

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

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# **FOURTH WEEK**

# **CURRENT AFFAIRS**

**22 JULY - 31 JULY**



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**1. The Union Government has proposed which light urban rail transit system for small cities?**

- A) Metrolight                      B) MetroTank
- C) Metrolite ☒                      D) MetroRail

- ✓ The Union Government has proposed light urban rail transit system – ‘Metrolite’ in small cities and towns having lower projection of ridership, with each train having three coaches and a restricted speed of 25 kmph.

- ✓ The 'Metrolite' can be developed at a lower cost in comparison with existing metro system. The 3 coach train will have capacity of carrying 300 passengers. Sources said the government would provide financial assistance to states to implement the light urban rail transit system.

- ✓ It will have a dedicated path separating the road traffic with it. For segregation with road traffic, fencing can be provided on either side of network. The 'Metrolite' system will not have facilities like a traditional metros. The car structure material will be stainless steel or aluminium.

**2. Arun Kumar Roy, who passed away recently, was the veteran Left leader of which state?**

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

✓ Arun Kumar Roy (90), the veteran Left leader and chief patron of CITU Jharkhand state committee, has passed away in Dhanbad, Jharkhand on 21<sup>st</sup> July. He was the former Lok Sabha MP and founder of Marxist Coordination Committee (MCC).

- ✓ Roy won the Dhanbad Lok Sabha seat in 1977, 1980 and 1989. He also represented Sindri in the Bihar Assembly in 1967, 1969 and 1972.

**3. Who has become India's 1<sup>st</sup> gold medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament?**

- A) Vikas Krishan Yadav      B) Shiva Thapa ☒
- C) Mohammed Ali Qamar      D) Jagdish Singh

✓ Four time Asian medallist Shiva Thapa has become the India's 1<sup>st</sup> gold medallist at the President's Cup boxing tournament after getting a walkover in the finals in Astana, Kazakhstan on July 20.

✓ It was his international debut in the newly-introduced Olympic category of 63 Kilogram. Thapa was to fight Kazakhstan's Zakir Safiullin in the summit clash but his opponent had to pull out due to injury. Earlier, this year, Thapa had lost to Safiullin in the 2019 Asian Championship semi-final.

**4. Which state government has decided to set up India's first Space Park?**

- A) Kerala ☒ B) Tamil Nadu  
C) Andhra Pradesh D) Telangana

- ✓ The Kerala Government has decided to set up a state – of – the – art Space Systems Park at Knowledge City Thiruvananthapuram to attract global startups working in space sector and also develop it as a major manufacturing hub for space related technology, research and development.

✓ The state government has claimed that it will be the India's first space park. The state government has issued orders to make Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre and Space Museum part of the space park and to allot the land required for the facility. The entire investment will be made by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC).

✓ The government will transfer 20.01 acres as lease to the Kerala State Information Technology Infrastructure Ltd (KSITIL) to develop the space park at Knowledge City within Technocity as an international space technology ecosystem. Of this, 16.07 acres, now having SEZ status, will be denotified by KSITIL. The land belongs to Technopark. The project will be implemented by the Electronics and IT Department, government of Kerala.

**5. Which Indian bodybuilder has clinched 2019 Mr. South Asia title?**

- A) Yatinder Singh**                      **B) Miihier Singh**
- C) Yoqesh Kumar**                      **D) Ravinder Kumar Malik** ☒

- ✓ Indian bodybuilder Ravinder Kumar Malik has clinched Mr. South Asia title. He has crowned the overall champion at 12<sup>th</sup> South Asian Bodybuilding & Physique Sports Championship in Kathmandu on July 20.
  - ✓ Malik, the winner of 80 Kg category, was adjudged best bodybuilder among the winners of 9 senior men's weight categories.
  - ✓ Afghanistan won team championship by securing a top position with 535 points. Host Nepal finished second with 445 points, while India remained third with 380 points. A total of 91 bodybuilders participated in the championship organised by South Asian Bodybuilding and Physique Sports Federation under the auspices of Nepal Bodybuilding and Fitness Association.
6. The 11<sup>th</sup> biennial edition of DefExpo India – 2020 is scheduled to be held in which city?
- A) Delhi                                      B) Lucknow ☒
- C) Amravati                                      D) Hyderabad
- ✓ The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow from 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The 4-day event will offer an excellent opportunity for the Indian defence industry to showcase its capabilities and promote its export potential.
  - ✓ The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 will be -- India - the Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub and the focus will be on Digital Transformation of Defence. The DefExpo will provide an opportunity to the major foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers to collaborate with the Indian defence industry and help promote 'Make in India' initiative of PM Modi.
7. The 2019 Homeless World Cup football tournament is scheduled to be held in which country?
- A) United Kingdom ☒                                      B) France
- C) United States                                      D) Germany
- ✓ The 17th edition of the Homeless World Cup football tournament will take place in Cardiff in Wales from July 27 to August 3, 2019.
  - ✓ The tournament is organised by the Homeless World Cup Foundation. As per the Homeless World Cup Foundation, players must be at least 16 years old and should not have taken part in a previous edition of the World Cup.
  - ✓ Indian men's and women's football squads, led by Amrit Pal Singh and Sujata Rai, would take part in the 2019 football tournament. Wales is a country that is part of the United Kingdom and the island of Great Britain.
8. The Union Government has banned which antibiotic in animal food industry?
- A) Biaxin                                      B) Keflex
- C) Colistin ☒                                      D) Doxycycline
- ✓ In a bid to preserve the drug's efficacy in humans, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has banned the manufacture, sale and distribution of Colistin and its formulations for food producing animals, poultry, aqua farming and animal feed supplements.
  - ✓ The ban has been imposed under provisions of section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940. According to a ministry official, the antibiotic is being used as a last resort for treatment of patients suffering from infections caused by drug-resistant bacteria. But the drug is highly misused in poultry industry as a growth promoter for prophylactic purpose.
9. The Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) facility has recently opened in which city?
- A) Shimla                                      B) Jabalpur
- C) Kochi                                      D) Hyderabad ☒
- ✓ The Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) facility has been inaugurated by Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB), a CSIR lab in Hyderabad.
  - ✓ This is the 4<sup>th</sup> such facility in the country, which can sequence 30 human genomes (or 384 diagnostic samples) in a day. It costs around Rs 1 lakh to sequence one genome using this facility.

- ✓ This opens up multiple avenues in investigating fundamental biology of individual cells in tissues as well as fighting disease like cancer through understanding the heterogeneity in cell populations. These services would be available to hospitals, industry, and academicians by paying charges.

**10.** The 2019 Hand – in – Hand military exercise is scheduled to be held in which Indian state?

- A) Meghalaya ☒                      B) Nagaland  
C) Arunachal Pradesh                      D) Sikkim

- ✓ The 2019 edition of India and China joint military exercise titled “Hand – in – Hand” will be held in Umroi near Shillong, Meghalaya in December 2019. It will be a two week exercise which will be based on counter terrorism and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations.
  - ✓ The exercise aims to build close relations between the armies of the two countries. It will be a company level exercise, where around 120 troops from each side will be participating.
- \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Yukiya Amano, who passed away recently, was the Chief of which international organisation?**

- A) UNICEF
- B) UNESCO
- C) FAO
- D) IAEA ☒

- ✓ Yukiya Amano (72), the former Japanese diplomat and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Chief, has passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. He had been chief of the key U.N. agency that regulates nuclear issues worldwide since 2009. It is not yet clear who will succeed Amano on an interim basis.

- ✓ During his tenure, Amano oversaw the signing of a landmark deal in 2015 between Iran and six major powers -- Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States -- under which the Islamic republic agreed to curb its nuclear programme in exchange for the lifting of sanctions.

**2. Chandrayaan – 2 will explore & perform studies on which region of Moon?**

- A) North Pole
- B) West Pole
- C) South Pole ☒
- D) East Pole

- ✓ India has successfully launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> lunar mission Chandrayaan – 2 onboard its powerful rocket GSLV – MkIII – M1 from Sriharikota to explore the uncharted south pole of the Moon by landing a rover.

