

JUNE.....
.....2019

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THIRD WEEK

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15 JUNE - 21 JUNE



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1. Zonel Sougaijam, who has been included in the Facebook Hall of Fame 2019, is from which Indian state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Mizoram
C) Nagaland D) Manipur

- ✓ Zonel Sougaijam (22), civil engineer from Manipur, has been honoured by Facebook for discovering a WhatsApp bug that violated the privacy of a user. The social media giant awarded \$5000 to him and also included him in the 'Facebook Hall of Fame 2019' for detecting the WhatsApp bug.
- ✓ Sougaijam detected that during a voice call through WhatsApp, the bug used to allow the caller to upgrade it to a video call without the authorization and knowledge of the receiver. The caller was then able to see what the other person was doing that breached the privacy of the receiver.
- ✓ Sougaijam's name is currently at the 16th position in a list of 94 people, in the 'Facebook Hall of Fame' for this year.

2. Rajanath Singh 'Surya', who passed away recently, was the veteran personality of which field?

- A) Poetry C) Journalism
B) Photography D) Arts

- ✓ Rajanath Singh 'Surya' (82), the veteran journalist and former Rajya Sabha Member, has passed away in Lucknow, UP on June 13. He had worked in various newspapers and he was a well-known columnist.

3. Who has been conferred the 54th Jnanpith award for the year 2018?

- A) Amitav Ghosh B) U R Ananthamurthy
C) Krishna Sobti D) Girish Karnad

- ✓ Bestselling author and one of India's leading contemporary writers, Amitav Ghosh has been conferred the 54th Jnanpith award for the year 2018 for his outstanding contribution towards literature.
- ✓ The writer was felicitated for his outstanding contribution by former West Bengal governor Gopalkrishna Gandhi at a function in New Delhi on 13th June 2019.

- ✓ Mr Ghosh is the first Indian author in English language to be honoured with the Jnanpith award. The works of Amitav Ghosh portray a vast range of subjects. His famous books include The Circle of Reason (1986), The Shadow Lines (1988), The Calcutta Chromosome (1996), The Hungry Tide (2004), Sea of Poppies (2008), The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable (2016).

- ✓ Instituted in 1961, the Jnanpith award is bestowed only on Indian writers writing in Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution of India and English with no posthumous conferral. The recipients of Jnanpith award are given a cash prize of Rs 11 lakh, a citation plaque and a bronze replica of Goddess Saraswati.

4. Which Indian actor will be chief guest at 10th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM -2019)?

- A) Naseeruddin Shah B) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan
C) Rani Mukerji D) Shah Rukh Khan

- ✓ Bollywood Superstar Shah Rukh Khan will be the chief guest at the 10th edition of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM), which is scheduled to be held between 8th – 17th August 2019.
- ✓ Every year, one of the leading film celebrities head to Australia to attend the fest held during the month of August. During their visit, the celebrities hoist the Indian National Flag in the presence of many Indians and other dignitaries as a part of the festival.
- ✓ The IIFM is a Victorian Government initiative that aims to strengthen ties between the Indian film industry and Victoria.

5. Which state cabinet has approved proposal for jail term for those who abandon elderly parents?

- A) MP B) UP
C) Bihar D) Rajasthan

- ✓ Bihar Cabinet-led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has approved a proposal to punish sons and daughters who abandon their elderly parents with a jail term. The cases against the children will be registered

under the non-bailable section in Bihar after receiving complaints from the elderly parents.

6. Indian Navy hosted maritime information sharing workshop at IFC-IOR in which of the following cities?

A) Gurugram B) Kolkatta

C) Pune D) Cochin

- ✓ The Indian Navy hosted a maritime information sharing workshop under the aegis of the Information Fusion Centre — Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram, Haryana on June 12.
- ✓ Over 41 delegates from 29 countries of the IOR participated in the two-day event. The aim of the workshop was to explain participants about IFC-IOR and its information sharing mechanisms and promote sharing of best practices in this field.
- ✓ The event included issues such as maritime terrorism, piracy, human and drug trafficking, humanitarian assistance as well as disaster relief and the legal perspective of combating these challenges.

7. Which Indian celebrity will be honored with the UNICEF's Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award?

A) Narendra Modi B) Priyanka Chopra
C) Medha Patkar D) Chandi Prasad Bhatt

- ✓ Indian actress Priyanka Chopra, a global UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador for Child Rights, will be honored with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award by UNICEF's American chapter at their Snowflake Ball on December 3 in New York.
- ✓ Priyanka is known for her contribution to social causes and for being a voice for children's education. She has been a part of United Nation's global "Girl Up" Campaign and is associated with several NGOs in India to raise awareness about ways to improve the education, health and safety of girl child in India.
- ✓ She promotes various causes such as environment, health and education, and women's rights and is particularly vocal about gender equality and feminism.

- ✓ The award is named after actor-philanthropist Danny Kaye, who was UNICEF's first Goodwill Ambassador.

8. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of International Albinism Awareness Day?

