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1. Noted educationalist Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy has passed away. She was from which state?
- A) Tamil Nadu ☒ B) Karnataka
C) Kerala D) Telangana
- ✓ Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy (93), acclaimed educationist, journalist and patron of the arts, has passed away in Chennai on 5th August. Rajalakshmi Parthasarathy founded the Padma Seshadri Bala Bhavan Group of Schools driven by her desire "To Indianise school education".
- ✓ She was popularly known as Rashmi or 'Mrs YGP'. In 2010, she received the Padma Shri for her contribution to literature and education. She also worked in 'The Hindu'.
2. The United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) is also named as ____?
- A) Singapore Convention on Mediation ☒
B) Australia Convention on Mediation
C) Mexico Convention on Mediation
D) South Africa Convention on Mediation
- ✓ India has recently signed the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) to boost the confidence of foreign investors.
- ✓ It was signed by India's High Commissioner to Singapore Jawed Ashraf, who was representing the Government of India.
- ✓ The purpose of the convention is to strengthen the international dispute resolution framework, and in turn help ease trade and commerce among countries. It will enable the enforcement of mediated settlement agreements amongst signatory countries.
- ✓ So far, the treaty named Singapore Convention on Mediation (SCM) has signed by 46 countries including the United States, China, and India. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the Convention on 20th December 2018 during its 73rd session.
- ✓ The Convention has opened for signature by all States in Singapore on 7th August 2019.
3. The scientists of which country have created the world's thinnest gold?
- A) United States B) Britain ☒
C) France D) Germany
- ✓ The researchers at the University of Leeds in Britain have created a new form of gold which is 0.47 nanometres thick – one million times thinner than a human finger nail.
- ✓ The researchers named their created precious metal as "golden algae" because of its greenish hue under water and the similarities between its shape and that of an algae's. According to researchers, the 'Golden Algae' could have wide – scale applications in the medical device and electronics industries. It could also be used as a catalyst to speed up chemical reactions in a range of industrial processes.
4. Who has taken charge as the new CMD of Power Grid Corporation of India?
- A) Amrita Singh B) Ravi P Singh
C) Kandikuppa Sreekant ☒ D) Pradeep L Kaul
- ✓ Kandikuppa Sreekant has taken charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Grid Corporation of India. He shall be on post till 31st December 2023 i.e. the date of his superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier.
- ✓ Prior to this post, he was serving as the director (finance) of Power Grid. POWERGRID is an Indian State owned electric utilities company headquartered in Gurugram. It transmits about 50% of the total power generated in India on its transmission network.
5. According to Ethnologue, which country has the highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in the world?
- A) United States B) India
C) Papua New Guinea ☒ D) Australia

- ✓ Ethnologue (a directory of languages) lists 7,111 living languages worldwide (languages that are still being used and spoken by people).
- ✓ According to it, Pacific island nation of Papua New Guinea (PNG) has the highest number of 'living' indigenous languages in the world (840), while India stands 4th with 453.
- ✓ Interestingly, the U.S. (335 languages) and Australia (319), widely English – speaking nations, are among the countries where the highest number of languages are spoken. Among regions, Asia (2303) and Africa (2140) account for the highest number of indigenous languages (over 70% of the total). The United Nations has designated Year 2019 as International Year of Indigenous Languages.

6. Which Indian Grandmaster has won the 2019 Belt and Road China Hunan International chess tournament?

- A) Parimarjan Negi B) Surya Shekhar Ganguly ☒
C) Pentala Harikrishna D) Krishnan Sasikiran

- ✓ Indian Grandmaster Surya Shekhar Ganguly from Kolkata has won the 2019 Belt and Road China Hunan International chess tournament. He registered 5 wins and 4 draws to emerge the sole leader with 7 points. He not only collected 27.5 Elo points but pocketed \$50,000 (Rs 35.6 lakh) as well.

7. RBI has cut the policy repo rate by how much basis points in its 3rd bi – monthly Monetary Policy Statement for FY20?

- A) 25 B) 30
C) 35 ☒ D) 15

- ✓ The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently announcement its 3rd bi – monthly Monetary Policy Statement for FY 20 (2019 – 20). In it, RBI reduced the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 35 basis points (bps) from 5.75% to 5.40% with immediate effect.
- ✓ Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands revised to 5.15%, and the Marginal Standing

Facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 5.65%. This is the 4th straight time that the RBI has cut interest rates.

- ✓ The move is said to give a fillip to the economy. The MPC, headed by Shaktikanta Das, also cut GDP growth target to 6.9% from 7% for the ongoing financial year.

8. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been funded by which international organisation?

- A) IMF B) World Bank ☒
C) AIIB D) ADB

- ✓ For Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has launched a draft titled “Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)”, which is a part of a World Bank funded project.
- ✓ The draft plan will dictate how prospective infrastructure projects situated along the coast ought to be assessed before they can apply for clearance.
- ✓ The document lays out guidelines out for coastal States to adopt when they approve and regulate projects in coastal zones.
- ✓ The document was prepared by the Society for Integrated Coastal Management, a Ministry affiliated body. So far three coastal States, namely Gujarat, Odisha and West Bengal, have prepared ICZM Plans with support from the World Bank. Such plans would be prepared for the selected coastal stretches in other States / UT.