- ✓ The Rs 978 crore mission will mark a giant leap in India's space research and make it only the 4th country to have landed a rover on Moon. For the first time in India's space history, an interplanetary expedition is being led by two women - Muthaya Vanitha (the project director) & Ritu Karidhal (the mission director).

- ✓ According to ISRO, the lunar South Pole is an interesting surface area which remains in shadow than North Pole. There is a possibility of the presence of water in permanently shadowed areas around it.

- ✓ The lander 'Vikram', named after father of Indian space research programme Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, carrying the rover 'Pragyan', will be landed in a high plain between two craters at a latitude of about 70° south of the moon.

✓ Then the 27 Kg 'Pragyan' meaning 'wisdom' in Sanskrit and a 6 wheeled robotic vehicle, will set out on its job of collecting information on lunar surface. The rover will carry out experiments for 14 Earth days, equals one Lunar Day.

**3. Where is the headquarters of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)?**

- A) Kochi ☒ B) Nagpur  
C) Delhi D) Shimla

- ✓ The Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has launched a research project for developing an online platform in order to facilitate effective fish marketing systems.

- ✓ The project aims to develop a fish market information system, fish price information and facilitate an e – auctioning system trade platform for commercially important fish species.

- ✓ As many as 1,500 fish markets, including landing centres, wholesale markets, retail markets and aquaculture production markets, across the country will be selected for implementing the programme.

- ✓ The project on fish market and price information system is funded by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Hyderabad. The headquarters of CMFRI is located in Kochi, Kerala.

**4. The 2019 International Shark meet is slated to be held in which Indian city?**

- A) Cuttack  
B) Chennai  
C) Bengaluru  
D) Kochi ☒

- ✓ In Kerala, the 4 day International shark meet 2019 is being held in Kochi from July 24 to set up a platform for researchers from across the globe working on shark and ray trade to share their experience in the field.

✓ It is a first of its kind event in India, which is being jointly organized by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and the FAO under the collaborative research project of the two entities on sharks and rays non – fin commodities.

- ✓ Representatives from the FAO and experts from various countries such as United Kingdom, Australia, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Indonesia, Malaysia, Peru, Italy, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Somalia, Myanmar and Namibia will attend the meet to discuss the priorities in monitoring shark and ray fisheries, trade and market chain assessment.

5. Who is the author of the book "Indo – Pak Relations: Beyond Pulwama & Balakot"?

- A) Nirad C. Chaudhuri      B) Amish Tripathi  
C) Vinit Goenka      D) U V Singh ☒

- ✓ The book titled "Indo-Pak Relations: Beyond Pulwama and Balakot" has been authored by Dr. U V Singh. This book deals with the fundamental causes of the Indo – Pak conflict.

6. Who has been appointed as the Chairman of Asian Boxing Confederation's competitions commission?

- A) Kishen Narsi ☒      B) Akhil Kumar  
C) Manish Kaushik      D) Varghese Johnson

- ✓ Kishen Narsi from India has been appointed as the Chairman of Asian Boxing Confederation's (ASBC) competitions commission. Narsi is a former All-India University champion boxer.
- ✓ He was an international referee and vice chairman of the executive committee of the International Boxing Association (AIBA). He has officiated in 3 Olympics. He was also the founding interim president of the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

7. Who has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy?

- A) Seetha Narayanan      B) S Ramanathan  
C) S Sowmya ☒      D) Priyadarshini Govind

- ✓ Noted vocalist Dr. S Sowmya has been chosen for the Sangita Kalanidhi award of the Music Academy and she will preside over 93<sup>rd</sup> annual conference of the Academy to be held between December 12, 2019, and January 1, 2020.

- ✓ A student of Dr. S. Ramanathan and T. Mukta, Ms. Sowmya equally excelled in her academic pursuit and obtained a doctorate from the Madras University.

- ✓ Beside her, Sangita Kala Acharya awards will go to vocalists Seetha Narayanan and M.S. Sheela. Nagaswaram player Vyasarpadi Kothandaraman and vocalist Rajkumar Bharathi will get the TTK awards while Aarti N. Rao will get the Musicologist Award.

- ✓ All awards will be conferred during the Sadas of the Academy on January 1. The Nritya Kalanidhi award for Dance will be conferred on Priyadarshini Govind at the inauguration of the dance festival on January 3, 2020.

8. Who has been elected as chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF)?

- A) Indu Puri      B) M P Singh  
C) Kamlesh Mehta      D) Vivek Kohli ☒

- ✓ Vivek Kohli has been elected as chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation (CTTF). He defeated incumbent Alan Ransome of England. The elections were recently held in Bhubaneswar, close to the venue of the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 2019 (Cuttack).

- ✓ M.P. Singh, who is secretary general at Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI), was unanimously elected as secretary general of CTTF. The CTTF president's post is already held by TTFI chief Dushyant Chautala. It is for the 1<sup>st</sup> time that all the 3 positions in CTTF are held by Indians.

9. Who won the women's singles titles at the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships?

- A) Ayhika Mukherjee ☒      B) Pooja Sahasrabudhe  
C) Krittwika Sinha Roy      D) Manika Batra

- ✓ In Table Tennis, hosts India completed a clean sweep & claimed all the 7 gold medals at the 21<sup>st</sup> Commonwealth Championships, which concluded recently in Cuttack.
- ✓ Harmeet Desai and Ayhika Mukherjee won the men's and women's singles title, respectively. Harmeet defeated G. Sathiyan 4-3 to claim the men's singles title.

- ✓ In women singles, Ayhika won her first gold in the championships after defeating former national champion Madurika Patkar 4-0.
- ✓ Anthony Amalraj and Manav Thakkar claimed the men's doubles gold by stunning top seeds Sathiyar and Sharath Kamal 3-1. While Pooja Sahasrabudhe and Kritika Sinha Roy defeated compatriots Sreeja Akula and Mousumi Paul 3-1 to claim the women's doubles crown.
- ✓ Indian paddlers topped the medals tally with 7 gold, 5 silver and 3 bronze. England won two silver and three bronze medals. Singapore got 6 bronze medals while Malaysia and Nigeria got 1 bronze each.

10. Who represented India at the NAM Ministerial Meeting in Caracas?

- A) Ranjan Mathai                      B) Syed Akbaruddin ☒
- C) Jaishankar                         D) Vijay Keshav

- ✓ India was represented by Indian envoy to United Nations Syed Akbaruddin at the 2019 Non Aligned Movement (NAM) Ministerial Meeting in Caracas, Venezuela.
- ✓ Here, India has strongly rejected Pakistan's references to Kashmir & said that the global forum can never be a platform for a self-serving narrative that aims to undermine the territorial integrity of one nation by another state.
- ✓ The NAM needs to be in the vanguard of those addressing the primary issues of our times that cry for global cooperation, rather than become a platform for venting bilateral grievances between members. Akbaruddin did not name Pakistan but his comments were aimed at Islamabad raising the issue of Kashmir at the multilateral forum.
- ✓ NAM was established in Belgrade in 1961 and was a joint initiative of former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Yugoslav President Josip Broz Tito.

1. Which hockey player has been chosen for 2019 Mohun Bagan Ratna?

- A) Udham Singh                      B) Keshav Dutt ☒  
C) Leslie Claudius                  D) Dhanraj Pillay

- ✓ 2 time Olympic gold medal winning Hockey Player Keshav Dutt and former India Football Captain Prasun Banerjee has been chosen for 2019 Mohun Bagan Ratna.
- ✓ This is the first time that the club is conferring the award on a sportsperson from a discipline other than football. Dutt (93) was part of the team that won gold in the 1948 (London) and 1952 (Helsinki) Olympics.
- ✓ Prasun was a prominent midfielder of his times. He played in three Asian Games in 1974, 1978 and 1982 and was part of an Asian All Star XI team. The Best Footballer for the 2018 – 19 will be given to Arijit Bagui.
- ✓ Mohun Bagan will also felicitate pacer Mohammed Shami, India's hat-trick hero of the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup, while footballer Ashok Chatterjee will be given the Lifetime Achievement award.
- ✓ The Mariners will also give Life Memberships to Sourav Ganguly, ChuniGoswami, Dr Vece Paes, Prasenjit Chatterjee and Deb Shankar Halder. The awards will be given away on Mohun Bagan Day on July 29.
- ✓ July 29 is celebrated as the 'Mohun Bagan Day' because on this day in 1911, the Mariners became the first club to defeat a British club, East Yorkshire Regiment, and lift the IFA Shield.

