

**JULY**.....  
.....**2019**

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**SECOND WEEK**  
**CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**08 JULY - 14 JULY**



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1. Who is the author of the book "War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930 – 1960"?

- A) Rohinton Mistry                      B) Devika Sethi  
C) Amitav Ghosh                          D) Sudeep Nagarkar

- ✓ The book titled "War over Words: Censorship in India, 1930 – 1960" has been authored by Devika Sethi, who teaches modern Indian history at IIT Mandi. The book explores the diverse mechanisms and motivations for censorship and its role in the shaping of the modern Indian republic.
- ✓ The book is divided into four parts – Guarding the State, Protecting the Public: Censorship Policies and Practices in the 1930s; Protests and Publicity: Banning Non-Indian Authors; Political or Military? Censorship in India during the Second World War; and The Censored Turn Censors: Freedom and Free Speech.

2. Which UT / State has decided to introduce Bicycle sharing scheme?

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

- ✓ Under Puducherry smart city development plan, the Union Territory government has decided to introduce Bicycle sharing scheme in a couple of months. The registered users or customers can use bicycles to hop from one place to another within the boulevard area.
- ✓ The bicycles can be left at any of the docking stations after use. For the scheme, 100 spots have been identified for cycle docking stations.
- ✓ To begin with, 20 docking stations with 10 to 15 cycles each, are to be set up in places like beach promenade, Bharathi Park, Gandhi Thidal, Aurobindo ashram and railway station.
- ✓ The novel scheme is a boon to tourists who throng to Puducherry in thousands whose number swells to several thousand on weekends.
- ✓ This scheme is one among the 22 prioritised schemes of the Puducherry Smart City Project for which about 194 crore rupees would be spent.

3. Arinjeeta Dey, who won silver in 2019 World Youth Cup, is from which state?

- A) West Bengal                              B) UP  
C) Jharkhand                                D) Haryana

- ✓ Arinjeeta Dey, a village girl from West Bengal, has won a silver U12 age group category in the 2019 World Youth Cup in Umag, Croatia. The tournament was organised by World Karate Federation affiliated to the International Olympic Association. A total of 35 countries participated in this competition.

4. Reliance Jio has partnered with which social media platform for its Digital Udaan?

- A) Instagram                                B) Twitter  
C) Facebook                                 D) WhatsApp

- ✓ Reliance Jio Infocomm has collaborated with Facebook to launch a countrywide digital literacy drive, christened as Digital Udaan, for its growing base of JioPhone users and other first-time internet users.
- ✓ Under the initiative, Jio will engage with users every Saturday to apprise them on features of its 4G VoLTE feature phone (called JioPhone), the use of various apps and internet safety, including the use of Facebook.
- ✓ The digital literacy engagement will be undertaken via audiovisual training in 10 regional languages. Digital Udaan will initially be launched in nearly 200 different locations across 13 states, and the initiative will subsequently reach over 7,000 locations.

5. Which of the following public sector banks has set up a centralized hub to process retail and MSME loans?

- A) SBI    B) Punjab National Bank  
C) Punjab & Sind Bank                      D) Dena Bank

- ✓ The Punjab & Sind Bank has set up the Centralised MSME & Retail Group (Cen-MARG) for credit facilities at its head office in New Delhi.
- ✓ Now, all MSME and retail credit approvals will be performed at this centralised set up. This will help branches focus better on retail and MSME lending and enhanced customer service.

- ✓ The Cen-MARG would be linked with pan-India branches in a phased manner. It has been envisioned to ensure a qualitative improvement in credit appraisal, improved turnaround time, uniform documentation and efficient monitoring.

6. Which Indian manufacturing plant has been included in the WEF's Global Lighthouse Network?

- A) Jindal Steel and Power Ltd
- B) Durgapur Steel Plant
- C) Rourkela Steel Plant
- D) Tata Steel Kalinganagar**

- ✓ The Tata Steel Kalinganagar (TSK) is the first and the only Indian manufacturing plant to be included in the Global Lighthouse Network (GLN) of World Economic Forum (WEF).
- ✓ The lighthouses are chosen for their leadership in applying Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies to drive financial and operational impact.
- ✓ The factories were selected based on their success in integrating these technologies to increase efficiency and drive innovation. Tata Steel's IJmuiden plant at Netherlands is already a member of this network.
- ✓ The TSK steel plant is the largest single-location Greenfield steel project in India and is located at Jajpur district in Odisha.