9. Which organisation has announced Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award?

- A) ISRO ☒ B) DRDO C) VSSC D) BARC

- ✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced its “Vikram Sarabhai Journalism Award in Space Science, Technology and Research” to recognize and reward journalists who have actively contributed towards the field of space science, applications, and research.

- ✓ Basically, the awards are part of the centenary year celebrations of Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, father of Indian space programme. The nominations are open to all Indians who have a good experience in journalism. The articles published from 2019 to 2020 will be considered.
- ✓ The names of the selected candidates will be announced on August 1st, 2020. There are two categories of awards, wherein the first category holds a cash price of Rs 5,00,000, a medal and citation and two journalists or freelancers of print media will be awarded. On the other hand, the second category of the award holds 3 cash prizes of Rs 3,00,000, 2,00,000 and 1,00,000 and citation each for journalists or freelancers of print media.

10. Where the headquarters of United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is located?

- A) Berlin B) New York
C) Paris D) Vienna ☒

- ✓ The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) of India has recently signed an agreement with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) to initiate a skill development programme for different levels of beneficiaries in the solar thermal energy sector.
 - ✓ Both the organizations will engage national and international experts to bring the best practices by developing specialized training material.
 - ✓ The agreement is part of the ongoing MNRE – GEF – UNIDO project implemented jointly by UNIDO and to support capacity building and skill development of technical manpower in the Concentrated Solar Thermal Energy Technologies (CST) which are being used to replace conventional fossil fuels e.g. coal, diesel, furnace oil etc. and save costs and emissions in the industrial process heat applications.
 - ✓ The headquarters of UNIDO is in Vienna, Austria.
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1. Which state has topped the rankings in Health Ministry report card on "Breastfeeding & Infant & Child feeding Practices"?

- A) Manipur ☒ B) Karnataka
C) Kerala D) Telangana

- ✓ The Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has recently released a report card on "Breastfeeding & Infant & Child feeding Practices" with data from the State and UTs on 8th August in New Delhi.
- ✓ In it, Manipur has topped the rankings in the Breastfeeding report card in the country. National capital Delhi is also among the worst performing States.
- ✓ It has been developed by devising a composite score based on three indicators namely early initiation of breastfeeding, exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months and complimentary feeding at 6–8 months of child's age. Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar are at the bottom positions in the report card.

2. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Tribal Day?

- A) Indigenous People B) Indigenous Regions
C) Indigenous Cultures D) Indigenous Languages ☒

- ✓ The International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (or World Tribal Day) is observed on August 9 to front – up and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population. The 2019 theme is 'Indigenous Languages'.
- ✓ It was reported in the year 2016 that about 2680 indigenous languages were in danger and on the verge of getting extinct. To safeguard the loss of these indigenous languages, the UN has designated 2019 to be the International Year of Indigenous Languages.

3. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of 22nd National Conference on e – Governance?

- A) Technology for accelerating Development
B) Digital Connectivity to the last mile
C) Digital Transformation

D) Digital India: Success to Excellence ☒

- ✓ In Meghalaya, the 22nd National Conference on e – Governance 2019 was held at Shillong on August 8-9, 2019 with theme "Digital India: Success to Excellence". It was inaugurated by Union minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma.
- ✓ The Conference is a part of the DARPG's 100 days initiatives in the new Government. This is the first time the event was organized in North – Eastern region of the country. A total of 28 states and all the Union Territories participated in the Conference.

4. The Kerala Government has signed MoU with which organisation to develop Space Park?

- A) DRDO B) ISRO
C) VSSC ☒ D) BARC

- ✓ The Kerala government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) to support its efforts in promoting Space Technology vertical in the State.
- ✓ The agreement will facilitate VSSC to support the Kerala's project to set up India's first state – of – the – art Space Systems Park at Knowledge City in Thiruvananthapuram to attract global start-ups in the space sector and make it a major manufacturing hub for space related technology, research and development.
- ✓ Through the MoU, VSSC will support Kerala Space Park in the technical and leadership responsibility and promote the SMEs, startups and other partner entities in developing products and services for the Space Industry.

5. The Lahore-Attari Samjhauta Express train service was started in which year?

- A) 1974 B) 1978
C) 1976 ☒ D) 1977

- ✓ On 8 August 2019, Pakistan suspended the Lahore – Attari Samjhauta Express train service following the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir (J & K).

- ✓ Though, Indian Railways has clarified that the train has not been suspended & will run normally. The Samjhauta Express (also called the Friendship Express) consists of 6 sleeper coaches and an AC three – tier coach.
- ✓ The train service was started on 22nd July 1976, under the Shimla Agreement that settled the 1971 war between the two nations. On the Indian side, the train runs from Delhi–Attari and from Lahore–Wagah on the Pakistan side. The word Samjhauta means “agreement” in both Hindi and Urdu.

6. Who is the head of the RBI task force on Offshore Rupee Markets?

- A) M K Jain B) Usha Thorat ☒
- C) B P Kanungo D) N S Vishwanathan

- ✓ The RBI task force on Offshore Rupee Markets, headed by Usha Thorat, has suggested liberal currency market for offshore users. The panel recommended that onshore market hours may be suitably extended to match the flexibility provided by the offshore markets (or NDF markets).
- ✓ This is aimed at incentivizing non-residents to hedge in the onshore market. The Thorat panel suggested that banks may be allowed to freely offer prices to non – residents at all times, out of their Indian books, either by a domestic sales team, or by using staff located at overseas branches.
- ✓ It recommended that non–deliverable rupee derivatives (with settlement in foreign currency) may be allowed to be traded in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), and IFSC Banking Units may be allowed to deal in such derivatives with a distinct foreign currency – Indian rupee (INR) position limit.