2. The scientists of which country have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into lowcost bio-degradable cellulose sheets?

- A) Sri Lanka                              B) Myanmar  
C) India                                      D) Bangladesh ☒

- ✓ Scientists in Bangladesh have developed a method to convert Jute fibre into low cost bio-degradable cellulose sheets named 'Sonali' which can be used as wrapping material and carrying bag.
- ✓ The eco friendly jute poly bags made up of Sonali can be used in garments and food packaging work and they are

not harmful for human health. The commercial production of these bags is likely to start by the year end.

- ✓ The main challenge in the large scale adoption of Sonali sheet is the relatively high cost of production which is almost double that of polythene. However, production on a large scale is expected to bring down the cost.

3. Who has been appointed next Vice Chief of Indian Army?

- A) Manoj Mukund Naravane ☒ B) I.S Ghuman  
C) A.S Kler                                  D) Cherish Matheson

- ✓ Lt Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane appointed next Vice Chief of Indian Army. He will succeed Lt Gen. Devraj Anbu who is slated to retire on August 31. Lt Gen Naravane will be in contention for the Army chief's post as he will be the senior-most commander when incumbent Gen Bipin Rawat retires on December 31.
- ✓ In his 37 years of service, Lt Gen Naravane has served in numerous command and staff appointments in peace, field and highly active counter insurgency environments. He has also commanded a Rashtriya Rifles Battalion in Jammu and Kashmir and an Infantry Brigade on the eastern front.

4. On which date, the 159<sup>th</sup> Income Tax Day is celebrated in India?

- A) July 24 ☒                                      B) July 26  
C) July 25                                      D) July 22

- ✓ The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has celebrated the 159th Income Tax Day i.e. Aaykar Diwas on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2019. The week preceding the Aaykar Diwas 2019 has been marked by various activities undertaken by the regional offices of the department across the country.
- ✓ The event will include release of departmental publications, e-journal, publicity kit for outreach programmes among other things.
- ✓ It was on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1860 that Income Tax was introduced for the first time in India by Sir James Wilson to compensate for the losses incurred by the British



regime during the first war of independence against British Rule. This is why 24<sup>th</sup> July is observed as the Income Tax Day.

5. Which state government has decided to bring legislation for ensuring Journalists' job security?

- A) West Bengal ☒ B) Odisha  
C) Jharkhand D) Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee led West Bengal government has decided to bring legislation in the Assembly for ensuring the job security of Journalists in the State. The legislation aims at social security of Journalist. Besides, it will deal with the issues of retrenchment of Journalists and closure of TV channels and Newspapers publication houses.

6. Which IIT has developed an AI app CARE4U for elderly people?

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

- ✓ In a move to help geriatric care, students of IIT Kharagpur have built an app which will inform the caregiver when the elderly person falls down with the exact location. The app named 'CARE4U' will connect the caregiver to the elderly person.
- ✓ The neural network-based fall detection algorithm in the app installed on the phone of the elderly can detect whether the elderly has fallen down. If there is a fall, it automatically calls the caregiver and emergency services with the location of the elderly person. To make this feature more effective the team has developed a cognitive intelligent chatbot for the elderly person to engage with.

7. Who is the head of the reconstituted Group of Ministers (GoM) on sexual harassment at workplace?

- A) Ramesh Pokhriyal B) Smriti Irani  
C) Nirmala Sitharaman D) Amit Shah ☒

- ✓ The Government of India (GoM) has reconstituted the Group of Ministers (GoM), under the chairmanship of

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, looking after the issues of how to prevent sexual harassment at workplace and strengthen legal frameworks.

- ✓ The other members of the reconstituted GoM are: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, HRD Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.

- ✓ The GoM was set up to examine and give recommendations for strengthening the legal and institutional frameworks to deal with and prevent sexual harassment at workplace in October 2018.

8. Which state has become the first Indian State to reserve 75% private jobs for local youths?

- A) West Bengal B) Madhya Pradesh  
C) Kerala D) Andhra Pradesh ☒

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh has become the first Indian State to reserve 75% jobs for local youths in all private industries. The state assembly has recently passed the Andhra Pradesh Employment of Local Candidates in Industries / Factories Act of 2019, which reserves 75% jobs in industrial units, factories, joint ventures and projects set up under public-private partnership mode.

- ✓ According to the new law, if a company does not find the necessary skills in locals, then it will need to train them in association with the state government. In this way, no company will be able to hide behind the excuse of not finding skilled local labourers.

- ✓ The act will ensure the employment of youth in the state but at the same time, the state will have to ramp up the training centres in order to make them skillful.

9. Which IIT has developed 'Agricopter' to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural farms?

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

- ✓ The students at the IIT Madras have developed a smart agricopter to eliminate manual spraying of pesticides in agricultural fields and help identify crop health by using an imaging camera.

- ✓ The innovation will allow spraying pesticides 10 times faster and with 100% precision at the same cost as manual spraying. The current version of Project Smart Agricopter is a hexacopter drone with the capacity to carry 15 liters of pesticide.

**10.** Who is the head of the Cryptocurrency panel that proposes ban on private digital currencies?

A) Nirmala Sitharaman

B) Subhash Chandra Garg ☒

C) N K Singh

D) Anurag Thakur

- ✓ The Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) set up to look into the legality of cryptocurrencies and blockchain has recently submitted its report to the Finance Ministry and recommended that private cryptocurrencies be banned completely in India.
  - ✓ It has also drafted a law, the 'Banning of Cryptocurrency & Regulation of Official Digital Currency Bill, 2019', which mandates a fine and imprisonment of up to 10 years for offences. The committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg.
-

1. Who officially took over charge as new British Prime Minister?

- A) Jeremy Corbyn                      B) Boris Johnson ☒  
C) Jeremy Hunt                         D) Nigel Farage

- ✓ Boris Johnson, the former foreign secretary and London Mayor, has officially took over the charge as new British Prime Minister after Theresa May handed in her resignation to the Queen at Buckingham Palace.
- ✓ He promised to leave the European Union on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 under a "New deal, A better deal" with the 28 member economic bloc. Mr Johnson is expected to use the opportunity to increase the number of women in full cabinet positions and boost the representation of ethnic minorities.

2. Who has been appointed Britain's first Indian origin home secretary?

- A) Shailesh Vara                         B) Priti Patel ☒  
C) Indarjit Singh                         D) Virendra Sharma

- ✓ Priti Patel, a prominent member of the Back Boris campaign for the Conservative Party leadership, has become the Britain's first Indian origin home secretary as part of new Prime Minister Boris Johnson's top team.
- ✓ She succeeded Pakistani Sajid Javid, who moves to the Treasury department as the first ethnic minority Chancellor of the Exchequer. Johnson has also named Brexit hardliner Dominic Raab as the country's Foreign Secretary.

3. Indian Railway's first printing press heritage gallery has opened in which city?

- A) Mumbai ☒    B) Kolkatta    C) Delhi    D) Chennai

- ✓ The Western Railway has opened the first-of-its-kind printing press heritage gallery of the Indian Railways at Mahalaxmi in Mumbai.
- ✓ With this, the Western Railway Mahalaxmi General Stores Depot has become the first in Indian Railways to portray a heritage gallery of the printing and allied machines used in the Western Railway Printing Press

since 1948, which are still in working condition. The press came into existence in 1912 under the Greater Indian Peninsular Railway Bombay.

4. Who has been appointed the new Union Home Secretary of Government of India?

- A) Subhash Chandra Garg            B) Anshu Prakash  
C) Atanu Chakraborty                 D) Ajay Kumar Bhalla ☒

- ✓ Ajay Kumar Bhalla, the 1984-batch Assam Meghalaya cadre IAS officer has been appointed Officer on Special Duty to the Ministry of Home Affairs. He will take over as Home Secretary from incumbent Rajive Gauba. Bhalla will have a fixed 2 year tenure as Union Home Secretary till August 2021.

