

Current Affairs Quiz Apr 2018

1. NTPC Inks Pact to Acquire 3 Projects in Bihar



- i. **NTPC inked a pact with Bihar** and its power utilities to acquire their entire stake in two joint ventures at Nabinagar and Kanti and to buy **Barauni thermal plant**.
- ii. The transactions would enable NTPC to have 100% stake in Nabinagar and Kanti JV projects, which is part the company's broad objective of acquiring state-owned generation units across the country.

2. NALCO Inks MoU With Government of India for FY 2018-19



- i. Aluminium major & Navratna CPSE **National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO)** has signed MoU with the **Ministry of Mines, Govt. of India**, setting highest ever target of **Rs 9350 crore** revenue from operations for FY 2018-19 which is 15% higher than 2017.
- ii. The MoU has been formulated as per **Department of Public Enterprise guidelines** and finalized after discussions with both Inter-Ministerial Committee as well as Ministry of Mines. The MoU has also set a **target of 2.1 million tons for production of Alumina** with 100% capacity utilisation & an optimum Aluminium production target of 4.15 lakh tonnes.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **Tapan Kumar Chand** is the CMD of NALCO.

3. 2-Day Regional Conference on “Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development” Held in Guwahati



- i. **The Governor of Assam, Prof. Jagdish Mukhi** inaugurated the **two-day Seminar** being organized by the **Ministry of Finance** on the theme of **“Physical and Social Infrastructure for Regional Development”** in Guwahati, Assam.
- ii. The Seminar is organized in collaboration with the **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)**, **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)** and the **Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI)**.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **Assam CM- Sarbanand Sonowal, Governor- Jagdish Mukhi.**
- **Kaziranga National Park** is situated in Assam.

4. 1st All-Woman Post Office Passport Seva Kendra Starts Operations



- i. In a first, a **Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK)** run by an all-woman team has **started operations in Phagwara, Punjab**. The seva kendra was inaugurated by **Union Minister Vijay Sampla** in the local head Post Office.
- ii. It was 192nd POPSK in the country, but the first one to be operated by an all-woman team. According to Jalandhar regional Passport Officer Harmanbir Singh Gill, the Phagwara Kendra will be headed by department's Verification Officer Madhuri Bhavi.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **Punjab CM-** Captain Amarinder Singh, **Governor-** VP Singh Badnore.

International News

5. PM Modi to Visit Russia For Informal Summit With Vladimir Putin



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit Russia on for an **informal Summit with President Vladimir Putin in Sochi city**. As per the External Affairs Ministry, this informal Summit is in keeping with the tradition of regular consultations between India and Russia at the highest level.
- This visit will be an important occasion for the two leaders to exchange views on international matters in a broad and long-term perspective.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble.

6. WHO Publishes Its 1st Essential Diagnostics List



- The World Health Organisation (WHO)** has published its first '**essential diagnostics list**', a catalogue of tests needed to diagnose the most common conditions as well as a number of global priority diseases.

ii. An estimated 46% of adults with **Type 2 diabetes** worldwide were undiagnosed, risking serious health complications and higher health costs.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the present Director General of WHO.
- WHO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

Ranks and Reports

7. India 3rd Largest Solar Market in World: Mercom Report



i. **India emerged as the third largest solar market in the world in 2017** behind **China and the US**, according to the report of **Mercom Communications India**. India has grown at a CAGR of approximately 170% since 2010.

ii. As per the report, **India set a new record with 9.6 GW of solar installations in 2017**, which was more than double the 4.3 GW installed in 2016. The robust growth boosted the country's total solar installed capacity to 19.6 GW as of December 2017.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **Mercom Communications India** is an arm of global clean energy consulting firm Mercom Capital Group.
- **Raj Prabhu** is the Group CEO of Mercom Capital.

