

JULY.....
.....2019

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FIRST WEEK

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01 JULY - 07 JULY



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1. Veer Chotrani is associated to which sports?

- A) Athletics B) Wrestling
C) Badminton D) Squash

- ✓ In Squash, India won a gold as Veer Chotrani beat compatriot Yash Fadte to win the U-19 title at the Asian Junior Championship in Macau, China.
- ✓ With this victory, Veer became the third Indian to win the Asian trophy after Ravi Dixit and Vela Senthilkumar. In the other two finals, India bagged 2 silver medals through Neel Joshi in the boys U-17 category and Yuvna Gupta in the girls U-15 section. India finished the tournament with one gold, three silver and as many bronze medals.

2. Who is the current director of Intelligence Bureau?

- A) Anil Dhasmana B) Arvind Kumar
C) Samant Kumar Goel D) Rajiv Jain

- ✓ Arvind Kumar, a 1984 batch IPS officer from Assam-Meghalaya cadre, has been appointed as the new chief of the Intelligence Bureau (IB). He is considered an expert on Kashmir, with specialisation in counter – terrorism.
- ✓ He also holds charge as the special director of Kashmir in the intelligence agency. Kumar succeeded Rajiv Jain as IB chief, who completed his tenure of 2 ½ years. IB is India's internal intelligence agency and is headquartered at New Delhi.

3. Which state government has launched free crop insurance scheme for farmers?

- A) Jharkhand B) Madhya Pradesh
C) West Bengal D) Rajasthan

- ✓ For the 2019 kharif season, the West Bengal government has rolled out a free crop insurance scheme in collaboration with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India (AIC).
- ✓ The scheme called Bangla Shashya Bima (BSB) is applicable for farmers in 15 districts - Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Purba Bardhaman, Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Medinipur, Malda, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad, Cooch Behar, Birbhum,

Purulia, Dakshin Dinajpur, North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas.

- ✓ The crop insurance scheme would be free of cost for the farmers since the government will pay the full premium. The crops that will come under insurance are aman paddy, aus paddy, jute and maize. All farmers taking loans (granted or applied for) and even those not taking loans can avail of the insurance.
- ✓ The insurance will be paid in four stages - for any losses suffered during planting, during cultivation, during the period post-cutting when crops are lying in the field, and for adverse weather situations. The amount will be decided by the state government and will be calculated per hectare.

4. Abburi Chaya Devi, who passed away recently, was the famous fiction writer of which language?

- A) Telugu B) Marathi
C) Malayalam D) Kannada

- ✓ Abburi Chaya Devi (86), the popular Telugu fiction writer, has passed away in Hyderabad on June 28. She received the Sahitya Akademi Award in 2005 for her book 'Thana Margam'.
- ✓ Chaya Devi is the wife of the late Abburi Varada Rajeswara Rao, who himself was a writer, critic and former Chairman of Official Languages Commission.
- ✓ Her works are Anaga Anaga (folk stories for children), Abburi Chayadevi Kathalu (short stories), Mrityunjaya (long story) and Thana Margam (short stories about the exploitation of women in the guise of family bonds).

5. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of World Vitiligo Day?

- A) Children, Research, and Hope for the Future
B) The Quality of Life of a Vitiligo Patient
C) Mental and Medical Journey of Living with Vitiligo
D) How I Feel

- ✓ The World Vitiligo Day is observed every year on June 25 to raise awareness about the condition. The 2019 theme 'The Quality of Life of a Vitiligo Patient'.
- ✓ Vitiligo is an autoimmune disorder wherein the immune system of the body attacks the healthy cells and in turn starts affecting the body. The condition is characterized by white patches on the skin that develops as a result of melanocytes within the skin.
- ✓ These are the cells that are responsible for the skin pigment melanin that gives color to your skin. The white patches appear when the melanocytes die off. The condition is also termed as Vitiligo or Leucoderma.

6. Who is the new Managing Director of National Housing Bank (NHB)?

- A) Sriram Kalyanaraman B) R S Garg
C) Ashwani Kumar Tripathi **D) Sarada Kumar Hota**

- ✓ Sarada Kumar Hota has been appointed as the new Managing Director of National Housing Bank (NHB) for a period of three years. Prior to this appointment, Hota was Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Can Fin Homes.
- ✓ NHB, which is now 100% owned by the government, is the nodal agency for supervision, refinance and development of the housing finance segment.

7. Mohammed Baji, who passed away recently, was the eminent freedom fighter of which state?

- A) Uttar Pradesh **B) Odisha**
C) Chhattisgarh D) Punjab

- ✓ Mohammed Baji (103), the eminent freedom fighter, has passed away at Sunari Sahi in Nabarangpur, Odisha. He had joined the Indian National Congress in 1936, the year Odisha became a separate province on the basis of language.
- ✓ He also joined the Quit India Movement and was held on August 19, 1942. He spent nearly five years in jail before he was released on June 25, 1947.
- ✓ After the freedom struggle, Baji was active in the Sarvodaya movement. He was the chairman of Utkal

Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and a close associate of Utkal Sarvodaya Mandal.

