

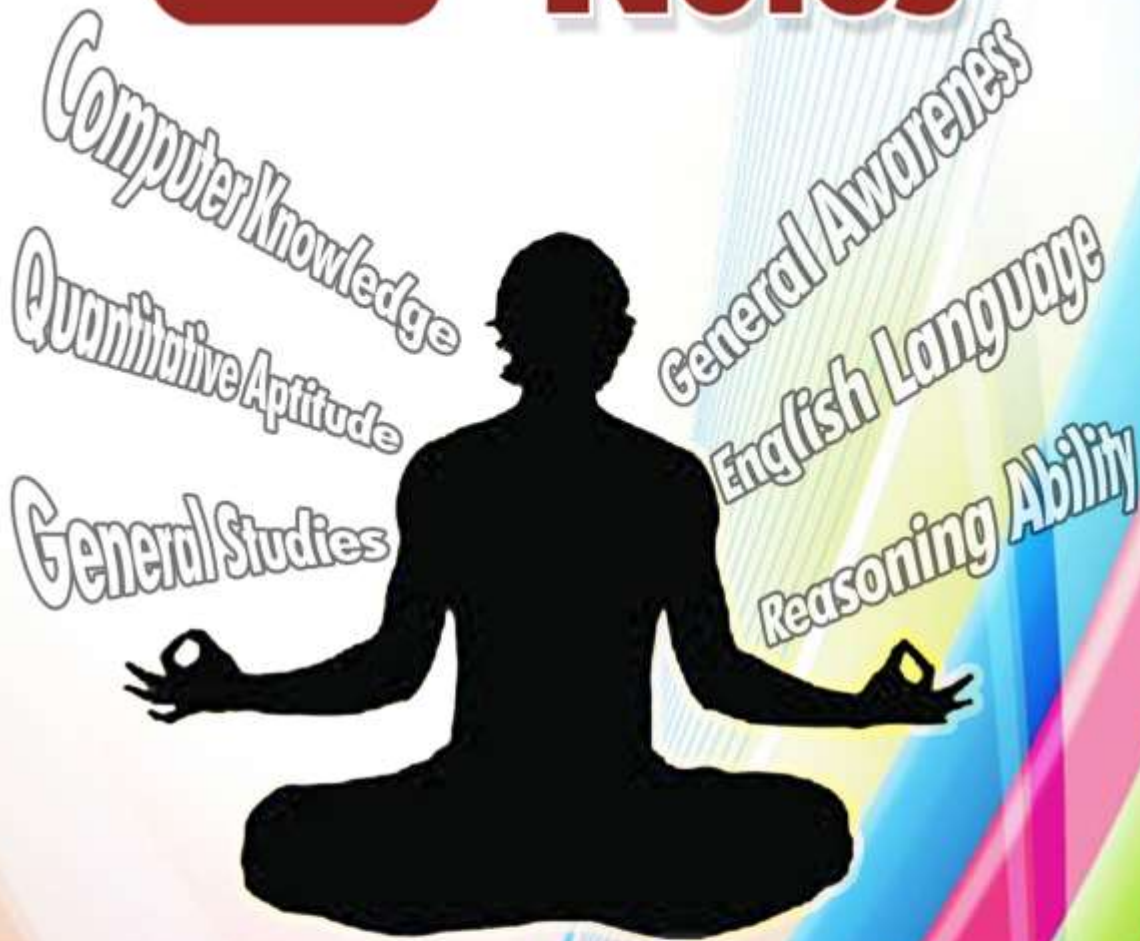
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General Awareness

Topic : Most Important Updates

Amitav Ghosh gets life-time achievement award at Lit Fest

Eminent writer Amitav Ghosh was bestowed with the life-time achievement award at Tata Literature Live, the Mumbai LitFest. Meanwhile, Arvind Adiga's 'Selection Day' won the book of year in fiction, whereas 'The Gene' penned by Siddhartha Mukherjee won an award in the non-fiction category.