Banking News

8. YES Bank Launches Agenda 25x25



i. **YES Bank and YES Global Institute** have launched **Agenda 25×25**, which pledges to create a synergetic startup environment for budding women entrepreneurs in India. The effort would ensure that by 2025 at least 25% of all entrepreneurs in India are women.

ii. The bank made the announcement at the YES Bank – YES Global Institute Annual Startup Conclave hosted in partnership with **NITI Aayog, Invest India, Startup India and Atal Innovation Mission.**

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- Yes Bank MD and CEO- **Rana Kapoor.**
- Head office of Yes Bank- **Mumbai.**
- YES BANK is India's **fifth largest Private Sector Bank (PSB).**

Appointments

9. Shashank Manohar to serve 2nd term as ICC chairman



i. **Former BCCI President Shashank Manohar** will serve a **second two-year term** as the independent chairman of the **International Cricket Council** after he was elected unopposed by the governing body's Board.

ii. Mr Manohar became the first independent **ICC Chairman in 2016.** According to the election process, ICC Directors were each allowed to nominate one candidate, who had to be either a present or a past **ICC Director.**

Static/Current Takeaways Important for Dena Bank PO Exam 2018-

- **The ICC** is the international governing body of cricket.
- Headquarters of ICC is in **Dubai, UAE**.
- **Dave Richardson** is CEO of the ICC.

Sci-Tech News

10. Fastest Growing Blackhole of Universe Discovered



- Scientists have discovered the **fastest-growing black hole known in the universe**, describing it as a monster that **devours (eats) a mass equivalent to our Sun every two days**.
- This black hole is growing so rapidly that it's shining thousands of times more brightly than an entire galaxy, due to all of the gases it sucks in daily that cause lots of friction and heat. The energy emitted from this newly discovered supermassive black hole, also **known as a quasar**, was mostly ultraviolet light but also radiated x-rays.
- The discovery of the new supermassive black hole was confirmed using the spectrograph on the **Australian National University (ANU) 2.3-metre telescope** to split colours into spectral lines.

Awards

11. Neymar Named France's Player of The Year



- i. **Neymar** was named as **France's player of the year at an awards ceremony in Paris, France** despite the Paris Saint-Germain superstar missing the last three months of the season due to injury.
- ii. The Brazilian, the world's most expensive player, scored 19 goals in just 20 league games for PSG before suffering a foot injury in February that required surgery.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- Neymar plays as a forward for French club Paris Saint-Germain and the Brazil national team.

12. Mark Tully To Get Red Ink Award



- i. **Senior journalist Mark Tully** will be honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the annual Red Ink Awards in Mumbai. Tully worked with the BBC for three decades and was the broadcaster's Chief of Bureau for Delhi for 20 years.
- ii. Tully was a front-running reporter for all major news breaks in South Asia like the Indo-Pakistan wars, the Bhopal gas tragedy, Operation Blue Star, assassination of Indira Gandhi and anti-Sikh riots. **Faye D'Souza, the Executive Editor of Mirror Now**, will also be given the **Journalist of the Year Award at the function**.

13. Anindita Honoured With Jayadev Rashtriya Yuva Puraskar Award



- i. **US-based Kathak dancer Anindita Anaam** was honoured with the prestigious '**Shri Jayadev Rastriya Yuva Pratibha Puraskar 2018**' for outstanding contribution to the field of art.
- ii. The award was presented to the Kathak exponent during the 'Jayadev International Dance Festival' in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**.

14. DRDO Awards 2016 & 2017 Presented by Defence Minister



- i. **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** gave away the **DRDO Awards- 2016 & 2017** to various DRDO scientists for their outstanding contributions while commemorating the **National Technology Day (11 May)**.
- ii. Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General, DRDO **Dr VK Saraswat** was given **DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2017**.
- iii. Former Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General, DRDO **Dr Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre** was awarded for **DRDO Lifetime Achievement Award – 2016**.
- iv. The Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri, Distinguished Scientist & Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) **Dr G Satheesh Reddy** was awarded for **Technology Leadership Award – 2016**. The **Chairman DRDO and Secretary Department of Defence R&D, Dr S Christopher** also addressed the function and e-launched the '**Navrachna**' implementation programme during the event.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **DRDO Chairman- S Christopher, Headquarters- New Delhi.**

Sports

15. India Wins U-16 Four-Nation Football Tournament in Serbia



- i. **Indian Under-16 National Team** was crowned champions of the **Four-Nation Tournament** held in **Serbia** after the Indian Colts **defeated Tajikistan**.
- ii. In what was a stellar start for the Indian U-16s against Tajikistan, the young colts took the lead as early as the 5th minute when Gibson lobbed the ball over the opposing custodian.

Static/Current Takeaways Important for NABARD Grade-A Exam 2018-

- **Capital-** Belgrade, **Currency-** Serbian dinar.

PINNACLE