A) Shining our light to the world

B) Still Standing Strong

C) Advancing with renewed hope

D) Celebrate diversity; promote inclusion; protect our rights

- ✓ The International Albinism Awareness Day (IAAD) is observed every year on June 13 to celebrate the human rights of persons with albinism worldwide. The 2019 theme is "Still Standing Strong".
- ✓ Albinism is a congenital disorder characterized in humans by the complete or partial absence of pigment in the skin, hair and eyes. It is associated with a number of vision defects such as photophobia, nystagmus, and amblyopia.
- ✓ Albinism sufferers face social stigma, obstacles in access to areas of health and education and ignorance in social and political arenas.

9. The meeting of Council of Heads of States (CHS) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has started in which of the following cities?

A) Jakarta B) Bishkek
C) Nay Pyi Taw D) Kuala Lumpur

- ✓ On June 13, the meeting of Council of Heads of States (CHS) of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has started in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan.
- ✓ This is Prime Minister Narendra Modi's first multi-lateral summit after his re-election as the Prime Minister. This is also the second CHS meeting after India became member of SCO.
- ✓ Presidents and Prime Ministers of 8 member countries will participate in this multilateral international forum which will also be attended by 4 head of states as observers.

- ✓ The leaders participating in the Summit are expected to focus their discussions on the global security situation, multilateral economic cooperation, people-to-people exchanges and also on topical issues of international and regional importance.
- ✓ The SCO is a China-led 8-member economic and security bloc. The CHS is the supreme decision-making body in the SCO.

10. Which year is set as target by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to have its own Space station?

- A) 2040 B) 2050
C) 2030 D) 2070

- ✓ On June 13, 2019, The Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) K Sivan announced that India will have its own Space station by 2030. This will help ISRO to send more astronauts to space.
 - ✓ A space station is like a habitable artificial satellite that is designed to remain in space and is capable of being inhabited by crew members for an extended period of time. The Project is an extension of Gaganyaan mission.
 - ✓ The proposal to set up the space station will be sent to the central government for approval after India's first Gaganyaan mission by 2022. The project will be executed in 5-7 years and the proposed cost of the project is not disclosed.
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1. What is the slogan of the 2019 edition of World Blood Donor Day?

- A) Share Life, Give Blood B) Safe blood for all
C) Blood connects us All D) Blood donor is a hero

- ✓ The World Blood Donor Day is observed every year on June 14 to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors.
- ✓ The 2019 theme "Blood Donation and Universal Access to Safe Blood Transfusion" is a component of achieving universal health coverage. The slogan - Safe Blood for All - has also been adopted. The theme strongly encourages more people all over the world to become blood donors and donate blood regularly.

2. Which state government has recently launched online facility to approve building plans?

- A) Karnataka C) Andhra Pradesh
B) Chhattisgarh D) Odisha

- ✓ Karnataka Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy has recently launched 118 websites that would enable citizens get building plan approvals, diversion of land use change and other related permissions through online submissions, avoiding middlemen and delays.
- ✓ It will bring greater transparency and end corruption and save people's time and money. These websites and softwares integrate 14 departments. The status of their applications will be shared through SMS to the applicants.

3. Pazhavila Ramesan, who passed away recently, was the renowned poet of which state?

- A) Odisha B) Karnataka
C) Kerala D) Telangana

- ✓ Pazhavila Ramesan (83), a popular lyricist & Poet, has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on June 13, 2019. He is a recipient of the 2019 Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award. He had also served as the director of Kerala Bhasha Institute for a long time.

- ✓ Ramesan brought out poetry collections such as Mazhayude Jalakam, Njan Ente Kadukalelikku, and Pazhavila Ramesante Kavithakal.

4. The Government of India has reduced the rate of contribution under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Act from 6.5% to ___?

- A) 6.0% B) 5.5%
C) 4.5 D) 4.0%

- ✓ The Union Government has taken a historic decision to reduce the salary contribution of industrial workers who are eligible for healthcare benefits under the Employees' State Insurance Act (ESI) Act from 6.5% to 4.0%.
- ✓ The move is aimed at formalizing India's informal workforce and expanding social security coverage. The reduced rates will be effective from July 1 and would benefit 3.6 crore employees and 12.85 lakh employers.
- ✓ The reduced rate of contribution will bring about a substantial relief to workers under the ESI scheme and bring more and more workforce into the formal sector. The ESI Act of 1948 provides for medical, cash, maternity, disability and dependent benefits to the Insured Persons under the Act.
- ✓ The ESI Act is administered by the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC). Benefits provided under the ESI Act are funded by the contributions made by the employers and the employees.
- ✓ The Government of India through the Ministry of Labour and Employment decides the rate of contribution under the ESI Act.

5. The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has decided to confer alumni award to which of the following union ministers?

- A) Ravi Shankar Prasad & Dharmendra Pradhan
B) Nitin Gadkari & Piyush Goyal
C) Nirmala Sitharaman & S Jaishankar
D) Ramesh Pokhriyal & Prakash Javdekar

- ✓ The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) has decided to confer its Distinguished Alumni Award to Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Subrahmanyam Jaishankar. The award will be presented at JNU's 3rd convocation to be held in August.
- ✓ Sitharaman had completed her MA and M.Phil degrees while Jaishankar completed his M.Phil and doctoral research from JNU.