7. India's first design development centre 'Fashionova' has recently launched in which of the following cities?

- A) Pune
- B) Surat**
- C) Ahmedabad
- D) Delhi

- ✓ In Gujarat, India's first design development centre 'Fashionova' has recently launched in Textile city Surat to provide a platform to apparel business aspirants.
- ✓ It offers scope to fulfil all business needs from co-working space, technicians, expert advice to cognitive workshops and industry exposure.

- ✓ The main objective of this centre is to provide a strong platform to all those who have a flair of the apparel business.

8. The Kargil Tribute Song has been composed by which noted Hindi lyricist?

- A) A.M Turaz
- B) Swanand Kirkire
- C) Sammer Anjaan**
- D) Neelesh Misra

- ✓ To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas on 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat has released a Kargil Tribute Song at a function in New Delhi to honour, salute and pay homage to the Kargil martyrs and war veterans.
- ✓ The song has been composed by Mr Sammer Anjaan, renowned Hindi lyricist and sung by Mr Shatadru Kabir. The music has been composed by Mr Raju Singh. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations are aimed at 'Remembering their sacrifice', 'Rejoicing in their victory' and 'Renewing the pledge' to go beyond the call of duty when called upon.

9. Who is the current chief of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)?

- A) Manish Kumar
- B) Jyotsna Sitling
- C) K P Krishnan
- D) Anil Manibhai Naik**

- ✓ The 'WorldSkills India's International Cloud Computing Challenge 2019' will be organized by NASSCOM in partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- ✓ Ten countries including India are participating in the competition, along with New Zealand, Belgium, Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, Oman and Ireland.
- ✓ The finalists would further compete in the 45th "WorldSkills International Competition 2019", to be held in Kazan, Russia in August 2019.
- ✓ The "WorldSkills India" is an NSDC initiative launched in 2011 to provide a platform to the youth, along with industries and educators to compete, experience, learn and develop key professional skill sets required for Industry 4.0. The NSDC is headquartered at New Delhi & Anil Manibhai Naik is its chief.

10. What is the theme of 2019 edition of International Co-operative Day (IDC)?

A) Cooperative Enterprise Empowers Women

**B) Coops 4 Decent Work**

C) Co-operatives ensure no one is left behind

D) Choose co-operatives, choose equality

- ✓ The International Day of Cooperatives is observed every year on first Saturday of July to recognize and reaffirms the role of cooperatives in economic, social and cultural development and in the achievement of social policy objectives. The 2019 IDC was celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July with theme 'Coops 4 Decent Work'.
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1. Which state government has decided to produce its own seeds under brand name Sah-Beej?

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

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, along with distribution and marketing of certified and high quality seeds to farmers, the Madhya Pradesh State Cooperative Seed Federation has decided to produce its own seeds under the brand name 'Sah-Beej'.
- ✓ The decision has been taken in a Board of Directors' meeting held under the chairmanship of the Minister for Cooperatives Govind Singh in Bhopal on 9th July 2019. A plan has been made to produce seeds from the next Rabi season.
- ✓ A large number of seed committees present in the state, which will be linked to the seed federation and these committees will help in the marketing of seeds.

2. Who has been appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA)?

- A) Saurav Ganguly                      B) V V S Laxman  
C) Anil Kumble                          D) Rahul Dravid

- ✓ Former India captain Rahul Dravid has been appointed as Head of Cricket at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru. He will oversee all cricket related activities at NCA and will be involved in mentoring, coaching, training and motivating players, coaches and support staff at the NCA.
- ✓ He will also work closely with the National men's and women's Head coaches and coaches for India Developmental teams including India A, India Under 19, India Under 23 teams — to identify key training methods and the areas for development.
- ✓ Dravid will also be responsible for monitoring progress of the developmental teams and provide necessary inputs on the same to the senior men's and women's head coaches.

3. Budj Bim Cultural Landscape is located in which country?

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

- ✓ The Budj Bim Cultural Landscape in south-west Victoria has become the first in Australia to receive world heritage protection solely for its Aboriginal cultural importance.