8. What is the theme of the 13th National Statistics Day?

- A) Administrative Statistics
B) Quality Assurance in Official Statistics
C) Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare
D) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- ✓ The 13th National Statistics Day (NSD-2019) is celebrated on 29th June at the National level in India with theme "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)" to popularize the use of Statistics in everyday life and sensitize the public as to how Statistics helps in shaping and framing policies.
- ✓ The 2019 theme has been chosen for intensive and focused discussions towards filling the data gaps and improvement of timelines/quality in SDGs.
- ✓ The day is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Late Professor P C Mahalanobis in recognition of his invaluable contribution in establishing the National Statistical System. He had set up Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) at Kolkata in 1931 for research and training in Statistics.

9. Who has become the first IPS Officer to complete 'Seventh Summit' Challenge?

- A) Dipankar Ghosh **B) Aparna Kumar**
C) Malavath Purna D) Nawang Gombu

- ✓ Aparna Kumar, a 2002 batch IPS officer from UP cadre, has created history by becoming the first civil servant and IPS officer to achieve the incredible and rare feat of completing '7 Summits' challenge.
- ✓ She hoisted India's tricolour flag on Mount Denali in Alaska, which is the highest peak of North America standing at 20,310 ft. She is also the first woman IPS DIG and Indo – Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) officer to successfully complete the South Pole expedition.
- ✓ The Seven Summits is a mountaineering challenge which includes scaling the highest mountains from each of the 7 continents. It includes Mount Everest in

Nepal, Aconcagua in Argentina, Denali in the US, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Mount Elbrus in Russia, Mount Vinson in Antarctica, and Puncak Jaya and Mount Kosciuszko in Australia.

- ✓ Canadian mountaineer Patrick Morrow was the first man to climb the Seven Summits in 1986 while Indian Army officer Colonel Ranveer Singh Jamwal is the first Indian to summit the seven highest peaks spread across the seven continents.

10. Which Indian politician has authored the book titled 'The New Delhi Conspiracy'?

- A) Shashi Tharoor B) Abhishek Manu Singhvi
C) Sanjay Nirupam D) Meenakshi Lekhi

- ✓ The book titled 'The New Delhi Conspiracy' has been authored by Meenakshi Lekhi, a Lok Sabha MP from Delhi and a Supreme Court lawyer. It is co-authored by Krishna Kumar and is slated for release on July 8.
 - ✓ The debut novel talks about undercurrents of Delhi's political landscape and attempts to lay bare what is influencing the course of the nation's political trajectory.
- _____

1. Which state government has launched Dastak campaign against AES & JE disease?

- A) Rajasthan B) MP
C) Uttar Pradesh D) Bihar

- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh government has launched massive door to door campaign "DASTAK" against Acute Encephellitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephallitis (JE) disease.
- ✓ The campaign, which was launched in association with UNICEF, will run from 1st to 31st July. Under this state – wide campaign teams will go door to door in every village of the 75 districts of the state to create awareness about the communicable diseases as well as JE and AES.

2. Which city is hosting the first-ever ISA's joint security exercise "ISALEX19"?

- A) Pune B) Paris
C) New York D) Abu Dhabi

- ✓ The first-ever International Security Alliance (ISA)'s joint security exercise titled "ISALEX19" has started in Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Area Emirates (UAE). The representatives of 50 law enforcement agencies of the ISA are participating in the exercise.
- ✓ The participants include representatives from tactical teams, communications and civil defence teams. The ISA is an international working group to confront organised, transnational and extremist crimes. The alliance now comprises 9 countries, the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, France, Italy, Spain, Senegal, Singapore, and the Slovak Republic.

3. STRIDE, which is in news recently, is associated to which of the following issues?

- A) To boost research culture
B) To boost women empowerment
C) To promote tribal handicrafts
D) To promote child education

- ✓ The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved a new initiative - Scheme for Trans-disciplinary Research for India's Developing

Economy (STRIDE) to boost research culture in the country.

- ✓ The aim of STRIDE is to identify young talent, strengthen research culture, build capacity, promote innovation and support Trans-disciplinary research for India's developing economy and national development.
- ✓ Broadly, STRIDE will provide support to research projects that are socially relevant, locally need-based, nationally important and globally significant. It shall support creation, development and integration of new ideas, concepts and practices for public good and strengthening civil society.

4. On which date, the 2019 edition of International Olympic Day is observed?

- A) June 23 B) June 29
C) June 30 D) June 30

- ✓ The International Olympic Day is celebrated every year on June 23 to promote participation in different sports throughout the world without any discrimination of the gender, age and athletic ability.

5. The first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) will be held in which of the following cities?

- A) Pune B) New Delhi
C) Dehradun D) Bhopal

- ✓ The first-ever India International Cooperatives Trade Fair (IICTF) will be held in New Delhi between 11th - 13th October.
- ✓ The initiative is a part of the Agriculture Export Policy 2018 which aims at doubling the agriculture export and integrating Indian farmers and agriculture products with global value chains. The Trade Fair is aimed at promoting cooperative to cooperative trade within the country and abroad leading to enhanced rural and farm prosperity.
- ✓ The fair offers a huge opportunity for the industry and business houses from India and abroad to build alliances, product sourcing and interact with the primary producers of a wide range of products and service providers.