7. Who has been appointed as the green ambassador of Manipur?

- A) Dingko Singh B) Mirabai Chanu
- C) Mary Kom D) Valentina Elangbam ☒

- ✓ The Manipur government has appointed a 9 – year – old girl Valentina Elangbam as the State’s green

ambassador after a video of her crying over felled trees goes viral.

- ✓ Hence, the state government issued an order in recognition of her immense love and affection for trees and for generating mass awareness on conservation of the environment for a period of one year from the date of issuing the order.
- ✓ Valentina is a Class V student of Amutombi Divine Life English School in Kakching town. She had planted the saplings of two Gulmohar (royal poinciana) trees by the side of a river when she was in Class I.
- ✓ However, in a rude shock to her, the trees were recently cut down as part of a road expansion project. Then, a video of the crying child over the trees was shared on Facebook by her uncle.

8. Which union ministry has launched ‘Samagra Shiksha-Jal Suraksha’ drive?

- A) Ministry of Human Resource Development ☒
- B) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

- ✓ Union HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ has launched ‘Samagra Shiksha – Jal Suraksha’ drive on 9th August to create awareness about Water Conservation among all school students across country.
- ✓ One of the objectives of this mega drive is to encourage students towards judicious use and minimum wastage of water at home and school level.
- ✓ This concept of water conservation is essential for students so that they can understand the importance of water and how it is shaping their lives meaningfully, thereby enabling them to participate in water conservation activities in their day to day lives.

9. Which state has won the most film – friendly state award at 2018 National Film awards?

- A) Kerala B) Uttarakhand ☒
- C) Karnataka D) Odisha

- ✓ Uttarakhand has won the most film-friendly state award at the 66th National Film awards 2018. This is the first time that this category has been added to the list of National Awards.
- ✓ A panel consists of Rahul Rawail, Utpal Borpujari and A S Kanal announced the award. Film Kedarnath, directed by Abhishek Kapoor, was shot in the state.

10. Which movie has won the 'Best Feature Film' award at the 2018 National Film awards?

- A) Hellaro ☒ B) Andhadhun
C) Chumbak D) Padman

- ✓ Hellaro (Gujarati) has won the 'Best Feature Film' award at the 66th National Film awards for year 2018. While, Ayushmann Khurrana and Vicky Kaushal share the 'Best Actor' Award for Andhadhun and Uri: The Surgical Strikes, respectively.
 - ✓ Keerthi Suresh bagged 'Best Actress' award for Mahanati. 'Uri' director Aditya Dhar won in the 'Best Director' category, and Sudhakar Reddy Yakanthi won for 'Best Debut Film of a Director'.
 - ✓ Surekha Sikri's performance in 'Badhaai Ho' won her the award for 'Best Supporting Actress', while lyricist – Actor Swanand Kirkire bagged the award for 'Best Supporting Actor' for Marathi film 'Chumbak'.
 - ✓ 'Badhaai Ho' also won the Award for a 'Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment', and Akshay Kumar's 'Padman' was awarded the 'Best Film on a Social Issue'.
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1. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Biofuel Day?

- A) Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil ☒
- B) Promote Green Fuels & Save Earth
- C) End use of Fossil Fuels
- D) Save Green Planet

- ✓ The World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th of August to create awareness about the importance of non – fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels. The day also highlights the various efforts made by Government in the biofuel sector.
- ✓ The 2019 theme of Biofuel day is 'Production of Biodiesel from Used Cooking Oil (UCO)'. Biofuels have the benefits of reduction of import dependence, cleaner environment, additional income to farmers and employment generation.

2. Which state government has announced to waive loans taken by tribals from money – lenders?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Chhattisgarh
- C) Tripura
- D) Madhya Pradesh ☒

- ✓ On the occasion of World Tribal Day, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced that loans taken by tribals from money – lenders would be waived in all tribal blocks of the state.
- ✓ The government will also provide debit cards to tribals through which they can withdraw up to Rs 10,000 from ATMs. The facility to withdraw money from ATMs will be provided at weekly markets. The decision is expected to benefit 1.5 crore tribals.
- ✓ Chief Minister Kamal Nath has also said that the government will also ensure that tribals get back valuables like jewelery and land pledged as collateral for the loan.
- ✓ Now, money – lenders will have to obtain a license from the government for working in tribal areas. The state government has also announced that forest villages would be converted into 'revenue villages' for administrative convenience.

- ✓ The Scheduled Tribes department would be renamed as Tribal Development Department as per tribals' demand.

3. Which state government has announced Chief Minister Madad Yojna for tribals?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Madhya Pradesh ☒
- D) Karnataka

- ✓ The Madhya Pradesh government has recently 'Chief Minister Madad Yojna' for providing assistance to tribal families on child birth and death of a family member.
- ✓ Upon the birth of a boy or a girl, the family will get 50 Kg of rice or wheat. In the event of death in the family, 100 Kg of rice or wheat and utensils for cooking food would be given. Beside this, 40 new Eklavya schools would be set up in tribal areas to provide quality education.
- ✓ For preserving tribal history, a museum with estimated cost of Rs.500 crore will be set up at Jabalpur in the memory of Raja Shankarshah & Raja Raghunath Shah.

