

Abhyaas News Board ...

For the quintessential test prep student

Highlights of Union Budget 2017

Jaitley divided his budget proposal into 10 distinct themes: Farmers; rural population; energizing youth; poor and underprivileged; infrastructure; financial sector; digital economy; public service; prudent fiscal management; and tax administration.

- 10% surcharge for the 50L to 1Cr club and reduced taxes (10% to 5%) for the 2.5L – 5L income slab.
- Cash donations to political parties by a single donor restricted to Rs. 2000.
- Political parties also need to file Income Tax returns
- A fiscal deficit target of 3.2% of the GDP for projects
- 3.96 trillion rupees for infrastructure development and 2.41 trillion for transport sector
- A total of about 1.31 crores have been allocated to the railway sector, with 3500kms of railway lines commissioned already. A target to install bio-toilets in every train by 2019.
- Increased budget allocation for SCs by 35%.
- 500 Crores for Mahila Shakti Kendra.
- Abolition of TB by 2025.
- Two AIIMS in Jharkhand and Gujarat.
- Rs. 48000 for the MGNREGA scheme.
- Increased thrust on agriculture and Rs. 40000 crores for NABARD fund.
- No cash transactions above Rs. 3 lakhs.
- LNG, Solar tempered glass, vegetable tanning extracts used for tanning leather products, fuel based power generator systems set to get cheaper.
- Cashew nuts, tobacco and tobacco products, aluminium ores, silver coins set to get more expensive.

The Editor's Column

Dear Student,

British Parliament has given the first stage approval for Brexit. 5 new judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court. The former Chief Justice Altamas Kabir is no more. After a high voltage drama in Tamil Nadu, Edappadi K Palaniswami is sworn in as the Chief Minister.

The Union Budget has been presented by the Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley on 1st February for the first time.

The Academy Awards (Oscar Awards) have been announced and the musical drama La La Land wins 6 awards after being nominated under 14 categories.

Happy Reading !!



Padma Parupudi

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Persons in News

1. UK Prime Minister Theresa May has received Parliament's first stage approval to begin the process of Britain's exit from the European Union (EU) after winning a crucial vote in the House of Commons.
2. The US Senate voted to confirm Republican Senator Jeff Sessions as the next Attorney General of the United States. The Alabama senator is known for his tough stance on immigration enforcement and his early support of President Donald Trump who nominated him for the job.
3. Former soccer player Diego Maradona has been named as the new Ambassador of the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA).
4. U.S astronaut Eugene Cernan, the last man to set foot on the moon died.
5. Lakshya Sen of India has become the World No 1 Junior Badminton player. He achieved the distinction in the latest rankings of the Badminton World Federation (BWF). He is the first shuttler from Uttarakhand to attain the numero uno spot at the international level. Earlier, his brother Chirag Sen was ranked number two in the world junior badminton rankings.
6. Noted Sitar and Surbahar player Ustad Imrat Khan has turned down the Padma Shri award as he believes it comes "too late" and is not "parallel" to his "worldwide reputation and contributions"
7. Former CBI chief Joginder Singh, who oversaw investigation of several high-profile cases including Bofors scam and Bihar's fodder scam, died on 4th Feb 2017. He was a prolific writer, and penned over 25 books on various subjects after retiring from the service.
8. Racharla Samrajyam, 98-year old veteran freedom fighter, has passed away due to age-related illness at Vishakhapatnam. She was inspired by the Quit India Movement at the time when she was undergoing Hindi Pracharak training at Anantapur in 1942. She received the 'Tamra Patra' from the Union Government in the year 1972.
9. Sand artist 'Sudarsan Pattnaik' has created a 'Guinness World Record' by creating a 48.8 feet tall sand castle at Puri beach in Odisha in four days. The sculpture was built with a message of world peace and featured sculptures of Mahatma Gandhi, Gautama Buddha and Nelson Mandela. The previous record holder is an American who completed his art of 45.10 feet in seven days.
10. Five new judges were appointed to the Supreme Court, taking its working strength to 28. The new Judges are Madras High Court Chief Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, Rajasthan HC Chief Justice Naveen Sinha, Kerala HC Chief Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar, Chhattisgarh HC Chief Justice Dipak Gupta and Karnataka HC judge S Abdul Nazeer.
11. Tamil Nadu Governor C Vidyasagar Rao appointed Edappadi K Palaniswami as chief minister after replacing O Panneerselvam and requested the chief minister designate to seek the vote confidence of the assembly within 15 days. He won the trust vote in the Assembly within 3 days to continue as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
12. Nagaland People's Front (NPF) president Shurhozelie Liezeitsu was sworn in as the state's eleventh Chief Minister after the Former Chief Minister T R Zeliang stepped down from the post facing revolt from his party MLAs against the decision to reserve 33% seats for women in urban local bodies.

13. Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir passed away at the age of 68. He served as the Chief Justice of India from September, 2012 to July, 2013. He was enrolled as an advocate in 1973 and practiced in the district court and the Calcutta High Court in Civil and Criminal matters.
14. Virat Kohli became the first Indian sports personality to strike a Rs 100-crore endorsement deal with a single brand. Kohli signed an eight-year deal with sports apparel brand Puma worth Rs 110 crore. He is now set to join the likes of Usain Bolt, Asafa Powell and Thierry Henry, among others, as a global ambassador for the brand..

Places in News

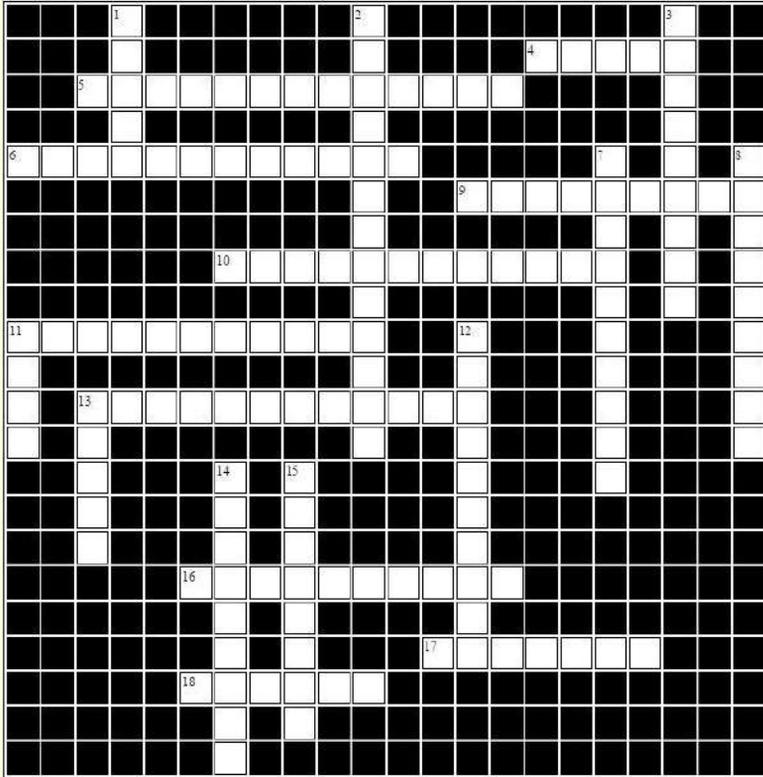
1. The tech giant Apple has reached an agreement with the Karnataka government to set up a manufacturing plant in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Apple is expected to start production for the Indian market in April.
2. In Andhra Pradesh, the first Smart Police Station, having look and feel of a corporate-style office, started functioning at Nagarampalem in the capital region of Amaravati.
3. The world's longest elevated cycle path has been opened in Xiamen, China which can handle about 2,023 cyclists with a speed limit of 15 miles per hour. The path is five miles long and 16 feet wide having 11 entrances and connects to 11 bus stops and two underground rail stations. The architecture firm responsible is Copenhagen-based firm Dissing + Weitling, known for the creation of the Danish Bicycle Snake cycle route.
4. The Union Minister for Sports Vijay Goel has laid the foundation stone of the country's first centre of excellence for differently abled sportsmen at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The centre is proposed with an estimate of 50 crores rupees and will provide World class facilities such as indoor halls, dedicated tracks and 100 bedded hostel where para athletes will be trained for various international competitions including Paralympics.
5. Arunachal Pradesh became the first state in the northeast to implement e-Cabinet solution for the state cabinet members. Using this system, state cabinet members can access the cabinet notes before the meeting.
6. Gujarat has become the first State in the country to establish Cashless System for distribution of foodgrains. The State Government has installed Aadhaar Enabled Payment System in 17250 FPSs, much before the targeted date of 31st March, 2017.
7. The Karnataka assembly unanimously passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 to legalize the conduct of 'Kambala' and bullock cart races in Karnataka. The Bill seeks to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, (Central Act 59 of 1960) and exempt the two sports from the ambit of the Act keeping in mind their traditional nature and also to protect native breeds of buffaloes.
8. Union Govt has recently allowed Assam government to use drone to stop rampant poaching of rhinos at world heritage site Kaziranga national park. In this regard, Defence Ministry has sent a set of guidelines to operate unmanned drone at Kaziranga national park to prevent poaching.
9. After transforming the lives of villagers in Puttamraju Kandriga in Andhra Pradesh, Sachin Tendulkar is now set to adopt Donja in Osmanabad (Maharashtra) under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna. Tendulkar has sanctioned over Rs 4 crore from his MPLAD fund for development of Donja.