6. Which district administration of J&K has launched 'Operation Khumaar' to make 312 panchayats tobacco – free?

- A) Rajouri B) Udhampur
C) Kathua D) Poonch

- ✓ In Jammu and Kashmir, the district administration of Rajouri has been launched a campaign called "Operation Khumaar" to make 312 panchayats tobacco – free. The programme is run by the district administration to make panchayats free from tobacco and tobacco based products.
- ✓ Under this programme, even the headmaster of the schools have been authorised to impose a fine on the sale of tobacco within 100 yards of school limits.
- ✓ Block Medical Officers have been directed to set up counselling centres at all Community Health Centres to help tobacco consumers to quit this habit.
- ✓ The district officers have been urged upon to work in a mission mode so as to make the society free from the injurious tobacco and tobacco based products.

7. Santosh Rana, who passed away recently, was the veteran leader of which political party?

- A) CPI (ML) B) BJP
C) INC D) SP

- ✓ Santosh Rana (76), the veteran Naxalite leader, has passed away in Kolkata on June 29. He is one of the foremost leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) and a major thinker on caste, class and tribal politics in West Bengal and winner of a top literary award in the State. His autobiography is Rajnitir Ek Jibon [A Life in Politics].

8. Who is the author of the book 'A Prime Minister to Remember – Memories of a Military Chief'?

- A) Vishnu Bhagwat B) Sureesh Mehta
C) Sushil Kumar D) Vijai Singh Shekhawat

- ✓ The book titled "A Prime Minister to Remember- Memories of a Military Chief" has been authored by former Navy Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar.

- ✓ The book is about the huge impact that the late Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had on the armed forces of India.

- ✓ Admiral Kumar was the Navy Chief between 1998 and 2001 and oversaw the Kargil conflict in 1999.

9. The 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship will be hosted by which of the following states?

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

- ✓ The Odisha government has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with state's table tennis body and Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI) to host the 21st Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship.
- ✓ The tournament is scheduled to be held at the Jawaharlal Indoor Stadium in Cuttack from July 17-22, 2019. The tournament has received a good entry with 14 associations, consisting India, Singapore, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, England, Scotland, Wales, Jersey, Australia, Cyprus, South Africa, Nigeria, Pakistan.

10. India has inked Rs 200 crore defence deal with which country for 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missile?

- A) United States B) Israel
C) Russia D) France

- ✓ Under the emergency provisions, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has signed an Rs 200 crore defence deal with Russia to acquire 'Strum Ataka' anti-tank missile for its fleet of Mi-35 attack choppers.
- ✓ The Mi-35s are the existing attack choppers of the Indian Air Force and are set to be replaced with the Apache gunships being acquired from the US and slated to be delivered from next month onwards.
- ✓ With this, the IAF has emerged as the frontrunner in terms of weapon acquisition under the emergency procurement, followed by the Indian Army. Under the emergency powers given to the three services, they can buy the equipment of their choice within three months at a cost of up to Rs 300 crore per case.

1. Which water conservation campaign has been launched by Central Government?

- A) Jal Bachav Abhiyan B) Jal Tarang Abhiyan
C) Jal Suraksha Abhiyan **D) Jal Shakti Abhiyan**

- ✓ Union Jal Shakti Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has recently launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - a campaign for water conservation and water security, with an emphasis on 1592 stressed blocks in 256 districts.
- ✓ The campaign will run through citizen participation during the monsoon season, from 1st July, 2019 to 15th September, 2019. The focus of the campaign will be on water stressed districts and blocks.
- ✓ The 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' will focus on five aspects -- water conservation and rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies, reuse of water and recharging of structures, watershed development, and intensive afforestation.
- ✓ The conservation efforts will be supplemented by initiatives like developing block and district water conservation plans and 'krishi vigyan kendra melas' to promote efficient water use for irrigation and better crop choices. In urban areas, plans with time-bound targets will be developed for waste water reuse for industrial and agricultural purposes.

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

- A) June 27 B) June 28
C) June 29 D) June 30

- ✓ The International Day of the Tropics is observed every year on June 29 to raise awareness to the specific challenges faced by tropical areas, the far-reaching implications of the issues affecting the world's tropical zone and the need, at all levels, to raise awareness and to underline the important role that countries in the tropics will play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- ✓ The day provides an opportunity to take stock of progress across the tropics, to share tropical stories and expertise and to acknowledge the diversity and potential of the region.

- ✓ The Tropics are a region of the Earth, roughly defined as the area between the tropic of Cancer and the tropic of Capricorn. The Tropics account for 40% of the world's total surface area and are host to approximately 80% of the world's biodiversity and much of its language and cultural diversity.
- ✓ The tropical region faces a number of challenges such as climate change, deforestation, urbanisation and demographic changes.

3. Which country has officially resumed commercial whaling?

- A) Japan** B) South Korea
C) New Zealand D) UK

- ✓ On 1st July 2019, Japan officially resumed commercial whaling after more than 30 years of limiting whale hunts to scientific purposes. The hunts come after Japan's withdrawal from the International Whaling Commission (IWC).
- ✓ The move is slammed by anti-whaling activists but welcomed by Japanese whaling communities. Now, Japan has joined Iceland and Norway as the only nations to allow commercial whaling despite the IWC moratorium.
- ✓ Hunting will reportedly be limited to Japan's territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, which stretches about 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the nation's coasts. The IWC, established in 1946, to conserve and manage the world's whale and cetacean population, introduced a moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986.