- ✓ It has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list at a meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan on 6th July 2019. The site was created about 6,600 years ago by the Gunditjmarra people and is considered one of the world's oldest freshwater aquaculture systems.

- ✓ The site features the remnants of about 300 round stone huts that are the only remaining permanent houses built by an indigenous community in Australia – challenging the common perception that all Aboriginal people were nomadic.

4. The Asia's 1<sup>st</sup> Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue is set to come up in which Indian state?

- A) Himachal Pradesh                      B) Uttarakhand  
C) Jammu & Kashmir                      D) Sikkim

- ✓ The Asia's first Six Sigma Institute of Mountain Medicines and High Altitude Rescue will be set up at Rudraprayag in Uttarakhand. It comes after Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat approved the proposal for establishing the mega Rs 750 crore mountain institute in Rudraprayag district of state.
- ✓ The institute will create 1,200 employment, specialised healthcare, advance education and Rescue Training in the Uttarakhand. The purpose of the institute is to develop all type of research in Allopathy, Homeopathy, Ayurveda, Naturopathy and Yoga concerning High Altitude Mountains and to educate professionals in mountain medicines.
- ✓ The institute will also provide consultancy to the central and state government on key issues and help in promoting healthy lifestyle in mountains.

5. The term Utkarsh 2022 in news is related to which organization?

- A) IRDA                                      B) SEBI  
C) RBI                                         D) NABARD



10. The Union Government has launched which human atlas initiative for holistic understanding of human body?

- A) Gupha Manav                      **B) Manav (Human)**  
C) Primitive man                    D) Cave Manav

- ✓ The new human atlas initiative – named Manav - has been launched by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Persistent Systems for holistic understanding of human body.
  - ✓ The aim of the initiative is to create a unified database of molecular network of all the tissues in the human body and to derive a holistic picture of working of human body.
  - ✓ The database would eventually help researchers in identifying gaps in current knowledge and help in future projects in diagnostics and disease biology. In this public-private venture, DBT and Persistent Systems will invest Rs 13 crore and Rs 7 crore respectively.
  - ✓ The project will be executed by Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and National Center for Cell Sciences (NCCS) based at Pune.
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1. Who has become the first Indian sprinter to win Gold in the 100m event at the 30<sup>th</sup> World University Games (WUG-2019)?

- A) Ashwini Akkunji                      B) Sathi Geetha  
C) Hima Das                                D) Dutee Chand

- ✓ Indian sprinter Dutee Chand has clinched a Gold medal in the 100m dash event at the 30<sup>th</sup> World University Games (WUG-2019) at Napoli in Italy. Del Ponte of Switzerland won the Silver, while German Lisa Kwayie took home the Bronze.
- ✓ With the Gold, Dutee has become the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win the coveted yellow metal at the event. No Indian had qualified for the 100m final in the history of the University Games before this. She is also now only the second Indian sprinter to win a Gold in a global event after 19 year old Hima Das.

2. The famous Kataragama temple is located in which country?

- A) Nepal                                      B) Sri Lanka  
C) Myanmar                                D) Bangladesh

- ✓ In Sri Lanka, the annual festival at historic Kataragama temple has begun recently that attracted devotees from all faiths.
- ✓ The fortnight long festival is joined by people all over Sri Lanka and abroad. The festival will end next week on full moon night with a 'water cutting' ceremony.
- ✓ Thousand of devotees from all over Sri Lanka flock to the holy shrine of Katargama in south during this month for the annual festival.
- ✓ The place finds mention in Skanda purana and is popular for centuries' old Hindu temple of Lord Kartika, known locally as Katargama Deviyo.
- ✓ Kataragma is a multi religious city as it contains a mosque within the temple complex and a Buddhist temple nearby. It is considered to be one of the 16 main places of Buddhist pilgrimage in Sri Lanka.

- ✓ The small town hosts a fortnight long festival or Esala Perahera, one of the most cultural and spiritual significant events in Sri Lanka.
- ✓ The perahera sees a grandly decorated elephant carrying the Kataragama Deviyo, flanked by dancers and drummers.