Events of Significance

1. The Income Tax Department (CBDT) has launched an initiative Operation Clean Money for e-verification of large cash deposits made during the period from 9th November to 30th December 2016. As part of the initiative, email and SMS were sent to 18 lakh taxpayers for submitting online response on the e-filing portal.
2. American startup Planet Labs, that launches small satellites into orbit and sells the imagery, has announced its acquisition of Google's 'Terra Bella' satellite business. Terra Bella, formerly Skybox, was acquired by Google in 2014 for \$500 million.
3. China has surpassed Germany to become the world's largest producer of solar energy after nearly doubling its installed photovoltaic capacity in 2016. With the increased capacity, China generated 66.2 billion kilowatt-hours of energy last year, which however accounted for only 1% of its electrical output. The country further plans to double its current solar energy capacity by 2020.
4. Information technology giant Microsoft announced a strategic partnership with Flipkart, wherein as a first step, the online retailer will adopt Microsoft Azure as its exclusive public cloud platform. The strategic partnership was aimed at providing consumers in the country the best online shopping service.
5. NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant has launched "India Innovation Index", the nation's first online innovation index portal which will rank states based on their innovations. The index was launched in collaboration with Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
6. The technology giant Samsung has announced that it will launch its mobile payment wallet "Samsung Pay" in India in the first half of 2017. According to reports, Samsung will be partnering with American Express (Amex) to bring its mobile payment solution to India.
7. Indian Navy's survey vessel INS Sarvekshak, based at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi became the first naval ship to go green by installing a solar power system on board. It has innovatively deployed the zero-maintenance solar power system, and is capable of generating 5.4KW electricity and replacing the ship's traditional 4.4KW emergency diesel alternator.
8. The Supreme Court has clarified that the audience need not stand when the National Anthem is played as a part of the storyline of a film, newsreel or documentary. A Bench of Justices Dipak Misra and R. Banumathi made this clear after one of the petitioners said the apex court should clarify if people are expected to stand when the National Anthem is played in a film, newsreel or documentary.
9. India successfully launched record 104 satellites, including CARTOSAT-2 series weather observation satellite, in a single mission onboard PSLV-C37 rocket from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
10. On the occasion of the 75th Foundation Day, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) has come up with several digital offerings including launch of mobile wallet 'Oriental Batuaa'. OBC has also launched two new cards. While the Oriental Premium card is a RuPay based Platinum international debit card with airport lounge access, the other card-Oriental Prepaid Card is a RuPay card for individuals and corporates.
11. Payment networks such as MasterCard and Visa have joined hands with National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch Bharat QR, a common Quick Response (QR) code that would enable seamless digital payments without card swiping machines.