4. Which of the following butterfly species has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu?

- A) Cirrochroa thais** B) Papilio bianor
C) Papilio buddha D) Troides Minos

- ✓ Tamil yeoman (Cirrochroa thais) has been officially declared as state butterfly of Tamil Nadu. These butterflies are also known as Tamil Maravan (which means warrior) and are endemic to Western Ghats.
- ✓ The tawny-coloured creature with a dark brown outer ring is among the 32 butterfly species found in

Western Ghats. Hence, Tamil Nadu has become the 5th state in the country to announce its state butterfly.

- ✓ Maharashtra was the first to declare Blue Mormon as its state butterfly, followed by Uttarakhand (Common peacock), Karnataka (Southern Bird Wing) and Kerala (Malabar banded peacock).
- ✓ While the butterfly becomes the pride of the state after such a declaration, the decision also helps conserve its ecosystem and paves the way for eco-tourism. People also recognize the importance of butterflies which subsequently helps in its conservation. There are a total of 32 butterfly hotspots in Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The state had declared its various other icons earlier, like state animal (Nilgiri Tahr), state bird (Emerald Dove), state tree (palm tree), state flower (Gloriosa) and state fruit (jack fruit).

5. Indo-French Joint Air Exercise "Garuda-V" has started in which of the following sites?

- A) Montpellier B) Pune
C) Jodhpur D) Mont-de-Marsan

- ✓ The 6th edition of Exercise Garuda-VI has started between Indian and French Air Force from 1st of July 2019 at French Air Force Base - Mont-de-Marsan.
- ✓ The exercise will see the most potent fighter aircraft of the two countries going head-to-head to validate the latest defence strategies and fine-tune their waging capabilities and is expected to showcase fighter jets like Rafale, Mirage 2000, Sukhoi 30 from the two sides.
- ✓ Participation of Indian Air Force (IAF) in the exercise will also promote professional interaction, exchange experiences and operational knowledge besides strengthening bilateral relations with the French Air Force. It will also provide a good opportunity to the air warriors to operate in an international environment.

6. Which Indian scientist has been selected as the Co-Investigator for NASA's PUNCH mission?

- A) Dipankar Banerjee B) Raghunath Anant
C) Ashoke Sen D) Narendra Karmarkar

- ✓ NASA has selected Texas-based Southwest Research Institute to lead its PUNCH mission which will image the Sun.
- ✓ This is a landmark mission that will image regions beyond the Sun's outer corona. Prof. Dipankar Banerjee, solar physicist from Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) is also a Co-Investigator of the PUNCH mission. The acronym 'PUNCH' stands for "Polarimeter to Unify the Corona and Heliosphere".
- ✓ The PUNCH mission is focused on understanding the transition of particles from the Sun's outer corona to the solar wind that fills interplanetary space. India is also planning to send up its own satellite Aditya-L1, a mission to study the Sun's corona, and Prof. Banerjee is the co-Chair of the Science Working Group.

7. Dr. Jaya Arunachalam, veteran social activist has passed away. She was from which state?

- A) Kerala B) Karnataka
C) Andhra Pradesh D) Tamil Nadu

- ✓ Dr. Jaya Arunachalam (87), founder of Working Women's Forum (WWF), has passed away in Chennai on June 29, 2019. She is best known for her social service contributions through WWF which she initiated in 1978.
- ✓ Through WWF, she helped several lakhs of women from underprivileged background to organise themselves towards becoming financially independent. Dr. Arunachalam was conferred the Padma Shri by the Government of India (GoI) in 1987.
- ✓ She received the Jamnalal Bajaj Award in 2009 for her work towards the welfare of women and children. A graduate in Economics and Geography, she was awarded a honorary doctorate by the University of Lueneberg, Germany in 1999.

- ✓ She is a recipient of the International Activist Award by Glietsman Foundation in 2003, and the Godfrey Phillips National Bravery Social Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. She has also served as vice president of Tamil Nadu Congress Committee (TNCC) and member of All India Congress Committee.

8. Which of the following public sector banks has signed MoU with NIIF to boost capital availability for infrastructure projects?

- A) SBI B) BoB
C) PNB D) BoI

- ✓ The State Bank of India (SBI) and National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) have inked a memorandum of understanding to boost the availability of capital for infrastructure projects.
- ✓ The scope of the MoU includes equity investments, project funding, bond financing, renewable energy support and take-out finance for operating assets. The objective of this initiative is to aid in filling the gap at a time when the availability of equity and debt financing for infrastructure has moderated.
- ✓ The initiative will address concerns relating to the availability of equity and long-term debt funding options to large scale projects, thereby stimulating the infrastructure development.

9. Which Indian personality has been elected as a member of International Olympic Committee (IOC)?

- A) Pargat Singh B) Narinder Batra
C) Ramandeep Singh D) Dilip Tirkey

- ✓ Dr. Narinder Batra, President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA), has been elected as a member of International Olympic Committee (IOC) during the IOC Session in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- ✓ Batra now has a rare distinction of becoming a member of the IOC, while heading a National Olympic Committee (NOC) as well as an international federation. He is the first Indian to have this distinction. He has already become the first Indian to head an international federation of an Olympic sport -- that of International Hockey Federation (FIH).

- ✓ With the election of Batra, the number of Indians who are currently active members of IOC will rise to two. Reliance Foundation Chairperson Nita Ambani was elected as an individual member of the IOC in 2016. She is the first Indian woman to be elected to the prestigious seat.