3. The Skill development training programme for jail inmates has started in which district of Assam?

- A) Cachar                                      B) Bongaigaon  
C) Karbi Anglong                        D) Kokrajhar

- ✓ In Assam, a three month skill development training programme has been started in Bongaigaon district for the jail inmates.
- ✓ The purpose of the programme is to provide opportunities for the prison inmates to engage themselves in fruitful pursuits during the term of their sentence.
- ✓ Besides the main objective, the course is expected to increase the employability potential of the prisoners after their release. Apart from the skill development training, a month long Yoga training session will also begin for the jail inmates in Bongaigaon district.

4. Who has been adjudged as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year 2019?

- A) Jeje Lalpekhlua                      B) Lallianzuala Chhangte  
C) Abdul Samad                        D) Sunil Chhetri

- ✓ Talismanic Indian captain Sunil Chhetri has been named as the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for a record-extending sixth time. He is the most capped player of the country with 109 matches.
- ✓ Chhetri, with 70 goals for India, is also the second-highest active international scorer — only behind Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (149). He currently plays for Bengaluru FC in the Indian Super League (ISL).
- ✓ Beside Chhetri, Indian midfielder Abdul Samad was named the AIFF Emerging Men's Player of the Year. Ace India international Ashalata Devi was named the AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year 2018-19, while Dangmei Grace was adjudged the AIFF Emerging Women's

Footballer of the Year 2018-19. Earlier, Chhetri won the honour in 2007, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2017.

#### 5. Which state government has recently implemented Center's Witness Protection Scheme (WPS)?

- A) Rajasthan                      B) Jharkhand  
**C) Odisha**                        D) Gujarat

- ✓ The Naveen Patnaik led Odisha Government has recently informed the state High Court that it has implemented the Central Government's Witness Protection Scheme-2018.
- ✓ The aim of the scheme is to ensure that investigation, prosecution and trial of criminal offences are not prejudiced because witnesses are intimidated or frightened to give evidence without protection from other criminal forces.
- ✓ According to the state government's notification, the scheme includes three categories of witnesses as per threat perception. Category A consists of those cases where threat extends to the life of witness or family members during an investigation, trial or thereafter.
- ✓ Cases where the threat extends to safety, reputation or property of the witness or family members during the investigation or trial falls under category B.
- ✓ Category C will have cases where the threat is moderate and extends to harassment or intimidation of the witness or family members, reputation or property during investigation, trial or thereafter.
- ✓ The important features of the scheme include protective measures like ensuring that the witness and accused do not come face to face during probe, protection and change of identity, relocation of witness, confidentiality and preservation of records and recovery of expenses among others.

#### 6. Who has been appointed as the new chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)?

- A) Arun Kumar**                      B) Pradip Kumar  
 C) Aditi Chauhan                      D) Pronay Halder

- ✓ Arun Kumar, an IAS officer of 1989 batch of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the new chief of the

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). Kumar is also the additional secretary in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- ✓ The DGCA is the Indian governmental regulatory body for civil aviation under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and is headquartered at New Delhi. This directorate investigates aviation accidents and incidents.

#### 7. Who has been appointed CMD of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)?

- A) C K Vineeth                      B) Narayan Das  
**C) Pravin Kumar Purwar**                      D) Anirudh Singh

- ✓ Pravin Kumar Purwar has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for a period of five years. He is at present CMD of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

#### 8. The Amrabad Tiger Reserve is located in which state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh                      **B) Telangana**  
 C) Karnataka                              D) Kerala

- ✓ The Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) under the Ministry of Forest and Environment (MoEF) has recommended for 'in-principle' permission for exploration of Uranium in Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana. The approval comes despite contrary reports by forest officials after field inspections.
- ✓ The revised proposal seeks permission for exploration of uranium in 76 km in Amrabad and Udumilla regions, besides 7 km in the adjoining Nagarjunasagar Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh, for use in nuclear power generation.
- ✓ The report noted that the environmental impact of mining included erosion, formation of sink holes, loss of biodiversity, and contamination of groundwater, surface water and soil, which could affect wildlife.
- ✓ However, the revised proposals will not need approval from the State Board of Wildlife again. They will be sent directly to the advisory panel for final approval, after

which the State government will need to issue permission through formal orders.

startup founders.

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- ✓ In India, uranium deposit discovered till now was either of low grade or of low tonnage or of both low grade and low tonnage.