Thai Princess conferred first World Sanskrit Award

Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand has been conferred the first World Sanskrit Award for her contribution towards promotion of the language. The award, instituted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), is presented to eminent Sanskrit scholars to recognize their outstanding contribution to the study/teaching /research in Sanskrit language and literature.

Woman referee receives AFC special award

In a rare development for Indian football, woman assistant referee Uvena Fernandes was awarded the AFC Referees Special Award at a function in Kuala Lumpur. She is the first Indian assistant referee to ever officiate in any FIFA World Cup.

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar commission's new warship INS Chennai

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar commissioned INS Chennai, the third indigenously designed guided missile destroyer in the Kolkata class. With an overall length of 164 metres and displacement of over 7,500 tons, INS Chennai is one of the largest destroyers in the Indian Navy's fleet.

India successfully test-fires twin trial of Prithvi-II missile

India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile twice in quick succession as part of a user trial by the army from a test range at Chandipur in Odisha.

Chandrababu Naidu inaugurates 5 Megawatt solar power plant in West Godavari

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu commissioned a 5 MW solar power plant on the Polavaram right canal bund at Gollagudem village in West Godavari district. The plant, set up at a cost of Rs 37.58 Crore in 37 acres, will produce 8.06 million units of power annually.

Andy Murray beats Novak Djokovic to win the ATP World Tour

Britain's Andy Murray beat five-time champion Novak Djokovic to win his first ATP World Tour Finals title and end 2016 as the world number one.

Indian-American felicitated with interfaith leadership award

Azamgarh-born Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist Frank Islam has been felicitated with the Interfaith Leadership Award for his contributions towards the arts and higher education and support of interfaith dialogue.

Pankaj Patel elected FICCI President for 2017

Zyduz Cadila CMD Pankaj Patel has been elected president of industry body FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) for 2017 and will take over once the incumbent Ambuja Neotia Group Chairman Harshavardhan Neotia completes his term next month.

Ex-Governor of Madhya Pradesh Ram Naresh Yadav dies

Former Madhya Pradesh Governor Ram Naresh Yadav passed away. He was 90. Yadav served as the Madhya Pradesh Governor from

Czech film director selected for Lifetime Achievement award

World renowned Czech film director Jiri Menzel will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at this year's International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK). Menzel, a member of the Czech New Wave, is also a well-known theatre director, actor and screenwriter.

India successfully test-fires Agni-I ballistic missile

India successfully test-fired its indigenously built nuclear-capable intermediate range 'Agni-I' ballistic missile, capable of hitting a target 700 kms away, from a test range off Odisha coast as part of a user trial by the Army.

Virat Kohli moves up to career-high 4th in ICC Test rankings

Virat Kohli has moved to a career-high 4th in the ICC's Test rankings after hammering 167 and 81 in India's victory over England in the Vizag Test. Kohli has enjoyed his best year in Test cricket since his debut in 2008.

ITPO develops mobile application for international trade fair

India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO), under the commerce ministry, today said it has developed a mobile application which is providing all information about the ongoing international trade fair.

India's longest Agra-Lucknow Expressway opens with landing of IAF jets

Agra-Lucknow Expressway was thrown open to public with fighter jets of the Indian Air Force touching down on it after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav inaugurated what is now India's longest expressway. 03Mirage-2000 and 03SU-30 aircrafts of the Indian Air Force carried out a 'touch and go' on a portion of the newly constructed Agra-Lucknow Expressway.

Acclaimed physicist and ex-ISRO Chief Prof MGK Menon dies at 88

Prof MGK Menon, an acclaimed physicist, who had played a prominent role in the development of science and technology in the country over the last five decades, died. He was 88. Menon was a member of the Planning Commission (1982-1989), Scientific Adviser to the Prime Minister (1986-1989), Vice President, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) (1989-1990) and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) during 1990-96.

Maldives to ink first FTA early next year

Maldivian Vice President Abdulla Jihad, who is on a visit to India, said the country will sign its first free trade agreement early next year to boost trade and cooperation with other countries. However, he did not name any country for the FTA.