10. Impressed tortoise, which is in news recently, is discovered in which of the following states?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Arunachal Pradesh
C) Nagaland D) Odisha

- ✓ A team of herpetologists from the Forest Department and two NGOs — Help Earth and Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) have discovered the Impressed Tortoise (*Manouria impressa*) in Yazali area of the Lower Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.
- ✓ This is the first-ever recorded sighting in India of this tortoise which is on a red list of threatened species. Chelonian is an order of reptile that includes turtles, terrapins and tortoises. The male Impressed Tortoise is smaller than the female which is 30 cm in length.
- ✓ This *Manouria* species is one-third the size of the Asian Forest Tortoise. There are only two species of tortoises under the *Manouria* genus.
- ✓ India was known to be the home of only the Asian Forest Tortoise (*Manouria emys*) until the discovery of the Impressed Tortoise. The Asian Forest Tortoise, the largest in mainland Asia, is found only in the northeast

1. The first UIDAI – run Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) operational in which of the following cities?

- A) Delhi & Vijayawada B) Bhopal & Jaipur
C) Nagpur & Varanasi D) Varanasi & Delhi

- ✓ The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has operationalized the first Aadhaar Seva Kendra (ASK) in Delhi and Vijayawada. The new Aadhaar centres are similar to Passport Seva Kendras run by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ These are meant to facilitate enrolment, updation and other activities. The centre has the capacity to handle upto 1,000 Aadhaar related requests daily. The Aadhaar enrolment and updation centre is open from 9.30 am to 6 pm on all days except Tue. These centres will soon be rolled out across 53 cities of India at an estimated project cost of Rs 300 – 400 crore.

2. Where is the headquarters of Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) is located?

- A) Delhi B) Hyderabad
C) Lucknow D) Indore

- ✓ The CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) has signed Mou with Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics (CDFD) to provide DNA-based diagnostic service to the public at lower cost, to develop newer diagnostic methods and to engage in scientific research to improve understanding of human genetic disorders has been signed here.
- ✓ Both the institutes have also mutually agreed to undertake training and educational activities in genetic diagnostics. The CDFD is a Biotechnology research centre i.e. operated by the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology. It is located at Hyderabad, Telangana.

3. Who is the author of the autobiography 'Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly'?

- A) Sanjay Dutt B) Irrfan Khan
C) Anupam Kher D) Naseeruddin Shah

- ✓ The autobiography titled "Lessons Life Taught Me, Unknowingly" has been authored by Bollywood actor Anupam Kher i.e. set to hit stands on 5 August.

- ✓ It is a story of a small town boy who dared to dream. It is a story about hope, disappointments, success, failures and eternal optimism.
- ✓ The book will be an extraordinary, riveting and no-holds-barred saga in which Kher will make some behind-the-scenes revelations, and share anecdotes and rare nuggets from his life and the lessons it taught him.
- ✓ He has over 530 films in several languages, both in India and the West, 100 plays and numerous TV shows to his credit. He is a winner of two National awards, 8 Filmfare awards and a BAFTA nomination. He is also a recipient of the Padma Shree and Padma Bhushan awards.

4. The 2nd edition of International Day of Parliamentarism was observed on which of the following dates?

- A) June 27 B) June 28
C) June 29 D) June 30

- ✓ The 2nd edition of International Day of Parliamentarism is celebrated across the world on 30th June to recognize the importance of parliaments and their responsibility of representing the people. It is also the date, in 1889, on which the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was established.
- ✓ The parliamentary systems fall into two categories: bicameral and unicameral. Out of 193 countries, 79 are bicameral and 114 are unicameral. The oldest parliament is the Althingi, the Icelandic Parliament, founded in 930.

5. Who has been elected new chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN)?

- A) Harsh Shrivastava B) Vineet Chattree
C) Manoj Kumar Nambiar D) Jagadish Ramadugu

- ✓ Manoj Kumar Nambiar, MD of Arohan Financial Services (AFS), has been elected as new chairman of Microfinance Institutions Network (MFIN).
- ✓ The MFIN is an industry association consists of 56 NBFC-MFIs (Non Banking Financial Company-Micro Finance Institutions) and 40 associates including Banks, SFBs

(Small Finance Banks) and NBFCs. It is also the Self-Regulatory Organization (SRO) for the regulated NBFC-MFI.

6. Who is the head of the RBI committee to strengthen Core Investment Companies (CIC) framework?

- A) Lily Vadera B) N S Venkatesh
C) T Ravishankar D) Tapan Ray

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a 6-member committee, under the chairmanship of former secretary of MCA Tapan Ray, to strengthen the corporate governance framework of systematically important Core Investment Companies (CICs).
- ✓ These are Non-Banking Financial Companies which have their assets predominantly as investments in shares for holding stake in group companies but not for trading. CICs also do not carry out any other financial activity. The committee report is to be submitted by October 31, 2019.
- ✓ The working group will examine regulatory framework, enhance onsite and offsite surveillance of these companies, suggest changes in registration criteria including the practice of multiple CIC within a group and other such assessment to strengthen the corporate governance framework.

7. What is the rank of the Indian passport at the 2019 Henley Passport Index?

- A) 75th B) 89th
C) 45th D) 86th

- ✓ The Indian passport has been ranked at the 86th position with a mobility score of 58 in the latest Henley Passport Index 2019. The score points out that Indian passport holder can access 58 countries around the world without a prior visa.
- ✓ The index includes 199 passports and 227 travel destinations — including micro-states and territories. India shares the 86th position with Mauritania and Sao Tome and Principe.