- ✓ Excerpts of the major reshuffle in the senior bureaucracy: Subhash Chandra Garg has been shifted to the Power Ministry as Secretary, while Gujarat cadre IAS officer Atanu Chakraborty has been made new Economic Affairs Secretary.

- ✓ Anshu Prakash has been appointed new Secretary of Telecommunications. The reshuffle includes IAS officers of 1984, 1985 and 1986 batches.

5. What is the India's rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019?

- A) 52<sup>nd</sup> ☒                      B) 45<sup>th</sup>                      C) 51<sup>st</sup>                      D) 48<sup>th</sup>

- ✓ India has improved its rank by five places to stand at 52<sup>nd</sup> in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2019 of the world's most innovative economies and maintained its position as the top exporter of IT services.

- ✓ The list continues to be topped by Switzerland while Israel finds its place in the top ten for the first time. The latest GII ranking shows that India has constantly been maintaining its leadership position as the most innovative country in Central and South Asia region every year since 2011.

- ✓ The GII ranks 129 economies based on 80 indicators. The rankings are published annually by Cornell University, INSEAD and the UN World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) and GII Knowledge Partners.

6. Which RBI deputy governor has been assigned to run the monetary policy portfolio?

- A) Viral Acharya                      B) M K Jain  
C) N S Vishwanathan                  D) B P Kanungo ☒

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has assigned deputy governor B.P. Kanungo to run the monetary policy portfolio after the resignation of fellow deputy governor Viral Acharya. Kanungo would become the 6<sup>th</sup> member of the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee, which will next convene on 5–7 August. He will also retain his currency management portfolio. Now, all the other three deputy governors — N S Vishwanathan, B P Kanungo and M K Jain — have been made responsible for 12 departments each.

7. Which state government has decided to ply 'Water Taxis' in its inland waterways?

- A) Kerala      B) Andhra      C) Odisha      D) Goa ☒

- ✓ In a first, the Goa government has decided to ply 'Water Taxis' in its inland waterways between Panaji and Old Goa. The announcement was made while tabling the performance budget of the River Navigation department (RND) for the financial year 2019 – 2020. The department also plans to upgrade existing ferry ramps and jetties and provide better facilities on all the ferry routes. The RND has a fleet of 34 ferry boats.

- ✓ The Central government's Sagarmala project has also funded reconstruction of 9 jetties in Goa. A flagship programme of the Ministry of Shipping, the Sagarmala project aims to promote port – led development by exploiting India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and its strategic location on international maritime trade routes.

8. Ehsan Mania, who has been appointed chief of the ICC's Finance & Commercial Affairs (F&CA), is from which country?

- A) Afghanistan                      B) New Zealand  
C) Pakistan ☒                      D) England

- ✓ Ehsan Mania, the current Chairman of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), has been appointed chief of the ICC's

influential Finance & Commercial Affairs (F&CA). F&CA is one of the ICC's most important committees & is responsible for designing budgets for ICC events and distributing money to its member countries.

9. Who has been appointed the new national coach of the Indian table tennis team?

- A) Veselin Matic                      B) Igor Stimac  
C) Dejan Papic ☒                      D) Harendra Singh

- ✓ Dejan Papic from Canada has been appointed the new national coach of the Indian table tennis team. He accepted the one-year contract that was offered to him by the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

- ✓ He will be paid USD 7000 per month and his contract will be up for renewal after the Tokyo Olympics. The Indian team has been playing without a coach since the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta.

- ✓ Without a coach, the team suffered a lot of defeats in several important tournaments. However, in the recently concluded 2019 Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship, India won the gold medal in all categories.

10. On which date, National Broadcasting day is celebrated in India?

- A) July 25      B) July 24      C) July 26      D) July 23 ☒

- ✓ In India, the National Broadcasting day is celebrated every year on 23<sup>rd</sup> of July because on this day, in 1927, the radio broadcasting was started. The first ever radio broadcast in the country went on the air from the Bombay Station under a private company - the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC). It was started by the British Viceroy of India Lord Irwin.

- ✓ Since 1927, radio has been an important part in people's life in India. On 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1936, the Indian State Broadcasting Service became All India Radio (AIR). Its' motto - Bahujan Hitaya Bahujan Sukhaya. The AIR is one of the largest public broadcasting organizations in the world. It has 414 stations in 23 languages and broadcasts in 179 dialects.

1. India's first dragon blood-oozing tree has recently discovered in which state?
- A) Assam ☒ B) Kerala  
C) Nagaland D) Tripura
- ✓ The research team led by Assam forest officer Jatindra Sarma has discovered *Dracaena cambodiana* – a dragon tree species in the Dongka Sarpo area of West Karbi Anglong. This is for the first time that a dragon tree species has been reported from India.
- ✓ *Dracaena cambodiana* is an important medicinal plant as well as an ornamental tree. It is a major source of dragon's blood, a precious traditional medicine in China. Several antifungal / antibacterial compounds, antioxidants, flavonoids, etc., have been extracted from various parts of the plant.
- ✓ In India, the *Dracaena* genus belonging to the family Asparagaceae is represented by nine species and two varieties in the Himalayan region, the northeast and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. But *Dracaena cambodiana* is the only true dragon tree species.
2. Who is the author of the book 'Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice'?
- A) Brij Mohan Kaul B) Ranbir Singh ☒  
C) Mukund Naravane D) D Anbu
- ✓ The book titled 'Fire and Fury Corps – Saga of Valour, Fortitude and Sacrifice' has been authored by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Ranbir Singh.
- ✓ The book is showcasing the history and achievements of the Fire and Fury Corps which guards the Line of Control (LoC) and Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir. It documents the courage and bravery of the Fire and Fury Warriors and portrays the rich heritage and ethos of the Indian Army.
3. Which company has become the official sponsor for the Indian cricket team?
- A) BYJU's ☒ B) Airtel C) Jio D) Vedanta
- ✓ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has recently announced that Bengaluru based educational technology and online tutorial firm BYJU's has replaced Chinese mobile manufacturer Oppo as the official Team India sponsor.
- ✓ The deal period will begin from 5 September 2019 until 31 March 2022. BYJU's is a leading education and learning app and has superstar Shah Rukh Khan as its brand ambassador. BYJU's will now be seen on the Indian team jersey from September 2019 when the home series against South Africa begin.
4. SUPARCO is the official space agency of which country?
- A) Sri Lanka B) Pakistan ☒  
C) Myanmar D) Bangladesh
- ✓ The Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO) is a space agency of the Government of Pakistan. It is responsible for the nation's public and civil space programme and for aeronautics and aerospace research.
- ✓ It is in news because the space agency has recently announced that it will send its first astronaut to space in 2022 using ally China's satellite launching facilities. Pakistan's decision came as India on July 22 successfully launched its 2<sup>nd</sup> Lunar Mission Chandrayaan – 2.
5. How many companies are honoured with the 2019 CSR Journal Excellence Awards?
- A) 6 ☒ B) 4 C) 5 D) 8
- ✓ Six companies — Tata Power, ReNew Power, Hindustan Zinc, Aditya Birla Capital Ltd., YES Bank Ltd. and Mahindra & Mahindra — emerged winners in the CSR Journal Excellence Awards.
- ✓ In the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of awards, there were six categories — education and skill training, women empowerment and child welfare, agriculture and rural development, sports, health and sanitation and environment.

- ✓ The awards are instituted by The CSR Journal, a digital and print news publication. The theme of the event was 'India First'.

6. India's first space war drill "IndSpaceEx" has kick started in which city?

- A) Kochi                                      B) Visakhapatnam  
C) New Delhi ☒                                      D) Nellore

- ✓ India's first space war drill "IndSpaceEx" has started by Indian armed forces in New Delhi on July 25 and 26. The aim of the exercise is to assess imminent threats to the nation beyond earth.

- ✓ It also plans on drafting a joint space doctrine for future battles. The development comes on the background of China's growing influence in space defence and counter – space capabilities.

7. Beji Caid Essebsi, who passed away recently, was the President of which African country?

- A) Congo                                      B) Tunisia ☒  
C) South Africa                                      D) Nigeria

- ✓ Tunisian President Beji Caid Essebsi (92), the North African country's first democratically elected leader, has passed away on July 25.

- ✓ He was the world's oldest sitting president. Essebsi won Tunisia's first free elections in 2014 following Arab uprisings across the region.