9. The Plan Bee, which won the Indian Railways's Best Innovation Award, is associated to which railway zone?

A) Western Railway

B) Northern Railway

**C) Northeast Frontier Railway**

D) North Central Railway

- ✓ The Plan Bee initiative of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has won the Best Innovation Award in Indian Railways for the 2018-19 fiscal. The initiative helps in preventing trains from hitting elephants crossing tracks.
- ✓ The Plan Bee is an amplifying system imitating the buzz of a swarm of honey bees to keep wild elephants away from railway tracks. The unique initiative is helpful in diverting herds of elephants, especially when trains approach and dashing becomes imminent. The first prize comprises a citation along with a cash award of Rs 3 lakh.

10. The 2019 Women Startup Summit (WSS) is scheduled to be held in which city?

A) Pune

B) Kolkata

C) New Delhi

**D) Kochi**

- ✓ The Kerala Startup Mission will host the Women Startup Summit (WSS-2019) in association with the Indian Women Network floated by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) at the Integrated Startup Complex, Kochi on August 1.
- ✓ The aim of the summit is to encourage aspiring women professionals to take up their entrepreneurial journey and developing an inclusive entrepreneurship ecosystem in the State.
- ✓ The meet will be open for all women professionals, aspiring entrepreneurs, corporate leaders and



- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home has recently banned a US-based secessionist group - Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) for advocating secessionist and pro-Khalistani activities in India.
- ✓ The group was advocating an online campaign for Khalistan "Sikh Referendum 2020" to establish an independent and sovereign country in Punjab.
- ✓ Its founder Avtar Singh Pannu was seen shouting slogans and wearing a T-shirt that said "Khalistan Zindabad, Referendum 2020" at the India-New Zealand cricket match in the U.K. on 10th July 2019.
- ✓ The group has been banned as an unlawful association under Section 3(1) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967.

**7. Which European country has decided to impose a green tax on plane tickets from 2020?**

- A) Austria B) France  
 C) Germany D) Poland

- ✓ The French government has decided to impose a tax of up to 18 euros (\$20) on plane tickets for all flights from airports in France to fund less-polluting transportation projects.
- ✓ The move, which will take effect from 2020, will see a tax of 1.5 € imposed on economy-class tickets on internal flights and those within Europe. The new measure is expected to bring in some €182 million a year which will be invested in greener transport infrastructures, notably rail.
- ✓ It will only be applied on outgoing flights and not those flying into the country. Earlier, in April 2018, a similar tax was introduced in Sweden that imposed an added charge of up to €40 on every ticket in a bid to lessen the impact of air travel on the climate.

**8. Which pharmaceutical company has become the India's first company to launch Romiplostim to treat chronic ITP?**

- A) Lupin B) Cipla  
 C) Sun Pharma D) Intas

- ✓ Drug-maker Intas Pharmaceuticals Ltd has become the first company to launch Romiplostim in India under the brand name Romy for the treatment of chronic Immune

Thrombocytopenia (ITP). ITP is an autoimmune blood disorder which leads to low platelet counts.

- ✓ The newly-launched drug will cost just one-fifth of the price of the current medication. It is estimated that around 42,000 patients are diagnosed with ITP in India every year. Less than 10% of patients have access to the treatment.

**9. The Prosecco hills is located in which country?**

- A) Spain B) Italy  
 C) Norway D) Sweden

- ✓ Italy's Prosecco hills of Conegliano and Valdobbiadene has been named as the UNESCO World Heritage at the 43<sup>rd</sup> Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- ✓ It is the site where the grapes that produce the world famous prosecco sparkling wine are grown. It is an area of hilly terrain in northeast Italy known for its Prosecco Production. The region has become the 55<sup>th</sup> Italian site inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

**10. Which IT company has partnered with AICTE to equip students with career skills?**

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

- ✓ TCS iON, a unit of IT major Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has partnered with All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to provide students with a digital learning course to equip them with career skills.
- ✓ TCS iON has curated a free, 20 hour-career skills course that will cover topics like corporate etiquette, effective e-mail writing, impactful presentations and IT awareness that will be available to students throughout the duration of their degree course.
- ✓ The course will be available for students of more than 10,000 AICTE approved institutions. It can be accessed on TCS iON Digital Learning Hub through any device.
- ✓ The unique course provided by TCS iON will help improve placement opportunities for AICTE institutions & will initiate a strong start to the professional careers of the students. AICTE is the national-level apex advisory and regulatory body for technical education.