- ✓ The list is topped by Japan & Singapore with a mobility score of 189. South Korea, Finland and Germany have acquired 2nd position, while Denmark, Italy, and Luxembourg are on the third rank. France has dropped to the fourth spot, now sharing the position with Spain and Sweden.
- ✓ The ranking is based on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), which maintains the world's largest and most accurate database of travel information.

8. Babu Narayanan, who passed away recently, was the popular filmmaker of which regional cinema?

- A) Tamil B) Malayalam
C) Telugu D) Kannada

- ✓ Babu Narayanan (59), the popular Malayalam director, has passed away in Thrissur, Kerala on June 29.

9. Who is the head of the high-powered committee of Chief Ministers (CMs) to transform Indian agriculture?

- A) Devendra Fadnavis B) Ramesh Chand
C) Manohar Lal Khattar D) Vijay Rupani

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently constituted a high-powered committee of Chief Ministers for the transformation of agriculture and raising farmers' income.
- ✓ The 9 member committee, headed by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis, will suggest policy measures, attract investments and raise growth in food processing.
- ✓ The members of the committee are as follows: Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Union Agriculture, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand.
- ✓ The terms of reference (ToR) of the committee include suggesting modalities for adoption and time bound implementation of reforms such as Agriculture Produce and Livestock, Contract Farming and Services (Promotion & Facilitation) Act,

2018; changes in the Essential Commodity Act, 1955 to attract private investments in agricultural marketing and infrastructure.

- ✓ The committee has also been asked to suggest mechanism for linking of market reforms with e-NAM, GRAM and other relevant Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and ways to upgrade agri-technology to global standards and improve access of farmers to quality seed, plant propagation material and farm machinery in agriculturally advance countries.

10. Ambati Rayudu, who recently retired from all forms of cricket, is from which state?

- A) Telangana B) Andhra Pradesh
C) Maharashtra D) Karnataka

- ✓ Indian middle-order batsman Ambati Rayudu from Andhra Pradesh retired from all forms of cricket on July 3, 2019. He did not specify reasons for calling it quits.
- ✓ He was in India's official standbys list for the ongoing World Cup but was omitted twice. Rayudu played 55 ODIs for India, scoring 1694 runs at an average of 47.05. However, he did not play any Test.

1. Dragonfly mission, which is in news to explore Saturn's Moon Titan, is associated to which space agency?

- A) Roscosmos B) CNES
C) ISRO D) NASA

- ✓ NASA has recently announced its New Frontiers program, called Dragonfly mission, to explore Saturn's largest moon - Titan. It's the only moon in our solar system that has an atmosphere.
- ✓ The mission will launch in 2026 and will reach Titan by 2034. Titan is the 2nd-largest natural satellite in our Solar System, and is larger than the Moon and the planet Mercury. As it orbits Saturn, Titan is about 886 million miles (1.4 billion km) away from the Sun, about 10 times farther than Earth.
- ✓ Because it is so far from the Sun, its surface temperature is minus 290°F (-179°C). Its surface pressure is also 50% higher than Earth's. Titan has a dense, nitrogen based atmosphere like Earth. Unlike Earth, it has clouds and rain of methane.

2. Which state government has launched toll-free CM helpline 1076?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Madhya Pradesh
C) Jharkhand D) Rajasthan

- ✓ In Uttar Pradesh, the state government has launched a toll-free Chief Minister Helpline No. 1076 that will enable people from across the state to register their complaints and will ensure a time-bound action on the complaints also.
- ✓ The CM helpline number 1076 will work 24x7 and anyone from any part of the state can call on this number anytime. The 500-seater call centre has been established for the helpline and it has the capacity to handle 80,000 inbound and 55,000 outbound calls on a daily basis.
- ✓ When the complainant calls the helpline, he/she will get an SMS informing that the complaint has been sent to the department concerned.

3. Which Indian sprinter has won gold in women's 200 m at the Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland?

- A) Dutee Chand B) Hima Das

- C) Sarita Gayakwad D) Sathi Geetha

- ✓ Indian sprinter Hima Das clocked 23.65s to win gold in women's 200 metres at the 2019 Poznan Athletics Grand Prix in Poland. Hima is the world junior champion and national record holder in 400m.
- ✓ While national record holder shot putter Tajinder Pal Singh Toor bagged a bronze in the ongoing tournament. Another Indian, V K Vismaya finished third with a personal best time of 23.75 seconds in the race at Poznan.

4. The world's largest burn and plastic surgery institute Institute has started functioning in which of the following cities?

- A) Yangon B) Jakarta
C) Pune D) Dhaka

- ✓ The world's largest "Sheikh Hasina National Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute" has started functioning in Dhaka from 4th July 2019. The 500 bed hospital with 50 ICU and 12 operation theatres will provide advanced treatment to burn patients in Bangladesh. The institute has been built at a cost of over 500 crore Taka.

5. Which international organisation has recently released its report "Working on a Warmer Planet"?

- A) ILO B) UNICEF
C) UNESCO D) FAO

- ✓ The International Labour Organization (ILO) has recently released its report titled- Working on a "Warmer Planet – The Impact of Heat Stress on Labour Productivity and Decent Work". It stated that working hours will be lost because it is too hot to work or because workers work at a slower pace.
- ✓ The UN report said India will be the most affected country. It said because of its large population, in absolute terms, India is expected to lose the equivalent of 34 million full-time jobs in 2030 in productivity.
- ✓ India is projected to lose 5.8% of working hours in 2030 due to global warming, particularly impacting agriculture and construction sectors.