6. Who is the head of the committee to review existing marketing structure in LPG marketing in India?

- A) Errol D'souza B) MA Pathan
C) GC Chaturvedi **D) Kirit Parikh**

- ✓ The Government of India has recently constituted a 5-member committee to review existing marketing structure in Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) marketing in India.
- ✓ The committee, headed by economist Kirit Parikh, will look into issues related to definition or quality standards of LPG being marketed. Its terms of reference also include scope for liberalizing government policies for private participation.
- ✓ The committee is expected to submit its report by end-July. Based on the LPG control order, domestic LPG should be supplied to oil-marketing companies only. The committee will also identify the grey areas that might allow private entities like Reliance Industries to sell subsidized cooking gas.

7. The Union Cabinet has recently approved two-month extension to Committee for OBC Sub-categorization. Who is the head of the Committee?

- A) S K Gangwar B) Prahlad Singh Patel
C) G Rohini D) R L Kataria

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has accorded ex-post facto approval for the extension of the term of the Commission to examine the issue of Sub-categorization of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by two more months' upto 31st July 2019.

- ✓ This is the 6th extension to the commission, which was constituted under Article 340 of the Constitution with the approval of President on 2nd October 2017.
- ✓ The extension of the tenure of the commission would enable it to evaluate the issue of Sub-categorization of OBCs in the Central list based on wider consultations with various stakeholders.
- ✓ It will also enable the commission to submit a comprehensive report on the issue. The Commission is headed by Justice (Retd.) G. Rohini.

8. Which SCO member has been conferred Kyrgyzstan's Highest National Award?

- A) Emomali Rahmon B) Vladimir Putin
C) Narendra Modi **D) Xi Jinping**

- ✓ Chinese President Xi Jinping has been conferred the Kyrgyzstan's highest national award titled "Manas Order of the First Degree" at the Ala Archa state residence in Bishkek.
- ✓ Xi, along with other leaders of the group including Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is in Bishkek (the Kyrgyz capital) to attend the 19th SCO summit on June 14-15, 2019.
- ✓ The SCO is a China-led 8-member economic and security bloc. The founding members of the SCO are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan were admitted to the Beijing-based regional security grouping in 2017.

9. Which country is the current chair of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS)?

- A) South Africa B) Russia
C) India D) China

- ✓ India is one of the founder members of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) and is the Chair of Kimberley Process for the year 2019 with Russian Federation as Vice Chair.
- ✓ The Inter-sessional meeting of Kimberley Process (KP) is being hosted by India from 17th to 21st June, 2019 in Mumbai.

- ✓ Besides meetings of different Working Groups and Committees of the KPCS, 2 special forums regarding Diamond Terminology and Artisanal Mining – Small Steps to Larger Outcomes, will be held during the Intersessional.
- ✓ Around 300 delegates from the Government of India and other participating countries, industry and civil society will be attending the 5-day Meeting. At present, KPCS has 55 members representing 82 countries including EU with 28 members.

10. What is the theme of the 20th anniversary of victory in Kargil war?

A) Remember, Rejoice and Renew

B) Pride, Honour and Inspire

C) Salute valour of the armed forces

D) Peace & Humanity

- ✓ The Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated every year on July 26 to commemorate India's emphatic victory against Pakistan. The day is named after the success of Operation Vijay.
- ✓ In 2019, India will celebrated the 20th anniversary of victory in Kargil war with pride, honour and inspiration from 25th to 27th of July at Dras and New Delhi. This year, the Kargil Vijay Diwas is being celebrated with the theme 'Remember, Rejoice and Renew'.

1. Which of the following Asian countries will be guest nation at the 2020 Copa America?

- A) Saudi Arabia B) China
C) India D) Qatar

- ✓ The South American Football Confederation (SAFC) has invited Australia and Qatar as guests at 2020 Copa America. Both the nations will join 10 South American nations in the 2020 tournament, which for the first time will be held jointly in two countries – Colombia & Argentina.
- ✓ Qatar, which is the current champion of 2019 AFC Asian Cup and also host of the 2022 FIFA World Cup, is making its debut at the 2019 edition of Copa America.

2. What is the India's rank at the 2019 Global Peace Index (GPI) of Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)?

- A) 151st C) 141st
B) 136th D) 155th

- ✓ As per a report released by the Australian think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), India's ranking in 2019 Global Peace Index (GPI) has slipped five places to 141st among 163 countries. In 2018, India ranked at 136th among 163 countries.
- ✓ IEP ranks countries according to their level of peacefulness based on three thematic domains -- the level of societal safety and security, the extent of ongoing domestic and international conflict and the degree of militarization.
- ✓ The report covers 99.7 per cent of the world's population and uses 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators from highly respected sources to compile the index. As per index, Iceland remains the most peaceful country and Afghanistan the least peaceful nation.
- ✓ In South Asian countries, Bhutan topped the index with 15th rank, followed by Sri Lanka 72nd, Nepal 76th and Bangladesh 101st. Pakistan has been ranked 153rd on the index. The GPI was founded by Steve Killelea, an Australian tech entrepreneur & philanthropist.

3. Which Indian NGO has been awarded the 2019 BBC World Service Global Champion?

- A) Arth India B) Chetna
C) Save Life Foundation D) Akshaya Patra

- ✓ Bengaluru-based NGO Akshaya Patra has been awarded the 2019 BBC World Service Global Champion Award for its school meal project programme at the BBC Food and Farming Awards in Bristol, UK.
- ✓ The award recognizes a person or project that is changing the way the world produces, processes, consumes or thinks about food for the better. Akshaya Patra is a non-profit organisation running one of the world's largest school meals project in India.