8. Which state has become No. 1 in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY)?

- A) Rajasthan                                      B) Odisha  
C) Punjab                                      D) Uttar Pradesh ☒

- ✓ Uttar Pradesh has become number one in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) in the country. As per the statement released by state government, 1.95 crores people have been given insurance cover under the scheme till 31 march 2019.

- ✓ The implementation of this ambitious central government scheme started in state from January 2018 under which people between age group of 18 to 70 get accidental insurance cover of Rs. 2 lakh by paying a nominal premium of Rs 12 annually.

- ✓ Beside this, Uttar Pradesh stands second in the country in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Beema Yojana (PMJJBY). The PMJJBY is a life insurance scheme that provides a life cover of Rs.2 lakh at Rs.330/year. It is available to people in the age group of 18 – 50 years having a bank account.

9. The researchers at which Indian organisation have discovered 28 new stars in Milky Way galaxy?

- A) VSSC                                      B) BARC  
C) ARIES ☒                                      D) ISRO

- ✓ The Indian scientists at the Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES) have recently discovered 28 new variable stars in the Milky Way galaxy using 3.6 metre Devasthal Optical Telescope (DOT) established in 2016 near Nainital.

- ✓ The ARIES team of researchers was led by Dr. Sneha Lata and Dr. A K Pandey. It is for the first time that variable stars have been identified in Globular cluster NGC 4147 in the constellation of Coma Berenices.

- ✓ Besides the detection of new variable stars, the study also provides important insights into the internal structure of NGC 4147 which is located closer to the Earth than previously thought.

- ✓ A variable star is a star whose luminosity or brightness changes. This change may be caused due to periodical swelling and shrinking of the star or occasional block of light due to an eclipse by some other solar body.

- ✓ NGC 4147 was discovered by British astronomer William Herschel in 1784. A globular cluster is a spherical collection of stars that orbit a galactic core, as a satellite. Globular clusters are very tightly bound by gravity, which gives them their spherical shapes, and relatively high stellar densities towards their centres.

**10.** The National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), works under which union ministry?

A) Ministry of Women and Child Development

B) Ministry of Railways

C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

D) Ministry of Mines ☒

- ✓ The National Institute of Miners' Health (NIMH), an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Mines has been dissolved and merged with the ICMR-National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad with all assets and liabilities.
  - ✓ All the employees of NIMH will be absorbed in NIOH in the similar post / pay scale as the case may be and their pay be protected.
  - ✓ The merger / amalgamation of NIMH with NIOH will prove beneficial to both the Institutes in term of enhanced expertise in the field of occupational health besides the efficient management of public money. The ICMR – NIOH works under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
-

1. Who is the newly appointed chairperson of National Anti – profiteering Authority (NAA)?

- A) Badri Narain Sharma ☒ B) Amand Shah  
C) R Bhagyadevi D) J C Chauhan

- ✓ Badri Narain Sharma, a Rajasthan cadre IAS officer of 1985 batch, has been re – appointed as chairman of the National Anti – profiteering Authority (NAA) for next 2 years. The NAA ensures that consumers get benefit of reduced prices under the Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ✓ The NAA has been constituted under Section 171 of the Central GST Act of 2017 to ensure that the reduction in rate of tax or the benefit of input tax credit is passed on to the recipient by way of commensurate reduction in prices. The NAA has the power to cancel registration of any entity or business if it fails to pass on to consumers the benefit of lower taxes under the GST regime.

2. Who is the author of the book “Chandra Shekhar - The Last Icon of Ideological Politics”?

- A) Rama Devi B) Harivansh ☒  
C) Bhupesh Baghel D) Snehlata Shrivastava

- ✓ The book titled “Chandra Shekhar – The Last Icon of Ideological Politics” has been authored by Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Harivansh & writer Ravi Dutt Bajpai.
- ✓ The book was recently launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Balayogi Auditorium, Parliament Library Building. It chronicles the journey of former PM Chandra Shekhar from his humble lower middle – class background to becoming one of the most prominent political icons of India.

3. Securitypedia has been launched by which Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) of India?

- A) SSB B) ITBP C) BSF D) CISF ☒

- ✓ The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has launched a customised video interface – CISFTube – on the lines of YouTube and an online encyclopedia “Securitypedia” on the lines of Wikipedia to update its personnel about security related issues, best practices

in forces and latest technologies available across the world.

- ✓ Securitypedia is an online encyclopedia which incorporates a wide gamut of security related practices across the globe. CISF Tube is an online video database of all videos relevant to CISF. The videos available on CISF Tube enable CISF personnel to learn on various subjects related to their functioning.

4. Which state has topped in solar rooftop installations?

- A) Gujarat ☒ B) Maharashtra  
C) Rajasthan D) Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ In the area of solar rooftop installations, Gujarat has stood 1<sup>st</sup> in the country with total 261.97 MW of installed rooftop solar capacity as on July 23. Gujarat is followed by Maharashtra (198.52 MW) and Tamil Nadu (151.62 MW) respectively.

- ✓ As per the Central government data, the total rooftop solar installations in India are 1700.54 MW. The Government of India has set a target of installation of 40,000 MW of Rooftop Solar (RTS) projects by the year 2022 in the country including installation of RTS on rooftop of houses.

5. Attoor Ravi Varma, who passed away recently, was the renowned poet and translator of which language?

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

- ✓ Attoor Ravi Varma (88), the well – known poet and translator, has passed away in Thrissur, Kerala on July 26. He was considered as one of the pioneers of modern Malayalam poetry.

- ✓ He was recipient of many prestigious awards, including the Ezhuthachan Puraskaram, Ashan Award, Kerala Sahitya Akademi Award, and Kendra Sahitya Academy Award. His poems ignored metre and used free verse.

- ✓ His major works include Kavitha; Attoor Ravi Varmayude Kavithakal (1957 – 1994); Attoor Ravi Varmayude Kavithakal (1995 – 2003); J.J. Chila



Kurippukal; Oru Pulimarathinte Katha; Nale Mattoru Nal Matram; Randam Yamangalude Katha and Puthu Naanooru: Thamizh Kavithakalude Mozhimattam.

6. Who is set to become the first ever recipient of Tribute Actor Award at TIFF 2019?

- A) Leonardo DiCaprio                      B) Kirk Douglas  
C) Meryl Streep ☒                      D) Ellen DeGeneres

✓ Veteran star Meryl Streep will become the first – ever recipient of the TIFF Tribute Actor award at the 44th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF – 2019).

✓ She will receive the award in person on 9<sup>th</sup> September for her tremendous contribution to cinema, television and the stage spans five decades. Streep is a three time Oscar winner for 'The Iron Lady', 'Sophie's Choice and Kramer vs. Kramer.

7. Which Arab nation has recently launched its first Underwater Military Museum?

- A) Kuwait                                      B) Saudi Arabia  
C) Jordan ☒                                      D) Oman

✓ Jordan has recently launched its first Underwater Military Museum on the bed of Red Sea off the coast of Aqaba. The dive site includes several tanks, a troop carrier and a combat helicopter.

✓ The kingdom is hoping the 19 decommissioned pieces of military hardware, submerged at depths up to 28m (92 ft), will attract tourists to the already popular diving resort of Aqaba.

✓ The aim of the museum is to offer a new and unique museum experience for adventure loving tourists. Coral reefs in the northern Red Sea are a popular destination for divers and other tourists.

8. The GST Council has decided to reduce GST Rate on Electrical Vehicles from 12% to how much percent?

- A) 10%                      B) 8%                      C) 5% ☒                      D) 6%

✓ In a bid to promote electric mobility, the GST Council has decided to reduce GST Rate on Electrical Vehicles from

12% to 5% and on charger or charging stations for Electric vehicles from 18% to 5%. The new rates will come into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2019.

✓ The Council also approved an exemption from GST on the hiring of Electric Buses by local authorities. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held the meeting through video conferencing. This is the first GST Council meeting after the presentation of 2019 Union Budget in Parliament on 5<sup>th</sup> of July.