- ✓ The projections are based on a global temperature rise of 1.5°C by the end of the 21st century, and labour force trends. Most of the impact in India will be felt in the agricultural sector.
- ✓ But, increasing working hours are expected to be lost in the construction sector, where heat stress affects both male & female workers. Heat stress is defined as generally above 35°C, in places with high humidity.

6. What is the theme of the 2019 edition of UN MSME Day?

A) Entrepreneurship: A way of success

B) Big Money for Small Business: Financing the SDGs

C) The Youth Dimension

D) Small business – big impact

- ✓ The United Nations's Micro, Small and Medium sized Enterprises Day (MSME) Day is observed every year on 27 June to raise public awareness of their contribution to sustainable development.
- ✓ These types of enterprises are responsible for significant employment and income generation opportunities across the world and have been identified as a major driver of poverty alleviation and development.
- ✓ MSMEs tend to employ a larger share of the vulnerable sectors of the workforce, such as women, youth, and people from poorer households. MSMEs can even sometimes be the only source of employment in rural areas.

7. Which of the following railway zones has commissioned the longest electrified tunnel in Indian Railways?

A) South Central Railway

B) Northern Railway

C) Central Railway

D) Western Railway

- ✓ The South Central Railway (SCR) has recently commissioned the longest electrified tunnel of 6.6 km

built at a total cost of Rs 460 crore between Cherlopalli and Rapuru stations.

- ✓ The tunnel is part of the 113 km new railway line completed recently between Obulavaripalli–Venkatachalam – Krishnapatnam Port. The electrified tunnel is constructed in the shape of 'Horse Shoe' on New Australian Tunnelling Method.
- ✓ The height of the tunnel (rail level to roof) is 6.5m and the minimum height of the contact wire is maintained at 5.2m. The new line would facilitate direct and viable connectivity between South and West Coast Railway and improve freight revenue of the zone.

8. Which of the following Indian business leaders will receive 2019 Global excellence awards from US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF)?

A) Anand Mahindra

B) Ratan Tata

C) Mukesh Ambani

D) Ajay Banga

- ✓ The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) has selected Mastercard CEO and President Ajay Banga and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji for its 2019 Global Excellence Awards.
- ✓ The prestigious award will be presented to both the business leaders at its 2nd Annual Leadership Summit in Washington on July 11.
- ✓ The leadership summit will highlight areas of bilateral cooperation like trade and investment, strategic energy ties, manufacturing and innovation partnership.

9. Who is the author of the book 'Whispers of Time'?

A) Jhumpa Lahiri

B) Krishna Saksena

C) Vikram Seth

D) Rohinton Mistry

- ✓ The book titled 'Whispers of Time' has been authored by Dr Krishna Saksena. The book has recently unveiled by Smriti Zubin Irani, the Union Minister of Textiles & Minister of Women and Child Development at India International Centre (IIC) in New Delhi.

10. Where is the headquarters of National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR)?

- A) Hyderabad B) New Delhi
C) Mumbai D) Raipur

- ✓ The National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) has collaborated with public sector enterprise Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) on a pilot project to supply sanitary napkins to 11,516 students free of cost through a team of volunteers and female teachers of 75 schools in Gandipet, Moinabad, Rajendranagar, Serilingampally and Shamshabad mandals of the State.
 - ✓ The project involves creating awareness on menstruation and menstrual hygiene among children in government schools in Telangana.
 - ✓ It is being taken up with a funding of Rs 71.82 lakh given by the BDL as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. The aim of the project is to create awareness on hygiene along with sociological and environmental issues, and removing the stigma associated with menstruation among rural adolescent girls.
 - ✓ The NIRDPR is an Indian institute for research in rural development. It is located in Rajendranagar near Hyderabad.
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1. The scientists of India and which country have identified a new gene linked to schizophrenia?

A) South Africa

B) Russia

C) Australia

D) Belgium

- ✓ After 18 years of research, the scientists from the University of Queensland in Australia and a team of Indian researchers have identified a new gene called NAPRT1 – directly linked to schizophrenia.
- ✓ Using DNA from thousands of people in India, the team has found clues in the quest for the causes of schizophrenia, and for potential treatments. This study identified a gene that encodes an enzyme involved in vitamin B3 metabolism — we were also able to find this gene in a large genomic dataset of schizophrenia patients with European ancestry.
- ✓ The team of Indian researchers was led by R. Thara, co – founder and director of the Chennai based Schizophrenia Research Foundation. Schizophrenia is a chronic and severe mental disorder that affects how a person thinks, feels and behave.

2. MOSAiC mission, which is in news recently, is a year long expedition into which of the following oceans?

A) Arctic ocean

B) Antarctica Ocean

C) Pacific ocean

D) Indian Ocean

- ✓ The scientists from 17 nations will take part in the year-long MOSAiC mission as they anchor the ship to a large piece of Arctic sea ice to study climate change.
- ✓ The German icebreaker RV Polarstern will be the base for scientists studying the impact of climate change on the Arctic and how it could affect the rest of the world. The MOSAiC mission stands for Multidisciplinary drifting Observatory for the Study of Arctic Climate.
- ✓ The mission has received funding from U.S. institutions such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and NASA.

