

[CURRENT AFFAIRS – 16 JULY 2018]

Question1: Recently, Raghunath Mohapatra was nominated as a member of Rajya Sabha by President Ramnath Kovind. Mohapatra is related to which of the following fields?

- [A] Odia Literature
- [B] Sculpture
- [C] Agriculture Research
- [D] Bengali Cinema

Correct Answer: B

Notes:

Recently, President Ram Nath Kovind has nominated 4 Rajya Sabha members viz. Farmer leader and former MP Ram Shakal, sculptor Raghunath Mohapatra, classical dancer Sonal Mansingh and Founder of Delhi-based “India Policy Foundation” Rakesh Sinha. Raghunath Mohapatra is an internationally renowned sculptor famous for his stone carvings. Practicing since 1959, Mr. Mohapatra has trained over 2000 students. He has contributed to the preservation of traditional sculpture and ancient monuments, and has worked on the beautification of the Sri Jagannath Temple, Puri. Mr. Mohapatra’s famous works include a six-foot high statue of the Sun God carved in grey sandstone in the Central Hall of Parliament, the lotus carving at Vir Bhoomi memorial of Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, and the Wooden Buddha in Paris.

Question2: The Kutchi New Year is celebrated as which of the following?

- [A] Uttrayan
- [B] Bestu Varas
- [C] Bishuva Sankranti
- [D] Aashadhi Beej

Correct Answer: D

Notes:

Kutchi community celebrates its New Year on Aashadhi Beej, which falls in month of Ashada (July / August).

Question3: ‘I am not afraid of English’ initiative has been launched by which state recently?

- [A] Rajasthan
- [B] Haryana
- [C] Punjab
- [D] Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: B

Notes:

Haryana has launched ‘I am not afraid of English’ initiative to make primary school students fluent in English.

Question4: Under which of the following international organizations, the “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” has been finalized recently?

- [A] United Nations
- [B] International Refugee Organization
- [C] Refugees International
- [D] None of the above

Correct Answer: A

Notes:

For the first time ever, United Nations Member States have agreed an all-encompassing “Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration” to better manage international migration, address its challenges, strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development.

Question5: World’s largest visa centre has been opened in which of the following cities recently?

- [A] New Delhi
- [B] Dhaka
- [C] Islamabad
- [D] Bangkok

Correct Answer: B

Notes:

India’s home minister Rajnath Singh has recently inaugurated the world’s largest state-of-the-art visa centre in Dhaka with modern facilities, promising shorter waiting times for applicants. This Integrated centre at Jamuna Future Park (JFP), Dhaka is the largest Indian visa centre in the world with 18,500 square feet commercial area.

Question6: Which country has taken the seat vacated by United States at the UN Human Rights Council?

- [A] New Zealand
- [B] South Africa
- [C] Iceland
- [D] Norway

Correct Answer: C

Notes:

The UN members have unanimously elected Iceland to take a seat on the world body’s 47-member Human Rights Council. US had left the UNHRC in June, 2018 calling it a cesspool of political bias for its criticism of Israeli regime’s crimes against Palestinians.

Question7: Bansagar Dam project is a joint venture between which of these three states?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar
- [B] Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan
- [C] Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
- [D] Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: A

Notes:

On 15 July, 2018, the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Bansagar canal project in Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh. This dam project is a joint venture between Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and includes a total canal network of 171 kms. These canals will bring waters from Shahdol district in Madhya Pradesh for Adwa Barrage, Meza Dam and Jirgo reservoir. The

project promises to be greatly beneficial for the farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts of Uttar Pradesh. It would hopefully benefit 1 lakh 70 thousand farmers of Mirzapur and Allahabad districts.

Question8: Recently, ISRO successfully tested the high thrust version of the Vikas Engine at its Propulsion Complex (IPRC) in Tamil Nadu's Mahendragiri. Vikas Engine is a useful liquid rocket engine powering which of the following?

- [A] PSLV
- [B] GSLV
- [C] GSLV Mk-III
- [D] All of Above

Correct Answer: D

Notes:

Vikas (acronym for VIKram Ambalal Sarabhai) Engine is the workhorse liquid rocket engine powering the second stage of India's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), second stage and the four strap on stages of Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and the twin engine core liquid stage (L110) of GSLV Mk-III.

Question9: As per the Census 2011 data, 24,821 people in India have registered Sanskrit as their mother tongue (in comparison to 14,135 in Census 2001). In which of the following states of India, Sanskrit is an official language?

- [A] Karnataka
- [B] Maharashtra
- [C] Madhya Pradesh
- [D] Uttarakhand

Correct Answer: D

Notes:

Sanskrit is one of the languages in the Eighth Schedule and is also an official language in Uttarakhand.

Question10: United Nations' World Youth Skills Day is observed on which of the following dates?

- [A] 15 July
- [B] 16 July
- [C] 17 July
- [D] 18 July

Correct Answer: A

Notes:

World Youth Skills Day is celebrated on 15th July every year. This day is celebrated to expand awareness on the importance of investing in youth skills development. The United Nations General Assembly decided in resolution A/RES/69/145 to depute 15 July as World Youth Skills Day.