaluru joins a select group of global cities like New York City, Melbourne and Singapore to have a tourism logo of its own.

Agreements and MoU

Uttar Pradesh Government Signs MoU with South Korea

- The Uttar Pradesh government signed a MoU with South Korea to enhance cooperation in the field of tourism, skill development, culture, and farming.
- An agreement was signed in 2000 to develop Ayodhya and Gimhae as sister cities, following which a memorial was constructed in Ayodhya which is visited by a large number of tourists from South Korea every year.

Three Hundred Eighteen Million Loan Agreement Signed with World Bank for Farmers in Tamil Nadu

- The Government of India and the World Bank signed a \$318 million loan agreement for the Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project to promote climate resilient agriculture technologies to improve water management practices and increase market opportunities for small and marginal farmers.
- About 500,000 farmers, of which a majority are small and marginal, are expected to benefit from improved and modernized tank irrigation systems.
- The \$318 million loan from the IBRD has a 5-year grace period and a maturity of 19 years.

India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for UP Tourism Project

- An agreement for IBRD Credit of USD 40 Million from World Bank for “U.P. Pro-Poor Tourism Development Project” was signed between India and the World Bank.
- The programme size is approximately USD 57.14 million, of which USD 40 million will be financed by the Bank, and the remaining amount will be funded out of State Budget.
- The programme duration is 5 years. The Project Objective is to increase tourism-related benefits for local communities in targeted destinations.
- The major districts under attractions in Uttar Pradesh are Agra, Mathura, Vrindavan, Barsana, and Govardhan in the Braj region.

Bank of Baroda Enters into MoU with POORTI Agri Services Private Limited

- Bank of Baroda entered into MoU with POORTI Agri Services Pvt. Ltd to enable the farmers to purchase agricultural inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, etc. provided by POORTI.
- This is a Platform for Online Ordering & Rural Transformation of India known as “POORTI”. Poorti is a well-established company providing multi-party mobile commerce platform for easy ordering of fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds by farmers with loans given by banks.

Business

Amazon Acquires Connected Security Camera Maker 'Blink'

- Amazon bought an Andover, Massachusetts-based company 'Blink' that makes Internet-connected doorbells and security cameras.
- The move could help Amazon compete in the fast-growing home security camera market and against similar devices made by Nest, a subsidiary of Google parent company Alphabet.

Paytm Becomes India's First Payments App to Cross 100M Downloads on Play Store

- India's largest mobile-first financial services platform, Paytm announced that its app crossed the 100 million milestones on Google Play Store in the second week of December 2017.
- This makes Paytm the country's first payments app to cross the 100 million downloads mark.

SEBI Caps Cross-Shareholding in Rating Agencies at 10%

- Markets regulator SEBI stated that cross-holding in credit rating agencies (CRAs) will be capped at 10 percent and also decided to raise the minimum net worth requirement to Rs. 25 crore from the current Rs. 5 crore.
- Also, the board of SEBI has approved a slew of measures for tightening the financial and operational eligibility of the promoters of CRAs, besides greater disclosure requirements for them.

Pluto Exchange Launched India's First Bitcoin Trading App

- Cryptocurrency dealer 'Pluto Exchange' announced the launch of India's first mobile application for transacting in virtual currencies.
- The Pluto Exchange mobile app offers a solution to the coordination problem between payment processors, financial gateways, and banks.
- The app would permit a range of transactions, including payments, remittances, business-to-business commerce, supply chain finance, asset management, and trading.

Sports

Indian Boxers won 5 Medals at Galym Boxing Tournament

- Indian boxers have claimed three gold, a silver, and a bronze medal at the Galym Zharylgapov Boxing Tournament in Karaganda, Kazakhstan.

- In the event, the country's Gold Medal winners were K Shyam Kumar in 49kg, Naman Tanwar in 91kg, and Satish Kumar in the 91 kg category claimed gold medals.
- The 19-year-old Naman Tanwar was also adjudged the best boxer of the tournament.

Viswanathan Anand Wins World Rapid Chess Championship

- India's ace chess player Viswanathan Anand won the World Rapid Chess tournament title in Saudi Arabia by beating Russia's Vladimir Fedoseev 2-0 in a two-game tie-break.
- Saudi Arabia hosted the world chess tournament for the first time.
- The women's title was won by China's Ju Wenjun.
- Dronavalli Harika was the best-placed Indian, finishing 19th.