12. Cyber Swachhta Kendra was launched in New Delhi for Botnet cleaning and Malware analysis as a part of digital India initiative. A few cyber security tools were also launched - 'Mkavach', a mobile app to protect smart phones and tablets from hackers, USB Pratirodh – a desktop security solution to protect from USB mass storage device threats and 'AppSamvid' – a desktop solution to protect Desktops by allowing installation of genuine applications.
13. The 89th Academy Awards commonly referred to as Oscars was held at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood, Los Angeles. Musical drama La La Land won the most number of awards totaling to six at the ceremony after it was nominated into 14 categories. It was followed by Moonlight and Arrival with each being nominated in eight categories. Some of the Winners are:- Best Picture: Moonlight, Best Actress: Emma Stone (La La Land), Best Actor: Casey Affleck (Manchester By The Sea), Best Director: Damien Chazelle (La La Land). Indian actor Om Puri, Star Wars actress Carrie Fisher, Debbie Reynolds and Bill Paxton were among the late stars who were remembered and honoured at the Oscars.
14. The Haryana government has set up an online system called sex ratio monitoring dashboard as part of the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Scheme to monitor the sex ratio in the Panipat district. The system will have the data of child sex ratio collected from all villages every month in the district by the state Health and Women and Child Welfare Departments.
15. Indian Railways has unveiled Antyodaya Express, a new train for the unreserved passengers. The first Antyodaya Express is slated to start between Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Tatanagar (Jharkhand) and second between Ernakulam and Howrah.
16. The National Biodiversity Congress (NBC) 2017 was held in Thiruvananthapuram, capital of Kerala. NBC is one of the significant biodiversity mega events of the country. It aims to identify practical, evidence-based case studies at the regional level to support the plan of action. The focal theme of 2017. NBC was "Mainstreaming Biodiversity for Sustainable Development".
17. With a view to ensure clean election funding, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced that the maximum amount of cash donation that a political party can receive will be Rs. 2,000 from one person. Any donations above Rs 2,000 would have to be made either through cheques or through digital means.
18. Chief Justice of India JS Khehar has initiated contempt of court proceedings against sitting Calcutta high court judge C S Karnan for continuously levelling allegations against the Madras HC chief justice and other former and sitting judges. The case will be heard by a bench headed by the CJI and comprising six other senior judges -Dipak Misra, J Chelameswar, Ranjan Gogoi, Madan B Lokur, P C Ghose and Kurian Joseph.
19. Andaman and Nicobar Islands will soon get its first ever railway line. A 240-km broad-gauge railway track will soon be laid, connecting Diglipur in North Andaman Island, with its Capital, Port Blair.

Crossword - 0008



Across

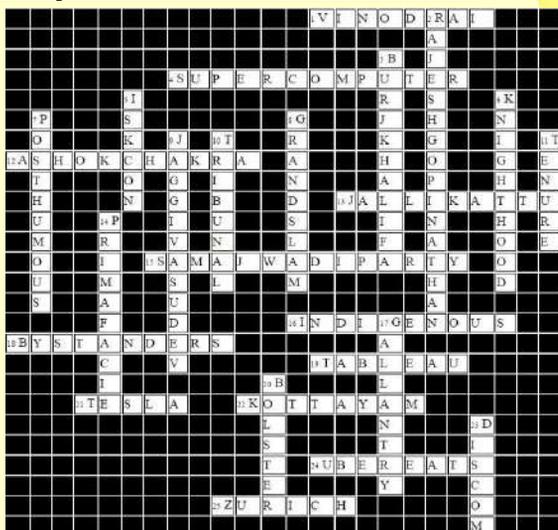
4. Village in Maharashtra adopted by Sachin Tendulkar
5. Author of "Inside CBI" (2 Words)
6. Last man to set foot on the moon (2 Words)
9. de facto capital of Andhra Pradesh
10. Upper House of UK (3 Words)
11. event for athletes with disabilities
13. 39th Chief Justice of India (2 Words)
16. Captain of the Royal Challengers Bangalore (2 Words)
17. Buffalo race in Karnataka
18. Internet-connected devices used in Denial of Service Attacks

Down

1. unmanned aerial vehicle
2. First green ship of Indian Navy (2 Words)
3. National Park in Assam
7. Mobile payments solution from Samsung (2 Words)
8. Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (2 Words)
11. German multinational company
12. Subsidiary of Google sold to Planet Labs (2 Words)
13. American multinational headquartered in Cupertino
14. Jamaican sprinter (2 Words)
15. Musical drama which won 6 Oscar awards in 2017 (3 Words)

Note: Solve this crossword and mail your solution with **Crossword - 0008** in the subject line to **abhyaaslawprep@gmail.com** latest by **19th March 2017**. First correct solution entry will get a prize.

Key to Crossword - 0007



Note: No correct entry received.. Hoping to see better enthusiasm in this month.