Olympic Champion Eliud Kipchoge Wins Delhi Half Marathon

As expected, Eliud Kipchoge, Kenya's reigning Olympic marathon champion bagged the winner's title in Delhi Half Marathon. While he was declared winner in men's category, Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa claimed the women's title. Kipchoge, who won the gold medal at Rio Olympics in August 2016, is considered to be one of the greatest marathon runners of all times.

Yudhvir Singh Malik new NHAI chairman

Yudhvir Singh Malik, the Special Secretary with NITI Aayog, has been appointed as new Chairman of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

Trump nominates Indian-American Nikki Haley as US envoy to UN

Nikki Haley was named as US ambassador to the United Nations by President-elect Donald Trump, becoming the first Indian-American to be appointed to a cabinet-level post in any US administration.

Cabinet gives ex post-facto nod to India-France skill pact

The Cabinet gave ex post-facto approval to a pact between India and France for cooperation in skill development, vocational education and training. The memorandum of understanding between the two countries is with respect to cooperation in skill development, vocational education and training, the source added.

IIT- Kharagpur ranked top varsity in India in international survey

For the second time in a row, IIT Kharagpur has been ranked as the top institution in the country by QS Employability Ranking, with IIT Bombay also figuring in the list of top 100 universities in the world.

The IIT Kharagpur has been ranked in the range of 71-80, the highest position among Indian institutions, out of 200 universities from across the world.

Airtel Payments Bank goes live with pilot project in Rajasthan

Airtel Payments Bank, a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel, rolled out a pilot of its banking services in Rajasthan, becoming the first payments bank to go live in the country. Customers in towns and villages in Rajasthan would now be able to open bank accounts at Airtel retail outlets, which would act as Airtel banking points and offer a range of convenient banking services.

S Korea, Japan sign controversial intelligence deal

Japan and South Korea signed a controversial agreement to share defence intelligence on North Korea, despite protests from opposition parties and activists in Seoul. South Korea's defence ministry said the accord was "necessary" in the face of growing military threats from Pyongyang, which has conducted two nuclear tests and more than 20 missile launches this year.

Portuguese PM Antonio Costa to be Chief Guest at Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The Union Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India announced that Antonio Costa, the Prime Minister of Portugal, accepted the proposal to be the Chief Guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. On the other hand, Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin, Vice President of the Republic of Suriname will be the Special Guest at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is scheduled to be held from 7 January to 9 January 2017 at Bengaluru in Karnataka. The Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas will be held on 7 January 2017.

Asia-Pacific champion Neeraj breaks into WBC rankings

Indian professional boxer Neeraj Goyat has broken into the World Boxing Council (WBC) rankings courtesy his successful defence of the welterweight Asia Pacific title last month. The Indian is currently placed 35th in the WBC list which was updated after his victory over Australian Ben Kite.

Cabinet clears proposal to set up green hospital at AIIMS

The Cabinet cleared a proposal to sign an agreement between a Japanese organization, the Finance Ministry and the Health Ministry to set up a green hospital demonstration project at AIIMS.

Karen Rolton inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

Former Australia women's captain Karen Rolton was inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame at a ceremony during the dinner break on the opening day of the third day/night Test between Australia and South Africa. Rolton is first of the four legendary cricketers who will be formally inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame this season. The other three are Muttiah Muralitharan of Sri Lanka, Australia's Arthur Morris and England's George Lohmann.

PFRDA names Vinod Pande as ombudsman

Pension regulator PFRDA has appointed Vinod Kumar Pande as Stipendiary Ombudsman, a position where he will oversee timely and effective resolution of grievances of subscribers.

Yes Bank partners GSRTC to digitize bus ticket bookings

Private sector lender Yes Bank has partnered with Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation (GSRTC) to digitize payments for booking of bus tickets. Under the partnership, Yes Bank will install over 125 PoS (Point-of-Sale) terminals to facilitate booking of tickets through credit and debit cards at all GSRTC bus depots.

N V Srinivasan new Indo-American Chamber of Commerce President

Trade body Indo-American Chamber of Commerce has appointed N V Srinivasan, NVS and Associates Managing Partner, as its National President for the period 2016-17.