1. Which Indian weightlifter has won Gold in 81 kg category at the 2019 Commonwealth Championships in Apia?

- A) Gurdeep Singh                      B) Rustam Sarang  
**C) Ajay Singh**                              D) Deepak Lather

- ✓ On 12<sup>th</sup> July, Indian weightlifter Ajay Singh has won Gold in 81 kg category at the Commonwealth Championships in Apia, city of Samoa. He has also created a new Commonwealth record in the clean and jerk category by lifting more than double his body weight (190kg) to score vital points at the Olympic qualifying event.
- ✓ He also smashed the national record in the same category. The other Indian in the 81kg category, Papul Changmai clinched the silver medal by lifting a total of 313kgs.

2. Who has been appointed as Secretary of Overseas Indian Affairs?

- A) Sumanta Chaudhury                      B) Anup Wadhawan  
**C) Anant Narayan Nanda**                      **D) Vikas Swarup**

- ✓ Vikas Swarup, a 1986 batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service, has been appointed as Secretary, (consular, passport, visa and Overseas Indian affairs) in the External Affairs Ministry. His appointment will come into effect from August 1, 2019.
- ✓ At present, he is India's High Commissioner to Canada. Swarup is the author of award winning book Q&A, which was adapted into the Oscar winning movie Slumdog Millionaire. The book bagged the Exclusive Books Boeke Prize 2006 and the Paris Book Fair's Reader's Prize.

3. Which is the India's most expensive office location as per Commercial Real Estate Services (CBRE)'s latest survey?

- A) Connaught Place**                      B) Nariman Point  
 C) Bandra Kurla Complex                      D) India Gate

- ✓ According to a study conducted by property consultant Commercial Real Estate Services (CBRE), New Delhi's

Connaught Place (CP) is the 9th most expensive office location in the world with an annual rent of nearly USD 144 per sq ft.

- ✓ In its annual Global Prime Office Occupancy Costs survey, CBRE tracks the cost of leasing prime office space globally.
- ✓ At the top of the list was Hong Kong (Central) for the second consecutive year with an average price of \$322 per square feet, followed by London (West End) with an average occupancy rate of \$222.7 per square feet.
- ✓ London's (West End) is ranked 2nd, followed by Hong Kong (Kowloon) and New York (Midtown Manhattan). Beijing's (Finance Street) is at the fifth position on the list.
- ✓ As per the report, Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) and Nariman Point-Central Business District (CBD) ranked at 27<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> positions, respectively.

4. The Operation Thirst has been launched by which Indian organisation?

- A) Indian Army                                      B) ISRO  
**C) Indian Railway**                                      D) BARC

- ✓ The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has recently launched 'Operation Thirst' to crackdown the selling of unauthorized Packaged Drinking Water (PDW).
- ✓ According to RPF, the operation was launched in all major railway stations across the country to curb the menace of unauthorized PDW in the premises of railway stations.
- ✓ During the operation, which was carried out on 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> July, 1371 persons were arrested for selling of packaged drinking water of unauthorised brands under different sections i.e. 144 & 153 of Railway Act. A total fine amount of Rs 6, 80, 855 has been realized from these offenders.

5. Which international organisation has released the 2019 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)?

- A) WHO    **B) UNDP**  
 C) FAO    D) ILO

✓ The 2019 global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) has recently released by UN Development Programme (UNDP), the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative.

✓ As per the report, India lifted 271 million people out of poverty between 2006 and 2016 & recorded the fastest reductions in the MPI values during the period with strong improvements in areas such as assets, cooking fuel, sanitation and nutrition.

✓ The global MPI tracks 101 countries on deprivations across 10 indicators in health, education, and standard of living.

✓ The multi-dimensionally poor means that poverty is defined not simply by income, but by a number of indicators, including poor health, poor quality of work and the threat of violence.

6. The Residential Asset Price Monitoring Survey (RAPMS) has been conducted by which Indian organisation?

- A) NHB  
B) SEBI  
C) NABARD  
D) RBI

✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has conducted the quarterly Residential Asset Price Monitoring Survey (RAPMS) on housing loans disbursed by select banks / Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) across 13 cities.