4. On which date, the 2019 edition of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed?

- A) June 15 B) June 14
C) June 13 D) June 13

- ✓ The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is observed on the 15th of June every year to voice opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on elderly people. According to the UN, around 1 in 6 older people experience some form of abuse.
- ✓ Elder abuse can lead to serious physical injuries and long-term psychological consequences. It is a global social issue which affects the health and human rights of millions of older persons around the world.
- ✓ It is predicted to increase as many countries are experiencing rapidly ageing populations. The global population of people aged 60 years and older will more than double, from 900 million in 2015 to about 2 billion in 2050.

5. The Carmichael coal mine project is associated to which of the following countries?

- A) Indonesia B) New Zealand
C) Australia D) Malaysia

- ✓ Ahmedabad-based Adani group has recently got final approval for controversy-hit Carmichael coal

mine project in Australia, after Queensland State authorities approved its groundwater management plan.

- ✓ The final approval for the Adani group's long-delayed billion-dollar mega coal mine project came only weeks after a surprise election win of Australia's pro-coal ruling coalition led by Prime Minister Scott Morrison.
- ✓ The approval potentially paves the way for half a dozen new thermal coal mines to come on line in Australia by opening up Queensland's remote Galilee basin with rail infrastructure to the coast 320 km away at Abbot Point.
- ✓ Earlier, the Gautam Adani-led Adani Group got the first approval from the Queensland state government to protect the endangered black-throated finch bird population as part of its crucial environmental plan at the site of its mine project.
- ✓ It is set to become the largest coal mine in Australia, with approval to produce up to 60 million tonnes of coal annually, and 2.3 billion tonnes over the life of the mine.

6. The 10th Regional GRIHA Summit 2019 was held in which of the following cities?

- A) Bengaluru B) Nagpur
C) Pune D) New Delhi

- ✓ On June 15, the 10th edition of Regional GRIHA Summit 2019 was held in Nagpur, Maharashtra with theme "Transformation strategies for built environment".
- ✓ The one day summit served as a platform for knowledge sharing among different domains of the green building industry and facilitates networking opportunities among individuals representing government, academia, civil society organizations, architecture, engineering, and construction management sector.
- ✓ GRIHA is an independent, non-profit society jointly set up by the Ministry of New and renewable energy and the energy and resources institute.

7. Which of the following defence PSUs has signed a pact to supply heavy weight torpedoes to the Indian Navy?

- A) Bharat Electronics Ltd
B) Bharat Dynamics Ltd
C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
D) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd

- ✓ The Hyderabad-based defence public sector undertaking, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) has recently signed a contract worth Rs 1,187.82 crores for supply of heavy weight torpedoes - Varunastra - to the Indian Navy. The execution of the contract will be in the next 42 months.
- ✓ The weapon will be manufactured at BDL Visakhapatnam Unit under collaboration with DRDO. The Heavy Weight Torpedo (or Varunastra) is a ship launched, electrically propelled underwater weapon equipped with one of the most advanced automatic and remote-controlled guidance systems.
- ✓ The weapon system uses its own intelligence in tracing the target. The BDL is the main producer of the country's range of missiles and missile defence systems.

8. Which of the following Indian movies is/are selected to be screened at 2019 Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BiFAN)?

- A) Manikarnika B) Gully Boy
C) Andhadhun D) All of the above

- ✓ Four Indian movies have been selected to be screened at the prestigious 23rd Bucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (BiFAN-2019). Out of them, one is a Tamil movie, namely 'Super Deluxe' starring Vijay Sethupathi and Samantha Akkineni. Three of them are Bollywood movies namely Gully Boy, Andhadhun and Manikarnika: The Queen of Jhansi.
- ✓ The festival will take place from June 27 to July 7 in South Korea. The South Korean film festival is known for screening some of the best movies in the world.

9. Which international organisation has released the World Investment Report 2019?

- A) IMF
B) ADB
C) World Bank
D) UNCTAD

- ✓ According to UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2019, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into India increased by 6% to \$42 billion in 2018 with strong inflows in manufacturing, communication, financial services and cross-border merger and acquisition activities making it the sub-region's largest recipient.
- ✓ As per report, India has been ranked 10th amongst the top recipients of FDI in 2018. The report added that India has historically accounted for 70 to 80% of inflows to the sub-region.
- ✓ Further, the growth in cross-border Merger & Acquisitions for India to 33 billion dollars in 2018 was primarily due to transactions worth 16 billion dollars in retail trade, which includes e-commerce and telecommunication.

10. The world's highest operating weather stations has installed on which of the following mountains?

- A) Mt Kanchenjunga
B) Mt Everest
C) Mt Makalu
D) Mt K2

- ✓ The National Geographic Society has announced the successful installation of the world's highest operating weather stations on Mount Everest to provide researchers, climbers, and the public with near real-time information about mountain conditions.
- ✓ The multi-disciplinary team installed the world's two highest operating automated weather stations at Balcony area (8,430 m) and South Col (7,945 m), as well as 3 other weather stations on Mount Everest.
- ✓ The other stations were placed at Phortse (3,810 m), Everest Base Camp (5,315 m) and Camp II (6,464 m). Each weather station will record data on temperature, relative humidity, barometric pressure, wind speed, and wind direction.