9. Which Indian economist has unveiled an account aggregator model "Sahamati"?

- A) Amartya Sen                                      B) Raghuram Rajan  
C) Nandan Nilekani ☒                                      D) Jagdish Bhagwati

✓ Nandan Nilekani has launched an account aggregator model – Sahamati – via which, individuals and small businesses can share their digital financial data with 3<sup>rd</sup> parties in a safe and secure manner.

✓ For example, a user seeking a loan will be able to quickly share bank statements and other details required by lending institutions digitally through their choice of preferred Account Aggregator (AA).

✓ So far, 6 AAs have received in-principle approval from the RBI. These include NESL Asset Data, CAMS Finserv Financial Services, Cookiejar Technologies Pvt Ltd, FinSec AA Solutions Pvt Ltd, Yodlee Finsoft Pvt Ltd, and Jio Information Solutions.

✓ In order to support the ecosystem, Sahamati has been formed as a Section 8 non-profit. It will be headed by BG Mahesh who founded OneIndia.com.

✓ Sahamati will apply for the Self-Regulatory Organisation licence with the Reserve Bank of India, which will give it a self-governing body status, allowing it to work on a code of conduct and best practices for member organizations. The technology framework was developed by non-profit iSpirt.

10. The researchers at which IIT have developed a novel molecular framework for superbugs?

- A) IIT Bombay                                      B) IIT Madras

C) IIT Kanpur ☒

D) IIT Indore

- ✓ The researchers at the IIT Kanpur and the Lucknow based Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) have designed a novel molecular framework to destroy superbugs, which are becoming increasingly resistant to most known antibiotics.
  - ✓ It would help drugs latch on to the germs and prevent them from multiplying. For the study, the scientists used bacteria – Staphylococcus Aureus – which are frequently found in the nostrils, upper respiratory tract and on the skin of nearly 30% of people.
  - ✓ According to researchers, a substance called gyrase is essential for bacteria's survival and multiplication. In most organisms, there are two types of gyrases — gyrase A and gyrase B.
  - ✓ The new molecule targets gyrase B, which is more conserved in organisms and hence difficult to mutate. The strategy is very attractive because it makes it possible to destroy these bacteria with the same class of drugs to which they have developed resistance.
-

1. The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG – 2020) is scheduled to be held in which city?

A) Kanpur

B) Guwahati ☒

C) Hyderabad

D) Chennai

- ✓ The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG – 2020) is scheduled to be held in Guwahati, Assam from 18th January 2020. The Games will see participation of more than 10,000 athletes and officials.
- ✓ It will be conducted in partnership with Indian Olympic Association (IOA), School Games Federation of India & Assam as host State. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was held in New Delhi, while Pune hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in 2019.

2. The Hindu Economic Forum (HEF) has launched its national chapter in which country recently?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Myanmar

C) Thailand

D) Nepal ☒

- ✓ The Hindu Economic Forum (HEF) has launched its Nepal Chapter. On this occasion, the founder of World Hindu Economic Forum (WHEF) Swami Vigyananand said economic empowerment is very necessary to get due respect and recognition in the modern world.
- ✓ The basic objective of Nepal chapter is to increase economic cooperation between India and Nepal and to connect the Himalayan nation with a global network for its economic prosperity.
- ✓ HEF brings together financially successful elements within Hindu society so that each group can share their business knowledge, expertise and resources with their fellow brethren to trigger the creation of surplus wealth and make society prosperous.
- ✓ HEF is affiliated with WHEF. It has national chapters in various countries like Bharat, Germany, Kenya etc. and city chapters within those countries such as HEF – Mumbai, HEF – Washington DC etc.

3. The scientists at which IIT have developed two – finger robotic hand to help paralysed stroke patients?

A) IIT Bombay

B) IIT Delhi

C) IIT Kanpur ☒

D) IIT Indore

- ✓ The scientists at the IIT Kanpur have developed two – finger robotic hand (exoskeleton) to help paralysed stroke patients.
- ✓ For the exoskeleton, Prof. Ashish Dutta and Prof. KS Venkatesh have partnered with the University of Ulster (based in the United Kingdom) and their teacher Girijesh Prasad, who belongs to Gorakhpur.
- ✓ The exoskeleton uses a four – bar mechanism and has four degrees of freedom (DOF). It can be used by a patient on the hand. It uses brain signals, with the help of the Brain – Computer Interface (BCI) that is worn on the head. The exoskeleton is operated by a MEGA microcontroller of 300 MHz and powered by a battery. The device will cost around Rs 15,000.

4. Which is the host country for the 2019 edition of World Hepatitis Day?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Pakistan ☒

C) India

D) Bangladesh

- ✓ The **World Hepatitis Day** is observed every year on 28<sup>th</sup> of July to raise awareness about the disease which causes inflammation of the liver and claims around 1.4 million lives every year.
- ✓ The date of 28 July was chosen because it is the birthday of Nobel Prize winning scientist Dr Baruch Blumberg, who discovered hepatitis B virus (HBV) and developed a diagnostic test and vaccine for the virus. The host country for **WHD** 2019 is Pakistan and the theme for this year is “Invest in eliminating hepatitis”.

5. Jaipal Reddy, who passed away recently, was the veteran leader of which political party?

A) INC ☒

B) BJP

C) CPI

D) BJD

- ✓ Jaipal Reddy (77), the former Union Minister and Senior Congress leader has passed away in Hyderabad on July 28. He joined politics as a student leader of Osmania University and went on to become Congress MLA in 1970s.

- ✓ In the wake of an upsurge of opposition to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi after she imposed Emergency in the country, Reddy joined Janata Party and later Janata Dal in the splinter groupings that took place.
- ✓ He rejoined Congress in 1999. He was Union Minister in Federal front government earlier and Congress-led UPA I and UPA II regimes. He was elected to the Lok Sabha four times and Rajya Sabha twice.

6. Which Union territory has recently got BCCI affiliation?

- A) A&N Islands                      B) Daman & Diu  
C) Puducherry                      D) Chandigarh ☒

- ✓ After nearly four decades, Chandigarh has finally received affiliation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- ✓ Now, the city can also have its own team in the Ranji Trophy and other domestic tournaments organised by the BCCI. This was stated by Union Territory Cricket Association (UTCA) President Sanjay Tandon.
- ✓ Following the development, Chandigarh cricketers, who were earlier forced to represent Punjab or Haryana to be able to play at the national or international level, can now directly represent the city.
- ✓ UTCA was registered in 1982 and since then various attempts were made to get the affiliation. Delhi is the only other Union Territory with BCCI affiliation.

7. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army?

- A) Anant Prasad Singh              B) H S Panag  
C) Paramjit Singh ☒              D) K Ravi Prasad

- ✓ Lt Gen Paramjit Singh, who has vast experience in counter-terror operations, will be the next Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army.
- ✓ He will succeed Lt Gen Anil Chauhan on October 15. Currently, he is serving as General Officer Commanding of the Army's Nagrota – based XVI Corps.

- ✓ As DGMO, Lt Gen Singh will oversee various operations of the Indian Army including along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.

- ✓ He spent most of his career conducting counter insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir, besides taking part in operations against the LTTE in Sri Lanka. He was also involved in the planning of the 2016 surgical strikes in Jammu and Kashmir.

8. Which Indian sand artist has won People's Choice Award in US?

- A) Subodh Gupta                      B) Vivan Sundaram  
C) Akbar Padamsee                      D) Sudarsan Pattnaik ☒

- ✓ Renowned Indian sand artist and Padma Awardee Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the People's Choice Award at a prestigious sand sculpting festival in the United States. He won the award for his sand sculpture 'Stop Plastic Pollution, Save Our Ocean' at the 2019 Revere Beach International Sand Sculpting Festival in Boston, Massachusetts.

- ✓ Pattnaik was the sole representative from India and Asia. The award – winning sculpture showed how plastic pollution in the oceans is adversely impacting human beings also when they consume sea food.

9. Which Indian woman boxer has won gold in the 51 Kg category at the 23<sup>rd</sup> President's Cup?

- A) Laishram Sarita Devi              B) Ankushita Boro  
C) Simranjit Kaur                      D) Mary Kom ☒

- ✓ Six – time world champion & Olympic bronze medallist, MC Mary Kom claimed gold in the 51 Kg category at the 23<sup>rd</sup> President's Cup by defeating Australia's April Franks by 5–0. She asserted her supremacy in a lop – sided 51kg bout final in Labuan Bajo, Indonesia.
- ✓ She had also won a gold medal at the India Open boxing tournament in May 2019. She is looking to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics in the World Championships in Yekaterinburg, Russia. The 2019 World Boxing Championships for women will be held from Sep.7 – 21.