✓ The report indicated that housing affordability has worsened over the past 4 years as the House Price to Income (HPTI) ratio increased from 56.1 in March 2015 to 61.5 in March 2019. The HPTI ratio reflects affordability.

✓ Mumbai (with a HPTI of 74.4) remains the least affordable city in India. While Bhubaneswar (54.3) remains the most affordable city for home buying with a price-to-income ratio of 54.3 in the March quarter compared to 47.2 in March 2015.

✓ The concept of price-to-income ratio is used by lenders to measure affordability of residential property, essentially as a measure of purchasing power for home buyers.

7. Who has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament?

- A) David Sassoli  
B) Jan Zahradil  
C) Ska Keller  
D) Sira Rego

✓ Italian socialist David Maria Sassoli has been elected as the new President of the European Parliament and will lead Parliament until January 2022. He will succeed Antonio Tajani.

✓ Sassoli is a member of the Alliance of Socialists and Democrats. The President of the European Parliament presides over the debates and activities of the European Parliament. He also represent the Parliament within the EU and internationally. The president's signature is required for enacting most EU laws and the EU budget.

8. Which state government has announced Rs 10k monthly allowance for Padma Shri awardees?

- A) Jharkhand  
B) Odisha  
C) Punjab  
D) MP

✓ The Odisha government has decided to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 10,000 to Padma award winners of the state belonging to Economically Weaker Section.

✓ The move has come days after media reports highlighted the plight of several Padma Shri winners from the state and how they are forced to do odd jobs like grazing goats for survival. A total of 84 persons from the state have so far been honoured with Padma Sri Award of whom 45 have passed away.

✓ Of the remaining 39 persons, financial condition of some is precarious. Recently, 75-year-old tribal farmer Daitari Nayak of Talabaitarani village, who was awarded the 2019 Padma Shri for digging a 3-km long canal through a mountain in Odisha, had openly announced to return the award as he was not given work by the villagers after getting the award.

9. The first-ever Global Conference for Media Freedom was held in which city?

- A) Paris  
B) New York  
C) London  
D) Berlin



1. The Asia's largest solar Power project is located in which district of Madhya Pradesh?

- A) Jabalpur  
B) Chhindwara  
C) Indore  
D) Rewa

- ✓ In Madhya Pradesh, continuous rain has damaged Asia's largest solar Power project in Rewa. The damage was caused after heavy rain triggered a mudslide. Now the rain has stopped, and experts are busy repairing this power plant. As per the estimates, this project has suffered a loss of more than Rs 20 crores by rain.
- ✓ The production of the solar plant has also been affected and it has reduced about 90 MW. Generally, this solar plant produces 740 MW of electricity.

2. Who has been appointed as MD & CFO of the World Bank?

- A) Sunil Mehta  
B) Anshula Kant  
C) Karnam Sekar  
D) R A Sankara Narayanan

- ✓ Anshula Kant, Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), has been appointed as MD and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of the World Bank. She will be responsible for financial and risk management of the organisation.
- ✓ Her work will include oversight of financial reporting, risk management, and working closely with the World Bank CEO on the mobilization of the International Development Association (IDA) and other financial resources. IDA is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries.

3. Anthony Amalraj is associated to which sports?

- A) Tennis  
B) Golf  
C) Badminton  
D) Table Tennis

- ✓ In Table Tennis, the Indian pair of G. Sathiyam and Anthony Amalraj won the bronze at the 2019 World Tour Platinum Australian Open after they went down 12-14, 9-11, 8-11 to top seed Korean pair of Jeoung Youngsik and Lee Sangsu in Geelong near Melbourne on July 13. This was India's first ever medal in the Australian Open, which is a Platinum event.

4. M J Radhakrishnan, who passed away recently, was the renowned film maker of which regional cinema?

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

- ✓ M J Radhakrishnan (60), the well-known Malayalam cinematographer has passed away in Trivandrum, Kerala on July 12. Starting his career as a still photographer, Radhakrishnan later worked as an associate of renowned cinematographer turned director Shaji N Karun.
- ✓ His well acclaimed works include: Deshadanam, Karunam and Naalu Pennungal. Radhakrishnan had won three International awards besides being a 7 time winner of the Kerala State Award for Best Cinematography.
- ✓ One of his works, Marana Simhasanam (English: Throne of Death; French: Le Trone de la mort), won Camra d'Or (Golden Camera Award) in the Un Certain Regard section at the 1999 Cannes Film Festival.