4. Who is the new prosecution director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)?

- A) T S Das
- B) Sudha Rani Relangi ☒
- C) Om Prakash Verma
- D) Raj Mehra

- ✓ Sudha Rani Relangi, who is currently serving as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Law and Justice, has been appointed as new director of prosecution in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for a period of two years.
- ✓ The post had been lying vacant since the last Director of Prosecution OP Verma completed his term on 24th December 2018.

5. The researchers at which IIT have designed a system to recycle urine?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Indore
- C) IIT Kanpur
- D) IIT Madras ☒

- ✓ The researchers at IIT Madras have designed a system titled 'Project Water Chakra' to recycle human urine. The project won the Indian Innovation Growth Programme 2.0 award in July 2019.

- ✓ The researchers have retrofitted urinals on the campus to collect urine i.e. then processed into several useful materials for use in manufacturing. The concentrated urine is stored for three days to allow the urea to get converted to ammonia.
- ✓ By a process of steam distillation, the ammonia is segregated and this commercial grade liquid can be used to make cleaning products, such as detergents or in rubber manufacturing.
- ✓ Then, to precipitate phosphorus through struvite process, magnesium is added to the rest of the liquid. Hence, through electrochemical process we can recover 90% of water and it can be used for gardening purposes and flushing.

6. Which IIT with Harvard University studied mercury accumulation in fish?

- A) IIT Bombay B) IIT Indore
C) IIT Kanpur D) IIT Hyderabad ☒

- ✓ According to a study conducted by researchers from Harvard University and IIT Hyderabad, climate change and overfishing are resulting in an increase of a toxin called methylmercury (MeHg) in the ocean's fishes like Atlantic cod, Atlantic bluefin tuna.
- ✓ These fishes are widely consumed by humans. The researchers pointed 3 factors that result in mercury accumulation in fish. 1) Overfishing (which leads to dietary changes among marine animals), 2) Variations in the temperature of the sea water (which leads to changes in fish metabolism) and 3) Changes in the amounts of mercury found in sea water as a result of pollution.
- ✓ Methylmercury can cause severe damage to the nervous system in humans. It occurs in sea and river water after mercury emitted from various polluting sources. The study showed warming of seas due to climate change leading to rise in toxin levels in fishes.

7. India has recently submitted proposals to boost to protection status of 5 wildlife species at CITES. Where is the headquarters of CITES?

- A) Washington DC ☒ B) New York
C) Paris D) Berlin

- ✓ India has recently submitted proposals regarding changes to the listing of five wildlife species viz. Smooth – coated otter, Small – clawed otter, Indian Star Tortoise, Tokay gecko, Wedgefish and Indian Rosewood in the CITES secretariat meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
- ✓ The species are facing two threats: loss of habitat to agriculture and illegal harvesting for the pet trade. Hence, India seeks to boost the protection of all the 5 wildlife species as they are facing a high risk of international trade.
- ✓ India is among the parties proposing the Re-listing of the species from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I. The CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species on Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international treaty to ensure that trade in wild animals and plants do not threaten their survival. The headquarters of CITES is at Washington DC.

8. The Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) has launched a Leather Mission from which district of Rajasthan?

- A) Hanumangarh B) Ajmer
C) Sirohi ☒ D) Jhalawar

- ✓ On the occasion of World Tribal Day, the Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC) has launched a new programme 'Leather Mission' from the tribal – dominated village of Chandala in Sirohi district of Rajasthan. Under this new programme, KVIC will give Leather Kits to the leather artisans across the nation.
- ✓ It will not only increase their incomes manifold but will also inspire the traditional leather artisans who had migrated to other jobs from their traditional skill to adopt this vocation again.
- ✓ The KVIC has also distributed approx 50 leather kits and 350 Bee – Boxes with live bee colonies under the programmes like Leather Mission, Kumhar Sashaktikaran Mission and Honey Mission.

9. Which country has recently designated India in its list of major illegal drug producing & transit countries?

- A) United States of America ☒ B) China
C) Iran D) Pakistan

- ✓ US President Donald Trump has designated India among the over 20 major drug transit or illicit drug – producing countries.
- ✓ The other countries identified in the list are Afghanistan, The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Burma, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Laos, Mexico, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.
- ✓ The reasons why these countries are on the US list is the combination of geographic, commercial, and economic factors that allow drugs to transit or be produced, even if a government has engaged in robust and diligent narcotics control measures.

10. India's first clinical ecotoxicology facility has launched in which city?

- A) Delhi ☒ B) Lucknow
C) Bombay D) Chennai

- ✓ In Delhi, India's first clinical ecotoxicology facility has launched in AIIMS to investigate increasing cases of diseases resulting from exposure to environmental toxins contaminating water, food and air. This newly launched clinic will be the nodal point for leading research in clinical ecotoxicology in the country.
- ✓ It will provide diagnostic consultation & research services to all the clinical departments dealing with diseases due to ecotoxicity.
- ✓ According to the Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health, contaminated water, air and soil are responsible for about nine million early deaths.
- ✓ About 92% of these deaths due to environmental toxicity occur in the low – income and middle – income countries, which include India.