3. Which city of Rajasthan has recently declared UNESCO World Heritage site?

A) Bikaner

B) Jodhpur

C) Jaipur

D) Udaipur

- ✓ The historic walled city of Jaipur in Rajasthan has recently declared UNESCO World Heritage site at the ongoing 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee at Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ✓ The city was founded in 1727 AD under the patronage of Sawai Jai Singh II. It is known for its iconic architectural legacy and vibrant culture, and serves as the capital city of the state Rajasthan.

4. The Government of India has signed pact with which tech company for pilot study on using AI in Agriculture?

A) Infosys

B) Wipro

C) Microsoft

D) IBM

- ✓ The Government of India has signed pact with IBM India for undertaking a pilot study to utilise Artificial Intelligence (AI) and weather technology solutions in agriculture in one district each in three states.
- ✓ The pilot study will be conducted for the Kharif crop season 2019 in three districts - Bhopal, Rajkot and Nanded - in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra, respectively
- ✓ As part of the collaboration, IBM's Watson Decision Platform will give solution in the field of agriculture through AI and weather technology at village level/ farm level to provide weather forecast and soil moisture information on pro bono basis to help farmers for taking decisions regarding water and crop management for better production and productivity.

5. On which date, the 2019 edition of National Doctor's Day is celebrated in India?

A) July 5

B) July 1

C) July 3

D) July 7

- ✓ In India, the National Doctor's Day is observed every year on 1st of July to raise awareness about the importance of doctors and the crucial role they play in our day to day lives.
- ✓ The day aims at making the effort for helping medical professionals come closer and take their responsibilities more seriously and delicately.

- ✓ The day is also marked to honour the legendary physician and the second Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy.
- ✓ Dr. Roy was a highly respected physician and a renowned freedom fighter. He is often considered the great architect of West Bengal, who founded five eminent cities, Durgapur, Kalyani, Bidhannagar, Ashokenagar, and Habra. The 2019 theme is "Zero tolerance to violence against doctors and clinical establishment".

6. Damanganga – Pinjal River inter-linking project, sometimes seen in news, is associated to which of the following states?

- A) Tamil Nadu B) Karnataka
C) Jharkhand D) Maharashtra

- ✓ In Maharashtra, the state government has decided to inter-link rivers to solve the crisis of drought. For Mumbai, the best option is the Damanganga – Pinjal River inter-linking project that will fulfill Mumbai's water needs till 2060.
- ✓ The project proposes to divert excess water from reservoirs in the Damanganga basin to Mumbai through the Pinjal dam, built on the Pinjal River in Vaitarna basin.

7. Ikram Ali Khil, who broke Sachin Tendulkar's rare World Cup record, is from which country?

- A) Afghanistan B) South Africa
C) Pakistan D) England

- ✓ Afghanistan Wicket-keeper batsman, Ikram Ali Khil has achieved a rare feat as he broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of the highest score by a teenager in the World Cup.
- ✓ He scored 86 off 92 balls in Afghanistan's final league fixture against West Indies in Leeds on 4th July 2019. The record was previously held by Tendulkar who scored 84 against in the 1992 World Cup at the age of 18 years and 318 days.

8. Which state has topped the NITI Aayog's 2019 AMFFR Index?

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

- ✓ The state of Maharashtra achieved first rank in NITI Aayog launched "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index (AMFFRI). The index ranks states based on the degree of reforms they have undertaken in agricultural marketing
- ✓ Gujarat ranked second with a score of 71.5 out of 100, closely followed by Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. NITI Aayog launched an index to rank States and UTs based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act like joining e-NAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis.
- ✓ These indicators reveal ease of doing agribusiness as well as opportunities for farmers to benefit from modern trade and commerce and have wider option for sale of her / his produce. These indicators also represent competitiveness, efficiency and transparency in agri markets.

9. The Aththi Varadar festival has started in which of the following states?

- A) Tamil Nadu B) Odisha
C) Kerala D) Karnataka

- ✓ In Tamil Nadu, the Kanchi Athi Varadar festival has started in Kanchipuram from July 1, 2019. The temple of Varadar is in Kancheepuram. The deity is made of fig tree and hence the name Athi Varadar.
- ✓ He is immersed in Anantasaras, the temple tank. He is brought out once in 40 years, pujas done for 45 days and restored to his water bed.
- ✓ The last time he came out was on July 2, 1979, and earlier on July 12, 1939. More than one lakh devotees thronged the temple on the first day.

10. Which of the following ancient sites of Iraq has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

- A) Babylon B) Baghdad
C) Mosul D) Karbala

- ✓ The ancient Mesopotamian city of Babylon has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Iraq has been lobbying since 1983 for the 4,000-year-old site to be added to the UN's prestigious list.
 - ✓ The seat of successive empires, under rulers such as Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar, Babylon represents the expression of the creativity of the Neo-Babylonian Empire at its height.
 - ✓ The city's association with one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World — the Hanging Gardens — has also inspired artistic, popular and religious culture on a global scale. It also warns that the site is in an "extremely vulnerable condition" and in need of urgent conservation.
 - ✓ The city was famous for its Hanging Gardens, which were among the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. The site has suffered in recent years – first from the construction of a palace for Saddam Hussein, and later from being used as a base for US troops.
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