5. The first – ever Himalayan states' conclave is slated to be held in which state?

- A) Meghalaya  
B) Himachal Pradesh  
C) Uttarakhand  
D) Jammu and Kashmir

- ✓ Uttarakhand will host the first-ever Himalayan states' conclave in Mussoorie on July 28 where the prime focus will be on sustainable development. The conclave will deliberate on the problems faced by Himalayan states.
- ✓ It will be attended by the chief ministers of all Himalayan states – Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram and Nagaland, along with administrators and specialists.
- ✓ The conclave will discuss methods to protect the Himalayan eco system from global warming, water conservation measures to be adopted besides working out an action plan for sustainable development in the Himalayan region and submitting its draft to Niti Ayog.

6. Which Indian organization has collaborated with Ministry of Health to conduct largest pan – India oral health survey?

- A) Tata memorial      B) Sanjeevan Hospital  
C) Apollo Hospitals      D) AIIMS

- ✓ In 2019, the AIIMS Centre for Dental Education and Research will undertake the largest nationwide oral health survey in collaboration with the Ministry of Health to collect data that would act as a baseline for planning preventive and treatment strategies.
- ✓ The aim of the survey is to record specific, representative data on the most prevalent dental diseases in the country like dental decay, gum diseases, dento-facial deformities, cancerous lesions, dental fluorosis and dental trauma among others.

7. The rare footage of 1948 film Vande Mataram has become part of NFAI. The film was directed by whom?

- A) Sudhir Phadke      B) Satish Jakatdar  
C) P L Deshpande      D) Ram Gabale

- ✓ The rare footage of an iconic Marathi film Vande Mataram (1948) has become part of the Pune-based National Film Archives of India (NFAI).
- ✓ A Video Home System (VHS) cassette containing about 35 minute footage of the film is part of the collection that was donated to NFAI by Dinesh Thakur ( nephew of Sunita Deshpande) and film historian Satish Jakatdar, along with U-Matic tapes containing rare footage of Harmonium playing by P.L. Deshpande.
- ✓ The film 'Vande Mataram' is considered a very important as the story was based on India's freedom movement and struggle. The legendary writer and playwright P L Deshpande played a major role along with his wife Sunita Deshpande.
- ✓ The script, dialogue and lyrics were written by renowned writer G.D. Madgulkar whereas the music was composed by stalwart composer Sudhir Phadke.
- ✓ The iconic film was directed by renowned filmmaker Ram Gabale. The shooting for the film took place in early 1948 at Shalini Studio in Kolhapur.

8. The researchers of which country have found that Electronic cigarettes damage brain stem cells?

- A) South Africa      B) India  
C) France      D) United States

- ✓ The researchers in the United States (US) have found that Electronic Cigarettes (ECs) produce a stress response in brain stem cells. They identified the mechanism underlying EC-induced stem cell toxicity as "Stress-Induced Mitochondrial Hyper-fusion (SIMH) using cultured mouse neural stem cells.
- ✓ The study showed that exposure of stem cells to e-liquids, aerosols, or nicotine produces a response that leads to SIMH. ECs are nicotine delivery devices that aerosolize nicotine and flavour chemicals through heating. If the nicotine stress persists, SIMH collapses, the neural stem cells get damaged and could eventually die.
- ✓ If that happens, no more specialised cells, astrocytes and neurons, for example, can be produced from stem cells. Then, damaged stem cell mitochondria could accelerate aging and lead to neurodegenerative diseases.

9. The Agri-Business Incubation Centre in Raipur has been set up under which central scheme?

- A) RAFTAAR  
B) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana  
C) Soil Health Card  
D) National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture

- ✓ An Agri-Business Incubation Centre has been set up by the Union Agriculture Ministry in the Indira Gandhi Agriculture University of Raipur in Chhattisgarh. The Centre is set up under the National Agriculture Development Scheme- RAFTAAR.
- ✓ The objective of the scheme is to make farming a remunerative economic activity by strengthening farmer's efforts, risk mitigation and promoting agri-business entrepreneurship.
- ✓ Under the scheme, guidance, technology and infrastructure will be provided to youth and