1. Which Indian wrestler won gold in the 65kg category at 2019 Tbilisi Grand Prix Wrestling tournament?

- A) Sushil Kumar B) Bajrang Punia ☒
C) Yogeshwar Dutt D) Pawan Kumar

- ✓ Bajrang Punia won gold in the 65 Kg category at Tbilisi Grand Prix Wrestling tournament. In the 65 Kg final of the men's free style competition, Punia prevailed 2-0 over Iran's Peiman Bibyani in the capital city of Georgia. It is 4th gold of the season for the Asian Games champion Bajrang after standing atop the podium at Dan Kolov, Asian Championship and Ali Aliev tournament.

2. Which Indian sportsperson has won the men's title at the 2019 Hyderabad Open badminton championship?

- A) B. Sai Praneeth B) Parupalli Kashyap
C) Srikanth Kidambi D) Sourabh Verma ☒

- ✓ In Badminton, Sourabh Verma from Madhya Pradesh clinched the Men's Singles title in the 2019 Hyderabad Open championship at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. He defeated Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 21-13, 14-21, 21-16 in the thrilling summit clash that lasted 52 minutes.
- ✓ Earlier, in May 2019, Sourabh had won the Slovenian International title. He had also won two Super 100 titles at the Dutch Open and Russian Open last year.

3. Which Indian Armed force has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu?

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

- ✓ The Indian Army has launched "Mission Reach Out" in Jammu to ensure availability of basic necessities & essential services in the region post the abrogation of the provisions of Article 370 and reorganization of Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✓ Regarding to this issue, a high level "Mission Reach Out" conference was held in the Nagrota Military Station to review the prevalent situation in the region. It was chaired by White Knight Corps Commander Lt Gen Paramjit Singh.

- ✓ The numerous initiatives undertaken by the Army under "Mission Reach Out" are as follows:

1. Mobile medical care units with essential medicines and lady medical officers (wherever necessary).
2. Providing water in locations where the supply was disrupted, provision of essentials (including rations),
3. Assistance in transportation of patients to hospitals, facilitating people to speak to their near and dear ones through Army exchange and creating a safe environment for ATMs, banks and hospitals to function.

4. Which Indian journalist has won the 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for political reporting?

- A) Rajdeep Sardesai ☒ B) Ravish Kumar
C) Barkha Dutt D) Prannoy Roy

- ✓ Veteran journalist and consulting editor at India Today TV, Rajdeep Sardesai has been conferred with the prestigious 2019 Prem Bhatia Award for Outstanding Political Reporting on 11th August at the India International Centre in New Delhi.
- ✓ He won the award for his commentary on 2019 General Elections. The award is given in memory of veteran journalist Prem Bhatia who died in 1995. It carries a prize of Rs 2 lakh.

5. Who is set to be the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA)?

- A) Aditi Pant B) Chandrima Shaha ☒
C) Asima Chatterjee D) Sulochana Gadgil

- ✓ Dr. Chandrima Shaha is set to be the first woman president of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). She is currently Professor of Eminence at the National Institute of Immunology (NII) of Delhi.
- ✓ As a biologist, Ms. Shaha has focussed on apoptosis (or programmed cell death). Her laboratory uses the uni-cellular leishmania parasite as a model.

6. India's first health – focused credit card has been launched by which bank?

- A) ICICI Bank B) HDFC Bank
C) Axis Bank D) RBL Bank ☒

✓ India's first health-focused credit card has been launched by RBL Bank and digital healthcare platform Practo. The health credit card is powered by Mastercard and is available on both Practo and RBL mobile apps and websites.

✓ It offers benefits like unlimited and 24*7 online consultations with experienced and qualified doctors, one free full body health check – up. Beside this, users can also use the card to order medicine and for availing Practo services.

7. Which museum has become the most visited museum in the Asian sub – continent?

- A) Victoria Memorial B) Napier Museum
C) Albert Hall Museum D) Virasat-e-Khalsa ☒

✓ Virasat-e-Khalsa, the pioneer museum depicting 550 years' history and culture of Punjab and Sikhism, has scripted new chapter in its rising glory by becoming the most visited museum in the Asian sub – continent on a single day.

✓ The museum had witnessed a record footfall of 20,569 visitors on a single day on March 20. Hence, the "Asia Book of Records" had confirmed the record of "Maximum footfall in a museum in a day" in the name of Virasat-e-Khalsa, which would feature in the next edition of the Asia Book of Records.

✓ Earlier, the museum was listed in the "Limca Book of Records – February 2019 Edition" and "India Book of Records – 2020 Edition". The museum was built by Punjab Govt and was inaugurated in November 2011.

8. Reliance Jio has partnered with which tech company to offer cloud infra for businesses?

- A) Microsoft ☒ B) Amazon
C) Infosys D) Facebook

✓ Reliance Jio has partnered with Microsoft to accelerate digital transformation in India. Under the deal, Microsoft will bring in the Azure Cloud on Jio Network targetting the enterprise and business users seeking a technological shift. Jio is the subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).

✓ The aim of both the companies is to enhance the adoption of leading technologies like data analytics, AI, cognitive services, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), and edge computing among Small and Medium Enterprises to make them ready to compete and grow.

9. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of International Youth Day?

- A) Safe Spaces for Youth
B) Youth Building Peace
C) Transforming Education ☒
D) Youth and Mental Health

✓ The International Youth Day (IYD) is celebrated every year on August 12 to recognize the efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. The day is the brainchild of the United Nations to draw attention to a given set of cultural and legal issues surrounding the youth of today.

✓ The 2019 theme "Transforming education" highlights efforts to make education more relevant, equitable and inclusive for all youth, including efforts by youth themselves.

10. Which cricket board has launched transgender and gender diverse policy?

- A) Australia ☒ B) West Indies
C) England D) New Zealand

✓ In a path-breaking move, Cricket Australia has recently launched new transgender inclusive policy to ensure transgender and gender-diverse people can take part in the game at the highest level in Australia.

✓ The move aligns in accordance with the International Cricket Council's (ICC's) gender recognition policy and gender diversity guidelines.

- ✓ The policy sets out a testosterone limit for transgender and gender – diverse players who want to play for state and national women's teams.
 - ✓ To be eligible for elite women's teams, the players must show a testosterone concentration of less than 10 nanomoles per litre over at least 12 months.
 - ✓ They must also be able to demonstrate their elected gender is consistent with how they are living their lives on a daily basis.
 - ✓ The guidelines cover everything from victimisation to privacy and providing suitable facilities, as well as the collection of personal information.
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1. Aishwarya Pissay, who has become the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports, is from which city?
- A) Bengaluru ☒ B) Delhi
C) Chennai D) Kolkata
- ✓ Aishwarya Pissay from Bengaluru has created history by becoming the first Indian to claim a world title in motorsports. She annexed the FIM World Cup (Federation Internationale de Motocyclisme) in the women's category after the final round of the championship at Varpalota in Hungary.
- ✓ She won the 1st round in Dubai and was placed third (Portugal), 5th (Spain) and 4th (Hungary) in the subsequent outings. Pissay finished with a tally of 65 points, just four ahead of Portugal's Rita Vieira in the final overall standings for women. Aishwarya also finished 2nd in the FIM Junior category with 46 points, behind championship winner Tomas de Gavardo (60) of Chile.
2. Which state has become the first state in India to implement the National Policy on Biofuels?
- A) Jharkhand B) Uttar Pradesh
C) Punjab D) Rajasthan ☒
- ✓ On the occasion of the World Biofuel Day, the Rajasthan government released biofuel rules – 2019 & became the first State in India to implement the National Policy on Biofuels, which was unveiled by the Government of India in May 2019.
- ✓ The desert State will put emphasis on increasing production of oilseeds and establish a Centre for Excellence in Udaipur to promote research in the fields of alternative fuels and energy resources.
- ✓ Further, there would be emphasis on biofuel advertisements by the state government to create awareness about the same. The women's Self-Help Groups will be created by the State Rural Livelihood Development Council to encourage the use of biofuels.
- ✓ Apart from this, a biodiesel plant of the capacity of 8 tonnes a day has already been installed in the State with the financial assistance of the Indian Railways.
- ✓ Biodiesel is an alternative fuel which can be used in place of fossil fuels. It is manufactured from vegetable oils, recycled grease, algae, and animal fat.
3. Holmberg 15A, which is in news recently, is associated to which field?
- A) War Exercise B) Black Hole ☒
C) Environmental Pact D) Banking term
- ✓ Astronomers at the Max Planck Institute of Germany have recently discovered a new black hole named Holmberg 15A that is clocking in at 40 billion times the mass of the Sun.
- ✓ The black hole is supergiant elliptical galaxy i.e. around 700 million light-years away from Earth and resides right at the centre of the Abell 85 galaxy cluster. It is to be noted that the Holmberg 15A is one of the biggest black holes that's ever been spotted by keeping track on the movement of stars around it.
- ✓ Black holes are a region of space-time exhibiting gravitational acceleration so strong that nothing—no particles or even electromagnetic radiation such as light—can escape from it.
4. Which state government has created world record by planting 22 – cr saplings in a day?
- A) Rajasthan B) Uttar Pradesh ☒
C) Maharashtra D) Madhya Pradesh
- ✓ To mark the 77th anniversary of Quit India movement, the Uttar Pradesh has created a world record by planting more than 22 – cr saplings in a day at 12.2 lakh locations in the state.
- ✓ For this noble cause, the state government launched a mega afforestation drive 'Vriksharopan Mahakumbh' with target to plant 22 cr saplings in a day. The previous record of planting 30,000 saplings was created by Savitribai Phule Pune University of Maharashtra in June 2019.
5. The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) has reduced the minimum period of Child Care Leave (CCL) from 15 days to _____?

A) 12 B) 5 ☒ C) 10 D) 8

- ✓ The Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the extension of benefits of Child Care Leave (CCL) to single male service personnel and certain relaxations of CCL provisions in case of women officers of defence forces.
- ✓ The decision is taken in line with a recent Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) order extending similar benefits of CCL to civilian employees. Presently, CCL is granted to women officers in defence forces.
- ✓ Recently, DoPT has made certain amendments for grant of CCL to civilian employees, whereby the CCL granted to woman employees till now has been extended to single male government servants also.
- ✓ Further, single male service personnel and women officers of defence forces will also be able to avail CCL in respect of child with 40% disability without any restriction of age limit of the child. The minimum period of CCL that can be availed at a time has been reduced to 5 days instead of 15.