1. Who won the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship?

- A) Pankaj Advani B) Semih Sayginer
C) Sourav Kothari D) **Peter Gilchrist**

- ✓ Peter Gilchrist from Singapore has won the 2019 Pacific International Billiards Championship at the Yarraville Club. In the final, he defeated India's Sourav Kothari.

2. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought?

- A) Combating land degradation for sustainable agriculture
B) The Beauty of Deserts – The Challenge of Desertification

C) Let's Grow the Future Together

- D) Social Dimensions of Desertification: Migration and Poverty

- ✓ The World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought is observed every year on 17th of June to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification.
- ✓ The day is a unique moment to remind everyone that land degradation neutrality is achievable through problem-solving, strong community involvement and co-operation at all levels.

3. Suman Rao, who has been crowned Femina Miss India World 2019, is from which state?

- A) Maharashtra B) **Rajasthan**
C) Gujarat D) Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ Suman Rao from Rajasthan has won the Femina Miss India World 2019 beauty pageant during a star – studded ceremony at Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Indoor Stadium in Mumbai.
- ✓ While Shivani Jadhav from Chhattisgarh clinched Femina Miss Grand India 2019 title and Shreya Shanker from Bihar won Miss India United Continents 2019 title during the grand finale of the beauty pageant. Now, Suman will represent India at Miss World 2019 in Thailand.

- ✓ The show was hosted by Bollywood filmmaker Karan Johar and actor – anchor Maniesh Paul along with Miss World 2017 Manushi Chhillar.

4. Which social activist has won the HridayMitra Foundation's 'Save Water Hero Award'?

- A) Shaheen Mistri B) Sandeep Pandey
C) **Makarand Tiloo** D) Sanal Edamaruku

- ✓ In Pune, Social activist Makarand Tiloo has won the 'Save Water Hero Award' by the HridayMitra Foundation for his efforts to raise awareness about water conservation in the city.
- ✓ Tiloo is a Laughter Yoga trainer and motivational speaker by profession. He started a campaign to save water by replacing leaking taps with new ones.
- ✓ The HridayMitra Foundation is an organisation which aims to spread awareness about diseases as well as the surgeries required to remedy them. It also runs a free helpline, offering people financial guidance and other such services.

5. Who has been sworn-in as the first female President of Slovakia?

- A) **Zuzana Caputova** B) Adriana Karembeu
C) Jana Kolesarova D) Suzie Kronerova

- ✓ Zuzana Caputova, a liberal environmental activist and a political newcomer, has been sworn-in as the first female President of Slovakia in Bratislava on 15th June 2019. She is also the youngest president in the history of Slovakia, at the age of 45.
- ✓ She first became known by prevailing in a decade-long struggle against the situating of a toxic landfill in her hometown of Pezinok. For this, Caputova was awarded the 2016 Goldman Environmental Prize. Caputova succeeded Slovak President Andrej Kiska.

6. Who is the first woman Project Director in an ISRO mission of Chandrayaan – II?

- A) Ritu Karidhal B) Rohini Godbole
C) **Muthayya Vanitha** D) Gagandeep Kang

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has recently announced that India's second mission to the moon – Chandrayaan – II – will be launched on July 15 at 2.15 AM from Sriharikota. This particular mission is an advancement of Chandrayaan – I, which was launched a decade ago.
- ✓ Chandrayaan – II will scale the lunar surface and gather info on minerals, rock formations and water. For the first time in the history of ISRO, the Project Director and the Mission Director will be women.
- ✓ Muthayya Vanitha will be the Project Director for the orbiter, the lander and the rover, and Ritu Karidhal will be the Mission Director in charge of the GSLV-Mk III launch vehicle
- ✓ In fact, 30% of the team in charge of the mission is composed of women. The cost of the entire Chandrayaan – II mission is about Rs. 1000 crore.

7. Inger Andersen, who is new Executive Director of the UNEP, is from which country?

- A) Norway B) Denmark
C) Finland D) Sweden

- ✓ Danish economist and environmentalist, Inger Andersen has recently taken charge as the new Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) for a 4 year term. She succeeded Erik Solheim of Norway.
- ✓ Prior to her appointment at UNEP, Andersen was Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Vice President for Sustainable Development at the World Bank and Head of the CGIAR Fund Council.
- ✓ She has also served as the World Bank vice-president for the Middle East and North Africa and worked at the UN for 15 years on water and environment issues.

8. Which of the following companies will soon roll out TechBee programme to hire and train students for IT jobs?

- A) Wipro B) Infosys
C) HCL D) Reliance

- ✓ HCL Technologies will soon roll out "TechBee" programme to hire and train students for IT jobs. The purpose of the HCL's early career programme is to provide students an opportunity to start early & become financially independent.
- ✓ Under the initiative, the company will conduct an entrance test for those completed +2 or Intermediate course and gives them a year's training to make them employable. Students who have completed Intermediate in 2018 or 2019 with more than 60% marks are eligible for the programme.
- ✓ However, the students will have to a pay fee of Rs. 2 lakhs to join the programme. The firm would facilitate a bank loan, which can be repaid in EMIs after they are absorbed into the company.
- ✓ While working at HCL, students can enrol in higher education programmes offered by reputed universities such as BITS Pilani & SASTRA University. The students after completion of required training will be recruited with salary range of Rs two lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh depending on what work stream they are taken into.