**10. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Dharma–Dhamma conference was held in which city?**

- A) Dharamshala                      B) Patna  
C) Rajgir ☒                      D) Shimla

- ✓ The 5<sup>th</sup> International Dharma-Dhamma conference was held in Rajgir, Bihar from 27 & 28 July 2019. Approx 200 delegates from 15 countries participated in the conference. The main purpose of this conference was to address people about the terror, violence and global warming prevalent in the world.
- ✓ This 2 – day conference addressed the subjects of Sat – Chit – Ananda and Nirvana which are the pivotal topics of Buddhism. The Dharma – Dhamma conference will act as a platform for the Hindu and Buddhist thinkers to express their views.
-

1. India's 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census has started from which state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh      B) Meghalaya  
C) Nagaland      D) Tripura ☒

- ✓ On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019, the Government of India (GoI) has kick off the 7<sup>th</sup> Economic Census from Tripura. It will be launched in other states and union territories in August and September.
- ✓ The census is being conducted by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation & will be held this year after a gap of five years. The ministry has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle under the Ministry of Electronics and Information.
- ✓ The census would also cover all establishments, including household enterprises, engaged in production or distribution of goods and services.
- ✓ The data will be collected through door to door survey of each household and commercial establishment under the provisions of Collection of Statistics Act 2008.
- ✓ The fieldwork is expected to be completed by December and the results at the national level is expected to be available by March 2020. The economic census is the only source of information on the significantly large unorganized sector in the country.
- ✓ As per the last Economic Census conducted in 2013, there were 58.5 million establishments employing around 131 million workers.

2. The 22<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on e-Governance 2019 is scheduled to be held in which North-Eastern state of India?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh      B) Meghalaya ☒  
C) Nagaland      D) Tripura

- ✓ The 22<sup>nd</sup> National Conference on e-Governance 2019 will be held with the theme "Digital India: Success to Excellence" on 8-9<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at Shillong, Meghalaya.

- ✓ It is being organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), in association with Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and the State Government of Meghalaya.

- ✓ This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time that the event is being organized in the North Eastern region of the country. The Conference at Shillong is part of the DARPG's 100 days initiatives in the new Union Government.

- ✓ 28 States and 8 Union Territories will participate in the 22<sup>nd</sup> National e-Governance Conference. Over 450 delegates are expected to attend the Conference.

3. The scientists of which country have developed a statistical model that predict pollution levels using oceans' memory?

- A) China & United States ☒      B) India & France  
C) Poland & Italy      D) France & Germany

- ✓ Researchers from China and the U.S. have developed a novel computer model that can help accurately predict air pollution levels in the region a season in advance.
- ✓ The statistical model uses certain climatic patterns related to the oceans which have a regulatory effect on the wintertime air pollution over northern India.
- ✓ The new model could allow the government to forecast aerosol pollution conditions in winter and accordingly improve plans for pollution control.
- ✓ The study found that the inter-annual variability of wintertime aerosol pollution over northern India is regulated mainly by a combination of El Nino -- a climate cycle in the Pacific Ocean with a global impact on weather patterns -- and the Antarctic Oscillation (AAO), a low-frequency mode of atmospheric variability of the southern hemisphere. Both El Nino sea surface temperature anomalies and AAO-induced anomalies can persist from autumn to winter.

4. Donkumar Roy, who passed away recently, was the speaker of which state assembly?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh      B) Meghalaya ☒  
C) Nagaland      D) Tripura

✓ Dr. Donkumar Roy (64), the current Meghalaya Assembly Speaker and former Chief Minister of the state, has passed away in Gurugram on July 28, 2019.

✓ Donkumar Roy - who headed the United Democratic Party (UDP) - was seen as one of the most influential politicians from the Khasi community. The UDP was a key partner in the Conrad Sangma's National People's Party-led Meghalaya Democratic Alliance (MDA) government.

5. Who has been appointed chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC)?

A) Meenakshi Lekhi

B) Girish Bhalchandra Bapat

C) Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury ☒

D) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki

✓ Congress floor leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has been appointed chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). Chowdhury is the lone member of the party in the PAC from the House.

✓ The appointment was made by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla. The PAC has 15 members from the Lok Sabha and seven from Rajya Sabha. It is one of the most important finance committees in the Parliament along with the Estimates committee (EC) and Committee on Public Undertakings (COPU).

✓ The purpose of PAC is to audit the revenue and the expenditure of the Government of India (GoI). Beside this, the Estimates Committee (EC) will be headed by Girish Bhalchandra Bapat, COPU will be headed by Meenakshi Lekhi and Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be headed by Kirit Premjibhai Solanki.

6. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF)?

A) Rajesh Chandra      B) VK Johri ☒

C) S S Deswal      D) Rajiv Rai Bhatnagar

✓ VK Johri, a 1984-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the

new Director General (DG) of Border Security Force (BSF). He will take over the charge of the BSF from incumbent Rajni Kanti Mishra, who retires on August 31.

✓ Johri is presently serving as the Special Secretary in the external intelligence agency RAW, under the Cabinet Secretariat. He will attain superannuation in September, 2020.

✓ The BSF is the India's largest border guarding force and is tasked to secure two of India's most important and sensitive fronts with Pakistan and Bangladesh. The two other border guarding forces are ITBP (China) and SSB (Nepal and Bhutan).

7. The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) is slated to be launch by which union ministry?

A) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

B) Ministry of Earth Sciences ☒

C) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

D) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

✓ The Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) has finally got the green signal from the Government of India (GoI). It is five-year, Rs 8000-crore plan to explore the deepest recesses of the ocean & will be launched by the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences.

✓ A major thrust of the mission will be looking for metals and minerals. India has been allotted a site of 75,000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean Basin (CIOB) by the UN International Sea Bed Authority for exploitation of Poly-Metallic Nodules (PMN).

✓ These are rocks scattered on the seabed containing iron, manganese, nickel and cobalt. It has been estimated that 380 million metric tonnes of PMN are available at the bottom of the seas in the Central Indian Ocean (CIO).

8. Which country has been invited as a partner country for Gita Jayanti Mahotsav 2019 of India?

A) Sri Lanka

B) Pakistan

C) Myanmar

D) Nepal ☒

- ✓ Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has invited Nepal to be the partner country for the 'Gita Jayanti Mahotsav 2019' scheduled to be held at Kurukshetra. He extended the invitation to Ambassador of Nepal to India Nilamber Acharya.
  - ✓ The Geeta Jayanti falls on the Shukla Ekadashi of the waxing phase of Moon in the Hindu month of Margashirsha. It symbolizes the birth of Shrimad Bhagavad-Gita, the sacred text of the Hindus.
  - ✓ The Geeta Jayanti Mahotsav possesses huge significance and importance as it is regarded as the birthday of Bhagavad-Gita. Thus, to commemorate the sacred day when Lord Krishna offered his philosophical teachings to King Arjuna during the battle of Kurukshetra, people celebrate Gita Jayanti.
  - ✓ The scientists at IIT Hyderabad have developed low-cost, environment-friendly solar cells by employing an off-the-shelf dye used to make kumkum or vermilion in India. The Dye-Sensitised Solar Cell (DSSC) is based on New Fuchsin (NF) dye with aqueous electrolyte and platinum-free counter electrodes.
  - ✓ The research is published in the Solar Energy journal. The most familiar solar cells today are made up of silicon. However, this technology is limited by huge fabrication costs as silicon processing is very expensive and involves very high temperature methods. DSSC is a third-generation thin-film organic molecule-based energy conversion device.
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9. NITI Aayog has partnered with which social networking site to promote women entrepreneurs?