Colombia signs contested new peace deal

Colombia's government and FARC rebels signed a controversial revised peace accord to end their half-century conflict, set to be ratified in Congress despite bitter opposition. Santos, who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end the conflict, said the new deal was better than the original.

Manoj Bajpayee wins best actor at Asia Pacific Screen Awards

Indian actor Manoj Bajpayee has won the best performance award by an actor at the 10th Asia Pacific Screen Awards beating Nawazuddin Siddiqui, who was awarded a special mention in the same category. Winners in the 10th Asia Pacific Screen Awards, said to be the region's highest accolade in film, were announced at a glittering ceremony in Brisbane.

Adani to spend \$300 mn on Aus solar plants; secures land deals

Indian energy giant Adani Group has struck land deals in Australia to build two solar plants collectively valued at USD 300 million in a bid to develop 1,500 MW renewable capacity in five years, even as a court today dismissed appeals against its USD 16 billion coal and mine project. The contraction of AUD 200 million (USD 150 million approximately) each solar plants in South Australia's Whyalla region and in Moranbah in the east of Australia will begin late next year, the company said.

Senior journalist Dileep Padgaonkar, 72, passes away

Veteran journalist Dileep Padgaonkar, passed away. He was 72. Padgaonkar was part of a three-member team of interlocutors appointed by the UPA government in 2010 to hold talks with all sections of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

China launches Tianlian I-04 satellite

China successfully launched the Tianlian I-04 satellite from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan province of Southwest China. This data satellite was launched on a Long March-3C carrier rocket. The launch of the Tianlian I-04 marks the 241st mission of China's Long March series of rockets.

PM Narendra Modi Lays Foundation Stone of AIIMS in Punjab

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bathinda district in Punjab. The 750-bed hospital and institute will be built at a cost of Rs 925 Crore and will be spread over 200 acres.

INOX Leisure ties up with SBI for dispensing cash

After Big Bazaar, multiplex chain INOX Leisure said that it has partnered with the State Bank of India to allow customers withdraw cash up to Rs 2,000 by using debit cards beginning.

Mariamamma Koshy appointed as new President of Hockey India

In the 41st Hockey India Executive Board meeting held, Hockey India announced Ms. Mariamma Koshy as its new President. Hockey India Secretary General, Mohd. Mushtaque Ahmad has now taken over as the Chairman of the Hockey India League Governing Board.

13th World Robot Olympiad in India for the first time

The 13th World Robot Olympiad will be held in India for the first time, with over 2,000 students from 54 countries participating to find innovative ways, using robotic technology, to reduce, manage and recycle waste that we daily generate. The World Robotic Olympiad is an event for science, technology and education which brings together young people from across the world.

Director Kanwal Sethi and Kabir Mehta win at Facebook awards

Director Kanwal Sethi and Kabir Mehta took home Facebook awards for their films as the 10th edition of NFDC Film Bazaar concluded. Sethi's "Once Again" was chosen from Work-In-Progress lab, while Mehta's Buddhagram was selected from the 32 Film Bazaar Recommends. This is the first time that the films from the Film Bazaar Recommends section have received the award.

Mobile app for fliers to register complaints launched

The Civil Aviation Ministry launched a mobile app which would enable fliers to register their complaints regarding various services. Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju launched the mobile app, AirSewa, to offer people a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience.

Vizag to host 20th National eGovernance Conference in January

Visakhapatnam will host the 20th National eGovernance Conference in January next year that would witness the participation of IT industry giants and government officials. The two-day conference, to be held on January 9 and 10, will discuss among other things Internet of Things (IoT), data analytics, cyber security and digital connectivity.

Fidel Castro, Cuba's revolutionary leader, dies

Fidel Castro has died at the age of 90, ending an era for the country and Latin America.

RBL Bank, Oxigen deploy 25 micro ATM vans for doorstep banking

Digital money wallet Oxigen and RBL Bank have joined hands to supply cash to people through micro ATMs installed in mobile vans across Delhi NCR. RBL Bank said it has commissioned Oxigen Services India, to deploy 25 of its Super PoS MicroATM on mobile vans to ease cash flow problems following demonetisation.