9. Feni Bridge is located in which of the following states?

- A) West Bengal B) Odisha
C) Tripura D) Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Feni Bridge, which is also known as Maitree Setu, is developing as a corridor for trade and commerce between India's North-East and Bangladesh over river Feni and will connect Tripura with Chittagong port of Bangladesh.
- ✓ It will provide direct road connectivity between South Tripura and Chittagong allowing India to use Chittagong as a "port of call" and promoting trade, tourism and people-to-people ties.
- ✓ The bridge will facilitate carrying of heavy machines and goods to and from the northeastern states and the rest of India via Bangladesh through Chattogram.
- ✓ The bridge is being constructed by the National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd of Ministry of Road and Transport highways,

govt. of India at a cost of over Rs 82 crores. The project is scheduled to be completed by April 2020.

10. Who has been sworn-in as the pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha?

- A) Pawan Kumar Goyal B) Kartar Singh
C) Virendra Kumar D) Randhir Singh Ruhal

- ✓ Dr. Virendra Kumar, the 7-time Lok Sabha MP from Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh, has been sworn-in as the pro-tem speaker of Lok Sabha. President Ram Nath Kovind administered oath to Dr Kumar at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
 - ✓ As pro-tem speaker, Kumar will preside over the first sitting of the Lok Sabha and administer the oath to the newly elected MPs. He will also oversee the election of the 17th Lok Sabha speaker. The first session of the newly constituted Lok Sabha will be held from June 17 – July 26.
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1. Operation Sunrise 2, which is in news recently, is a coordinated operation of India and which neighboring country?

- A) Myanmar B) Bangladesh
C) Nepal D) Bhutan

- ✓ The armies of India and Myanmar carried out a 3-week-long coordinated operation, named 'Operation Sunrise 2', from May 16 in their respective border areas & targeted several militant groups operating in Manipur, Nagaland and Assam.
- ✓ As part of the operation, the armies coordinated with each other to bust camps of militant outfits, including the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation (KLO), the NSCN (Khaplang), the United Liberation Front of Assam (I) and the National Democratic Front of Boroland (NDFB).
- ✓ As per sources, at least six dozen militants belonging to these groups were nabbed and several of their camps destroyed during the operation.
- ✓ Myanmar is one of the strategic neighbours of India and shares a 1640 km border with a number of north-eastern states, including the militancy-hit Nagaland and Manipur.
- ✓ The first phase of this operation was launched in February 2019 in which Indian Army targeted members of the Arakan Army (an insurgent group in Myanmar), who were opposed to the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project. The Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project is viewed as India's gateway to Southeast Asia.

2. On which date, the 2019 edition of International Day of Family Remittances is observed?

- A) June 18 B) June 17
C) June 20 D) June 16

- ✓ The International Day of Family Remittances is observed every year on 16th of June to recognize the contribution of over 200 million migrants to improve the lives of their 800 million family members back home, and to create a future of hope for their children.
- ✓ Through this observance, the United Nations aim at bringing greater awareness on the impact that these

contributions have on millions of households, but also on communities, countries, and entire regions.

- ✓ The Day also calls upon governments, private sector entities, and the civil society to find ways that can maximize the impact of remittances through individual, and/or collective actions.

3. On which date, the 2019 edition of Autistic Pride Day is observed?

- A) June 18 B) June 17
C) June 19 D) June 16

- ✓ The Autistic Pride Day is observed every year on 18th of June to recognise the importance of pride for autistics and understands it not as a disease but as a difference.
- ✓ Autism or Autism Spectrum Disability is a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders characterized by social impairments, communication difficulties, restrictive and repetitive pattern of behaviour. It is a lifelong condition which usually occurs in the first three years of life.
- ✓ The exact cause of autism is not known but it is known to be associated with genetic and environmental factors. Autistic Pride Day was initiated by Aspies for Freedom, a group that raises public awareness about autism rights.

4. The World Food India event will be held in which of the following cities?

- A) Indore B) Jaipur
C) New Delhi D) Lucknow

- ✓ The World Food India event will be held in New Delhi from November 1-4 as part of the government's effort to boost investment into this growing sector.
- ✓ The event aims to promote food processing sector and to position India as food processing destination of the World. The tagline of the event will be "Forging Partnerships for Growth".
- ✓ This will be the 2nd edition of World Food India, with first one held in 2017 that saw the participation of 61 countries and signing of MoUs worth \$14 billion.

5. The bathing festival 'Snana Yatra' is recently celebrated in which of the following states?

- A) Odisha B) Jharkhand
C) Bihar D) West Bengal

- ✓ The 'Snana Yatra' is a bathing festival celebrated on the full moon day (Purnima) of the Hindu month of 'Jyestha' & considered to be the birthday of Lord Jagannath. It is a significant ritual in the run-up to the annual 'Rath Jatra' festival.
- ✓ In Puri, the annual ceremonial bathing ritual of the deities at Sri Jagannath temple has recently celebrated on 17th June 2019 in the presence of thousands of devotees. The ceremony is known as 'Snana Jatra' of Lord Jagannath, Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra.
- ✓ It was performed on a bathing altar known as the 'Snana Mandap' in which priests' poured 108 pitchers of aromatic sacred water on the deities. The Skanda Purana mentions that King Indradyumna arranged this ceremony for the first time when the idols of the deities were first installed.