6. Who is slated to be felicitated with the 2019 Charlie Chaplin Award by the British Academy's Los Angeles branch?

A) Albert Broccoli B) Jane Fonda
C) Steve Coogan ☒ D) Jackie Chan

- ✓ Actor Steve Coogan will be felicitated with the Charlie Chaplin Award for Excellence in Comedy by the British Academy's Los Angeles branch. The award recognizes the talents whose popularity and cultural impact exemplifies the uniquely transcendent quality of excellent comedy.
- ✓ Apart from Coogan, Jane Fonda will receive the Stanley Kubrick Britannia Award for Excellence in Film, and Jackie Chan will receive the Albert R. Broccoli Britannia Award for Worldwide Contribution to Entertainment.
- ✓ The 2019 Britannia Awards will be held on October 25 at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

7. Who is the author of the book 'Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar'?

A) Akshat Verma B) Satyarth Nayak ☒
C) Juhi Chaturvedi D) Gazal Dhaliwal

- ✓ The book titled 'Sridevi: Girl Woman Superstar' has been written by author – screenwriter Satyarth Nayak & will be launched on Sridevi's 56th birth anniversary. It recounts the life and times of the iconic actor who changed how women stars were perceived in the male-dominated film industry.
- ✓ As per author, the book will explore deep into Sridevi's iconic body of work in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kannada cinema. The book will be published under the Ebury Press imprint of Penguin Random House in October 2019.

8. The patriotic song 'Watan', which has been produced by Doordarshan, is sung by which singer?

A) Javed Ali ☒ B) Abhijeet Bhattacharya
C) Atif Aslam D) Kavita Krishnamurthy

- ✓ To mark the occasion of 73rd Independence Day 2019, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar launched a patriotic song 'Watan' in New Delhi. The special song, which has been produced by Doordarshan, pays a tribute to New India.
- ✓ The video of the song highlights several path-breaking initiatives of the government viz. National War Memorial, Statue of Unity and Chandrayaan 2.
- ✓ The song also pays tribute to the bravery and valour of the armed forces and the martyrs of the country. The song has been sung by famous Bollywood singer Javed Ali. It has been penned by lyricist Alok Shrivastav and music composed by Dushyant.

9. Which airline is set to become the first Indian airline to fly over the North Pole?

A) Jet Airways B) Air India ☒
C) SpiceJet D) IndiGo

- ✓ On the occasion of 73rd Independence Day 2019, National carrier Air India will become the first Indian airline to fly over the North Pole. Its' Delhi – San Francisco flight will take the route saving 2,000 to 7,000 kg of fuel and reducing the carbon emissions by 6,000 to 21,000 kg per flight.
- ✓ It will fly over Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Russia, the Arctic Ocean, Canada, and then enter the United States. Therefore, this new route will bring down the distance travelled from 12,000 km to 8,000 km approximately & will also reduce flight time on an average by 30 minutes.
- ✓ The inaugural passenger flight to San Francisco will be piloted by Captain Rajneesh Sharma and Captain Digvijay Singh on August 15.
- ✓ Because of India's geographic position, Air India will also become the only airline in the world to take all the three routes — the Atlantic, Pacific and Polar.

10. Newly – Discovered Kajin Sara Lake is located in which country?

- A) Bangladesh B) Nepal ☒
- C) Bhutan D) India

- ✓ A newly – discovered Kajin Sara lake in Manang district of Nepal is expected to set a new world record of being the world's highest lake.
 - ✓ It is located at an altitude of 5,200m, which is yet to be officially verified. Currently, Tilicho Lake in Nepal holds the title, which is situated at an altitude of 4,919m in the Himalyan nation. Tilicho Lake is 4 km long, 1.2 km wide and around 200m deep.
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1. Which union ministry has launched Swachha Survakshan Grameen?

A) Ministry of Rural Development

B) Ministry of Jal Shakti ☒

C) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

D) Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- ✓ In New Delhi, the Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the India's largest sanitation survey – Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019.
- ✓ The aim of this 45-day long survey is to engage rural communities in improvement of the sanitation status of their districts and states through intensive campaign.
- ✓ The survey will take place in 18 thousand villages of 698 districts. Swachhata activities have also been planned at around 87,000 public places where community meetings will be organized. People can also directly give their feedback through the mobile app.
- ✓ Under the 2nd edition of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, districts and states will be ranked on data collected from citizen feedback, direct observation and service-level progress.

2. The famous 'Panchamirtham' of Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple has recently got GI tag. The temple is located in which state?

A) Tamil Nadu ☒

B) Kerala

C) Karnataka

D) Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The famous 'Panchamirtham', an offering of the Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple has been granted the Geographical Identity (GI) tag. This is the first time a temple 'prasadam' from Tamil Nadu has been conferred with the GI tag.
- ✓ The unique 'panchamirtham' of Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy temple is prepared using 5 natural substances — banana, jaggery, cow ghee, forest honey and cardamom.
- ✓ The panchamirtham is an 'Abhishega Prasadam', which is served in a semi-solid state. It is sweet in taste and one

of the main offerings for Lord Dhandayuthapani Swamy, the presiding deity of Arulmigu Palani Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, situated on Palani Hills. The quality of the 'Panchamirtham' is being monitored by the Central Research Institute of Food Technology in Mysore.