Anisa Won Women's 25m Pistol with New National Record

- Haryana shooter Anisa Sayyed won the women's 25m pistol gold with a new record at the ongoing 61st National Shooting Championship Competitions (61st NSCC) in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- Anisa shot a new finals national record score of 33 to prevail over the Maharashtra duo of Shital Shivaji Thorat and Rahi Sarnobat, who won the silver and bronze medals, respectively, at the National Games Shooting Range.

Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

1. India's First Runway on 'Sea Bridge' is located in?

- Mumbai
- Kolkata
- Lakshadweep Islands
- Kerala

2. Which city gets India's First Ever AC Local Train?

- Mumbai

- Chennai
- Kolkata
- Hyderabad

3. How many medals were secured by Indian Boxers at Galym Boxing Tournament?

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 12

4. Which company acquired Connected Security Camera Maker 'Blink'?

- a. Amazon
- b. Flipkart
- c. Snapdeal
- d. Jabong

5. Which country hosted World Chess Games 2017?

- a. Australia
- b. Saudi Arabia
- c. Iran
- d. Pakistan

6. How many millions Loan Agreement was signed with World Bank for Farmers in Tamil Nadu recently?

- a. 318
- b. 250
- c. 360
- d. 480

7. Four Major Development Projects in Andhra Pradesh was recently inaugurated by?

- a. Shri Ram Nath Govind
- b. Shri Arun Jaitley
- c. Shri Vijay Prakash
- d. Shri Suresh Prabhu

8. Which payments bank became India's First Payments App to cross 100 M downloads on Play Store?

- a. Paytm
- b. Findeal
- c. Equitas
- d. Mahindra

9. Who won Women's 25m Pistol with New National Record ?

- a. Shital Shivaji
- b. Rahi Sarnobat
- c. Anisa Sayyed
- d. Anjali Bhagwat

10. Which country successfully Test-Fired AAD Supersonic Interceptor Missile?

- a. India
- b. Pakistan
- c. South Africa
- d. Russia

11. How many crores did Incredible India Nation earned from its Foreign Atithis this year?

- a. 1,60,385
- b. 1,50,456
- c. 58,000
- d. 95,000

12. Which bank signed a MoU with POORTI Agri Services Private Limited?

- a. Canara Bank
- b. Bank of Baroda
- c. Dena Bank
- d. Federal Bank

13. How many percentage did SEBI Caps Cross-Shareholding holds in Rating Agencies?

- a. 10%
- b. 5%
- c. 15%
- d. 20%

14. Which exchange launched India's First Bitcoin Trading App?

- a. Pluto Exchange
- b. Shanghai Stock Exchange
- c. London Stock Exchange
- d. Hong Kong Stock Exchange

15. Which chess player won the World Rapid Chess Championship recently?

- a. Krishnan Sasikiran
- b. Naresh Iyer
- c. Viswanathan Anand
- d. Sathish Sharan

16. Which institute is to launch 31 satellites in single mission on January 10, 2018?

- a. ISRO
- b. NASA
- c. SPARTAN
- d. SPIC

17. Who launched Startup Incubation Centre in Mangalore?

- a. Shri Nirmala Sitharaman
- b. Shri Swathi Narayanan
- c. Shri Sushma Swaraj
- d. Shri Nithya Narayana

18. Which bill was recently passed by the Parliament?

- a. Repealing and Amending (Second) Bill, 2017
- b. Central Road Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2017

- c. Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment) Bill, 2017
- d. Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Amendment Bill, 2017

19. Which ministry launched Regional Project to tackle stubble burning?

- a. Ministry of Telecommunication
- b. Ministry of Sports
- c. Ministry of Environment
- d. Ministry of External Affairs

20. Which country successfully tested its first Photovoltaic road?

- a) China
- b) Pakistan
- c) Saudi Arabia
- d) Russia

Answers

1) C; 2) A; 3) A; 4) A; 5) B; 6) A; 7) A; 8) A; 9) C; 10) A; 11) A; 12) B; 13) A; 14) A; 15) C; 16) B; 17) A; 18) A; 19) C; 20) A

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