- A) Facebook                      B) Twitter  
C) LinkedIn                      D) WhatsApp ☒

- ✓ Under the aegis of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP), the NITI Aayog and has partnered with Facebook-owned WhatsApp to support and promote women entrepreneurs in India.
- ✓ Both will announce an annual calendar of events aimed at capacity building of women entrepreneurs and develop specific programmes aimed at addressing challenges faced by women entrepreneurs.
- ✓ The initiative will target registered users of the WEP forum in India. WhatsApp will also partner with the Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards 2019, a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog and provide \$100,000 for the WTI winners. The WTI Awards are organised by the NITI Aayog in partnership with the United Nations.

10. The researchers at which IIT have developed eco-friendly solar cells using kumkum dye?

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



1. Who clinched the Formula One German Grand Prix 2019?

- A) Daniil Kvyat                      B) Lance Stroll  
C) Sebastian Vettel                D) Max Verstappen ☒

- ✓ Red Bull's driver Max Verstappen clinched the rain-hit German Grand Prix 2019 at Hockenheim. He secured his 2nd win of the season and 7<sup>th</sup> of his career.
- ✓ 4 time former champion Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel claimed the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Russian Daniil Kvyat achieved the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot for Toro Rosso followed by Canadian Lance Stroll in 4<sup>th</sup> for Racing Point.

2. Who has been appointed the new Finance Secretary of India?

- A) Neeraj Kumar Gupta    B) Girish Chandra Murmu  
C) Atanu Chakraborty    D) Rajiv Kumar ☒

- ✓ Rajiv Kumar, a 1984 batch Indian Administrative Service officer of Jharkhand cadre, has been appointed the new Finance Secretary. He succeeded Subhash Chandra Garg, who is currently the power secretary.
- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the designation of Kumar as the new Finance Secretary. The finance secretary is the administrative head of the Ministry of Finance and is the principal adviser to the Finance Minister on all matters of policy and administration within the Finance Ministry.
- ✓ He is the senior-most bureaucrat among the five Secretaries of the five Departments of the Ministry of Finance, viz. Economic Affairs, Revenue, Expenditure, Financial services and Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).

3. Shawala Teja Singh temple, which is in news recently, is located in which country?

- A) Malaysia                      B) Indonesia  
C) Pakistan ☒                      D) Cambodia

- ✓ Pakistan has opened a 1,000-year-old Hindu temple in eastern city Sialkot for worship for the first time since

partition on the demand of the local Hindu community. The step was taken on the direction of Prime Minister Imran Khan. The Shawala Teja Singh Temple in Dhaarowal was built by Sardar Teja Singh and closed during partition.

- ✓ The Hindus of Sialkot stopped visiting the temple after a mob damaged it in 1992 while protesting the demolition of the Babri Masjid in India. According to official estimates, 75 lakh Hindus live in Pakistan. However, according to the community, over 90 lakh Hindus are living in the country.

4. The researchers of which institute have discovered a new species of vine snake from the Western Ghats that dates back 26 million years?

- A) IIT Madras                      B) IIT Kharagpur  
C) IIT Bombay                      D) IISc – Bengaluru ☒

- ✓ The researchers from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bengaluru have discovered a new vine snake species called *Prohaetulla antiqua* in Western Ghats.
- ✓ This is an ancient species which is endemic to southern Western Ghats. This is thought to have evolved around 26 million years ago during the Oligocene period.
- ✓ Vine Snakes are found in the protected habitats of the Kalakkad Mundanthurai Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu and the Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary in Kerala, both located in the southern Western Ghats.
- ✓ The discovery not only help the researchers know more about the evolution of vine snakes but also the evolutionary history of the Western Ghats (a landmass older than the Himalayas).

5. According to the 2018 Tiger Census report, which state has recorded highest number of tigers?

- A) Madhya Pradesh ☒                      Uttarakhand  
Karnataka                      Chhattisgarh

- ✓ On the occasion of 2019 International Tiger Day (ITD), Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the results of the 4<sup>th</sup> cycle of All India Tiger Estimation report 2018 in New Delhi.

- ✓ The count of tigers in India has risen to 2967 in 2018. The rise in tiger numbers was in conformity with the average annual growth rate of tigers since 2006.
- ✓ According to the Tiger census, Madhya Pradesh saw the highest number of tigers at 526, closely followed by Karnataka at 524 with Uttarakhand at 442.
- ✓ It was a moment of pride for the country as it achieved its commitment to the St. Petersburg Declaration, of doubling Tiger population, much in advance to the 2022 deadline. Chhattisgarh and Mizoram saw a decline in their tiger numbers while tiger's numbers in Odisha remained constant.
- ✓ The Pench Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh recorded the highest number of tigers, while Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve in Tamil Nadu registered the maximum improvement since 2014.
- ✓ The ITD is observed every year on 29<sup>th</sup> of July to spread the message to protect these endangered species and assist in maintaining ecological integrity. It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia with the goal to bring worldwide attention to the dwindling numbers of tigers and their plight.

6. The Union Government has recently imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on PTA imports from which countries?

- A) Cambodia & Indonesia
- B) South Korea & Thailand ☒
- C) Vietnam & Sri Lanka
- D) Philippines & China

- ✓ The Ministry of Finance has imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on all imports of Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) from South Korea and Thailand.
- ✓ PTA is primary raw material in the manufacture of polyester chips, which in turn are used in a number of applications in textile, packaging, furnishings, consumer goods, resins and coatings.

7. The Ministry of Culture has recently included which language in Senior/Junior Fellowships for Artistes?

- A) Nimadi
- B) Kumauni
- C) Chhattisgarhi
- D) Santhali ☒

- ✓ The Ministry of Culture has recently announced to include the remaining languages from 8th schedule of the Indian Constitution -- Nepali and Santhali in the Sub-Field of Field "Literature" in the scheme component 'Award of Senior/Junior Fellowships to Outstanding Artistes in the Fields of Culture'.
- ✓ The Centre for Cultural Resources and Training (CCRT) of Dwarka is the nodal institute for handling the scheme of the fellowship till selection process.
- ✓ "Literary Arts" is one of the Fields under this Scheme where candidates can apply for research in 22 languages as their Sub-Field.
- ✓ These 22 languages include the following 20 languages from the 8th Schedule of Articles 344(1) and 351 of the Indian Constitution along with English and Khasi:- (1) Assamese, (2) Bengali, (3) Bodo, (4) Dogri, (5) Gujarati, (6) Hindi, (7) Kannada, (8) Kashmiri, (9) Konkani, (10) Maithili, (11) Malayalam, (12) Manipuri, (13) Marathi, (14) Oriya, (15) Punjabi, (16) Sanskrit, (17) Sindhi (18) Tamil, (19) Telugu and (20) Urdu.

8. Who has become the first IAF pilot to complete wingsuit skydive jump?

- A) Mridula Garg
- B) Tarun Chaudhri ☒
- C) Ramesh Chandra Tomar
- D) Jainendra Kumar

- ✓ Wing Commander Tarun Chaudhri has become the first Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot to perform a wingsuit skydive jump. He achieved the feat on July 21 during the Kargil Diwas celebrations at Air Force Station in Jodhpur. The jump was accomplished from a Mi-17 helicopter from an altitude of 8,500 feet. The Kargil Diwas celebrations were held at Air Force Station in Jodhpur on July 21 and 22.

9. The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) in which city?

- A) Moscow ☒                      B) Brasília  
C) Cayenne                      D) Buenos Aires

- ✓ The Union Cabinet has approved the setting up of ISRO Technical Liaison Unit (ITLU) at Moscow in Russia eyeing Russian partnership for 2022 Gaganyaan Mission.
- ✓ The unit will enable effective technical coordination for timely interventions on diversified matters with Russia and neighbouring countries for realization of the programmatic targets of ISRO.
- ✓ The ITLU will also support the ongoing bilateral programmes of cooperation in space technology and act on behalf of ISRO.
- ✓ The Cabinet has also approved the signing of United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements (UNISA) resulting from mediation by India. The move will send a positive signal to foreign investors about India's commitment to adhere to international practice on Alternative Dispute Resolution.

10. Jerlin Anika, who won gold at the 2019 World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships, is from which state?

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

- ✓ Tamil Nadu girl Jerlin Anika has won gold at the 2019 World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships in Taipei, Taiwan. She has also bagged two silver and one bronze medal in the championship in the Under-18 category. She is just 15 years old and a student of class 10 in a government school in Madurai.
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