- ✓ It is also noteworthy that Palani temple is one of the six Murugan Temples in Tamil Nadu that have special associations with the life of the Landlord of 'Kurinji' – Lord Murugan.

3. The researchers at which IIT have developed lowcost blood test device?

A) IIT Kanpur

B) IIT Kharagpur ☒

C) IIT Bombay

D) IIT Delhi

- ✓ The researchers from IIT Kharagpur have developed a lowcost diagnostic device which can perform various pathological tests by using blood taken from a finger prick. The device requires only a paper strip based kit integrated with a smartphone to enable analytics and readout functions and an LED light for imaging.
- ✓ The key aspect of the kit is operational simplicity and extremely low running cost. The kit is developed by a research team led by Prof Suman Chakraborty.

4. Who has become the first Indian chef to receive French honour?

A) Sanjeev Kapoor

B) Ranveer Brar

C) Vikas Khanna

D) Priyam Chatterjee ☒

- ✓ Priyam Chatterjee has become the first Indian chef to be awarded the 'Chevalier de l'Ordre du Mérite Agricole' by the Government of France. The award recognises his contribution towards reinventing the gastronomic scene in India. He is currently the head chef at Jaan Restaurant Yacht in France.

5. Which organisation has launched a special drive code named 'Operation Number Plate'?

A) NSG

B) RPF ☒

C) BSF

D) CRPF

- ✓ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Indian Railways has launched a special drive code named 'Operation Number Plate' to ensure safety of passengers.

- ✓ The purpose of the special drive is to identify vehicles parked in the premises of Indian Railways and at several 'No Parking' zones for beyond the stipulated time or longer duration.

6. Who has been elected as the new President of Guatemala?

A) Mariano Rivera Paz

B) Jimmy Morales

C) Alejandro Giammattei ☒

D) Alejandro Maldonado

- ✓ Alejandro Giammattei has become the newly elected President of Guatemala, after winning the second round of the 2019 presidential election. He tried 3 times previously to become president before succeeding on his 4th attempt. He cites Mahatma Gandhi as his most admired world figure.

7. As per Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan – Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY), a monthly pension of how much amount will be provided to eligible farmers on attaining the age of 60?

A) Rs 5000

B) Rs 6000

C) Rs 3000 ☒

D) Rs 4000

- ✓ The Union Government has recently started registration for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan – Dhan Yojana (PM – KMY) with an aim to improve the life of Small and Marginal Farmers of the country. This scheme for farmers has been announced in the Union Budget 2019 – 20.

- ✓ The scheme is voluntary and contributory for farmers in the entry age group of 18 to 40 years and a monthly pension of Rs. 3000/- will be provided to them on attaining the age of 60 years.

- ✓ The farmers will have to make a monthly contribution of Rs.55 to Rs.200, depending on their age of entry, in the Pension Fund till they reach the retirement date i.e. the

age of 60 years. The Central Government will also make an equal contribution of the same amount in the pension fund.

- ✓ The spouse is also eligible to get a separate pension of Rs.3000/- upon making separate contributions to the Fund. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) shall be the Pension Fund Manager and responsible for Pension pay out. The PM – KMY will be implemented across the country, including Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

8. On which date, the 2019 edition of World Elephant Day is observed recently?

A) August 11

B) August 12 ☒

C) August 14

D) August 13

- ✓ The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th of August to raise awareness of the worsening plight of Asian and African elephants. Elephant is also the National Heritage Animal of India.

- ✓ African elephants are listed as "Vulnerable" and Asian elephants as "Endangered" on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Their numbers are dwindling as poachers target them for their ivory. Habitat loss is another reason for their dwindling numbers.

9. On which date, the 2019 edition of World Organ Donation Day is observed recently?

A) August 12

B) August 13 ☒

C) August 14

D) August 15

- ✓ The World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on August 13 to encourage people to donate their precious organs. Every year, about 5 lakh people die awaiting organ transplants due to non – availability of organs. There is a wide gap between the number of transplants awaited and the organs available.

- ✓ Organ donation is a process where an organ is transferred from the body of the one who is giving the organ (donor) to the one who needs the organ (recipient). The donor can be living or deceased.

- ✓ Organs that can be donated are kidney, lungs, heart, eye, liver, pancreas, cornea, small intestine, skin tissues, bone tissues, heart valves and veins.

10. Who is the head of high level committee on CSR, which recommended CSR expenditure to be made tax deductible expenditure?

- A) Injeti Srinivas ☒ B) Nripendra Misra
C) Pramod Kumar Misra D) Bhaskar Khulbe

- ✓ The High Level Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), headed by Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas, has recently submitted its report to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- ✓ The main recommendations include making CSR expenditure tax deductible, allowing the carry – forward of unspent balance for a period of 3–5 years, and aligning Schedule 7 of the Companies Act (which outlines the kinds of activities that qualify as CSR) with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ The Committee has also recommended that companies having CSR prescribed amount below Rs 50 lakh may be exempted from constituting a CSR Committee. It also suggested that violation of CSR compliance may be made a civil offence and shifted to the penalty regime.