6. Who has been named new chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)?

- A) Ahmad Shuja Pasha B) Zaheerul Islam
C) Asim Munir D) Faiz Hameed

- ✓ Lieutenant General Faiz Hameed has been appointed as the new Director-General of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the powerful spy agency of Pakistan. He succeeded Lt Gen Asim Munir. Hameed has previously served as the head of the Counter Intelligence wing of the ISI.
- ✓ The ISI was formed in 1948 as an independent unit to strengthen the country's intelligence network. The ISI was formerly a part of the Intelligence Bureau (IB), which handled intelligence-sharing between different branches of the military, as well as external intelligence gathering.
- ✓ Its headquarters were initially located in Rawalpindi, but were later moved to Islamabad. In 1950, the ISI was officially given the task of

safeguarding Pakistani interests and national security, inside and outside the country.

7. India will host the UNCCD COP 14 in which of the following cities?

- A) New Delhi B) Shimla
C) Chandigarh D) Hyderabad

- ✓ For the first time, India will host the 14th session of the Conference of Parties (COP-14) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in New Delhi between September 2 -14, 2019. It will see participation from at least 5,000 delegates from nearly 197 countries.
- ✓ Ahead of the COP-14, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a flagship project (a part of a larger international initiative called the Bonn Challenge) to enhance India's capacity for Forest Landscape Restoration.
- ✓ It will be implemented during a pilot phase of three-and-a-half years in Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Karnataka. The project will aim to develop and adapt the best practices and monitoring protocols for the country, and build capacity within the five pilot States.
- ✓ The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to bring 150 million hectares of the world's deforested and degraded land under restoration by 2020, and 350 million hectares by 2030.
- ✓ The United Nations has three major Conventions: UNFCCC, UNCCD and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Established in 1994, the UNCCD is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development issues to the land agenda.

8. Who has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India?

- A) Rabi Mishra B) N S Vishwanathan
C) Preet Sinha D) Usha Das

- ✓ Dr. Rabi N. Mishra has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India, after the

position fell vacant on Rosemary Sebastian's retirement.

- ✓ As Executive Director, Mishra's portfolio includes non-banking and Co-op bank supervision. Mishra has been serving RBI for about 30 years now.

9. Who clinched the 119th US Open Golf Championship?

- A) Brooks Koepka B) Tiger Woods
C) Gary Woodland D) Graeme McDowell

- ✓ Gary Woodland of the United States has clinched the 2019 US Open Golf Championship by three strokes at Pebble Beach Golf Links in California. It is his first major championship and sixth professional victory.

10. Mohamed Morsi, who passed away recently, was the former president of which country?

- A) Egypt B) Iran
C) Israel D) Turkey

- ✓ Mohamed Morsi (67), the former President of Egypt, has passed away in Cairo on June 17 after collapsing during his court trial that charged him of espionage and inciting violence. He was the first democratically elected President of Egypt.
-

1. Who has been elected as Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha?

- A) Ramcharan Bohara B) Rahul Kaswan
C) Om Birla D) Manoj Rajoria

- ✓ NDA nominee Om Birla from Kota has been unanimously elected as the Speaker of 17th Lok Sabha. All major political parties including Congress, DMK, TMC, BJD, YSR Congress, JD (U) and Shiv Sena supported the motion moved by Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Narendra Modi to choose Birla as the Speaker.
- ✓ Later, Pro-tem speaker Dr. Virendra Kumar declared Mr. Birla as the Speaker. Prime minister along with other leaders of different political parties escorted Om Birla to the Speaker's chair. An agriculturalist and social worker, Om Birla started his political journey as a student leader.
- ✓ Later, he elected as MLA for 3 consecutive terms for Rajasthan Assembly in 2003, 2008 & 2013. He won his 1st Lok Sabha election in 2014 and was again elected from Rajasthan's Kota Lok Sabha seat in 2019.

2. The first iron ore mine of Bangladesh has recently discovered in which of the following districts?

- A) Pabna B) Dinajpur
C) Dhaka D) Sirajganj

- ✓ For the first time in Bangladesh, iron ore mine has been discovered at Isabpur village in Dinajpur. According to the Geological Survey of Bangladesh, a 400 – foot thick iron layer was found 1750 ft beneath the surface stretched over an area of 6-10 square kilometre. The percentage of iron in the mine was 65 which indicate the high quality of the ore.
- ✓ In most other countries like Canada, China, Brazil Sweden and Australia the percentage is below 50. Other minerals such as gold, there were copper, nickel and chromium were also found at various levels of the mining.
- ✓ The discovery of the iron mine has opened up economic prospects for the country. Since the iron concentration in the magnetite ore is 65%, mining would be economically feasible.

3. Which of the following institutes has become the India's best institute in QS World University ranking 2020?

- A) IIT Bombay B) IIT Delhi
C) IISc Bangalore D) IIT Indore

- ✓ 23 Indian Institutions have been ranked among the best global universities in the latest 2020 QS World University ranking. In it, IIT Bombay has become India's best institute & secured 152nd rank globally.
- ✓ IIT Delhi and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore have also been figured in the top 200. Other Indian universities included in the top 500 list are IIT-Madras (271), IIT-Kharagpur (281), IIT-Kanpur (291), IIT-Roorkee (383), University of Delhi (474) and IIT-Guwahati (491).
- ✓ World-class MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) has made a history by topping the QS World University Rankings for the 8th consecutive year. According to QS, no other university has managed such a long run at the top.
- ✓ Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) – all retain their positions at second, third and fourth in the world, respectively.

4. Which Indian armed force is co – hosting 12th ReCAAP ISC capacity building workshop?

- A) Indian Navy B) Indian Army
C) Indian Coast Guard D) Indian Air Force

- ✓ Indian Coast Guard is co-hosting 12th international Capacity Building workshop in New Delhi to deepen knowledge on issues related to piracy and armed robbery on June 19-20, 2019.
- ✓ The two day workshop is being organized in cooperation with the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP). The ReCAAP is the first regional Govt to Govt agreement to deal with piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia. Presently, 20 countries are members of the ReCAAP.

- ✓ A total of 31 International delegates from 19 countries are participating in the workshop.

5. Which state government has decided to launch the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme for MSMEs?

- A) Punjab B) Maharashtra
C) Rajasthan D) Madhya Pradesh

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has decided to launch the Chief Minister's Employment Generation Programme for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which will create 10 lakh jobs in the next five years. The flagship programme of the Industries Department will have 30% reservation for women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented on the lines of the P M's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP). This scheme is for promoting entrepreneurship and address unemployment issues.
- ✓ The nodal bank for the programme will be Corporation Bank and beneficiaries will be financed by nationalised and private Sector banks like Yes Bank, ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank. To supplement this programme, 50 new industrial parks will be developed at taluka level by the government.

6. The researchers of which country has develop new type of cooling vest for sports athletes?

- A) Japan B) Indonesia
C) China D) India

- ✓ The researchers from Hiroshima University in Japan have developed a new type of cooling vest for sports athletes that may help them compete safely in sweltering summer conditions. The cooling vest is filled with ice packs and features a collar that can also cool the neck.
- ✓ The aim is to cool the athletes' upper-body skin which can decrease heart rate and temperature of their neck and skin. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics will be held in the hot and muggy Japanese summer where the ambient temperature is expected to be above 33° C.

- ✓ To help combat this, the researchers collaborated with a Japanese sportswear company Mizuno to test a new type of cooling vest.

7. Which state government has decided to launch a project "Chullah" for smokeless kitchens?

- A) Karnataka B) Uttar Pradesh
C) West Bengal D) Maharashtra

- ✓ The Maharashtra government has decided to launch a pilot project providing smoke-free environment in the kitchen for women.
- ✓ The project, named "Chullah (wood – fired stove) free and smoke free Maharashtra", will target the women who have not benefited under the Ujjwala or any other LPG distribution scheme. The pilot project will be implemented in Naxal affected areas as well as the districts where farmer suicide rate is high.

8. Which of the following is the India's most attractive employer brand, as per Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019 report?

- A) Nestle B) Sony India
C) Microsoft India D) Amazon India

- ✓ According to the Randstad Employer Brand Research (REBR) 2019, E-commerce giant Amazon India is the most attractive employer brand in India followed by Microsoft India and Sony India.
- ✓ Others in the top 10 most-attractive employer brands in India for 2019 include Mercedes-Benz at 4th position, IBM (5th), Larsen & Toubro (6th), Nestle (7th), Infosys (8th), Samsung (9th) and Dell (10th).
- ✓ As per report, Amazon has scored high on financial health, utilisation of latest technologies and a strong reputation. The survey further noted that a vast majority (55%) of Indians prefer to work for a large multi-national corporation, while a negligible 9% preferred start-ups.
- ✓ The preference for Multi National Companies (MNCs) can be strongly attributed to job security, financial health and career progression opportunities, which these organisations offer to their employees.

- ✓ The survey also noted that the Indian workforce prefers to work for companies operating in sectors like IT, ITeS and telecom (67%), retail, FMCG and e-commerce (67%), followed by automotive (66%) and BFSI (65%).

9. Who is the head of the RBI committee to study current framework for MSMEs?

- A) Sharad Sharma B) Anup Bagchi
C) UK Sinha D) Bindu Ananth

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has set up an 8-member expert committee on Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to suggest long-term solutions for the economic and financial sustainability of the MSMEs.
- ✓ This committee is set up under the leadership of former SEBI Chairman UK Sinha to review the current framework for the MSME Sector. The committee will examine the factors affecting the timely and adequate availability of finance to the MSME sector.
- ✓ It will review the existing MSME focused policies and their impact and will propose measures for leveraging technology in accelerating the growth of the sector apart from recommending the global best practices.

10. On which date, the 2019 edition of World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed recently?

- A) June 19 B) June 20
C) June 18 D) June 21

- ✓ The World Sustainable Gastronomy Day is observed every year on 18th of June to focus the world's attention on the role that sustainable gastronomy can play. It also reaffirms that all cultures and civilizations are contributors and crucial enablers of sustainable development.